

BA ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Your degree in a nutshell

- You will explore theories of language in the contemporary world and learn how to apply this knowledge to solving real-world problems at work, at play, and in relationships.
- You will examine the role of language in creating individual and social identity, the growth of English as an international language, how digital media are changing the way we use language, the role of language in politics, and how languages are taught and learnt.
- You will also have the chance to practise in real workplaces through options like the School-Wide Placement module and the Part 3 Professional Communication Project.
- Finally, you will explore all the ways a degree in English Language and Linguistics can help you find a good job and succeed in your future career.

YEAR ONE

In your first year ('part one' of the degree) you will study three compulsory 'core' modules (LS1ELS; LS1SG; LS1TAL) designed to give you a strong foundation in English Language and Linguistics. Students taking English Language and Literature (UCAS Q301) need to take two core modules from the list (LS1ELS; LS1SG). Students taking any of the joint programmes in Modern Languages and European Studies (QR31; QR34; QR3F; QR3H) will take three core modules from the list (LS1ELS; LS1SG; LS1TAL).

English Language and Society (LS1ELS) provides you with a broad introduction on how language is used in the society by introducing you to relevant theories and examples of everyday language use in media, local communities and around the world. **Assessment methods:** Essay and exam.

Sounds, Grammar and Meaning (LS1SG) introduces you to the articulatory organs and demonstrates how they are used in speech production. You will analyse and transcribe spoken language and understand the principles of acoustic phonetics. You will learn to analyse the grammar of sentences and identify the main categories of meaning in language. **Assessment methods:** Essay and exam.

Techniques and Skills for Applied Linguistics (LS1TAL) prepares you to deal with the demands of university-level work and provides you with the opportunity to enhance your reading, writing, critical thinking, presentation and library skills. It also equips you with the skills of researching, reading critically, planning and developing an argument, writing critically in response to specific tasks, and learning how to use feedback effectively. You will learn more about using technology to enhance your learning as well as about your "digital footprint" and how to manage it. You will also gain a deeper understanding of how to see yourself as a global citizen by engaging with students from different cultural backgrounds. **Assessment methods:** Essay, report, and portfolio.

YEAR TWO

In your second year ('part two') you will take four core modules designed to deepen your understanding of various aspects of English Language and Linguistics. You will be given the opportunity to choose from a range of optional modules dealing with more specialized aspects of language. You may also wish to choose our Semester Abroad Module (LS2TSA) and study Linguistics at a university in Europe, America or Asia.

English Grammar (LS2EG) helps you to build on the Sounds, Grammar and Meaning (LS1SG) lectures at Part 1 by further exploration of the morphological and syntactic systems of the English language and provides a basis for applied work in the areas of discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, forensic studies and corpus-based approaches to language analysis. **Assessment methods:** Exam.

English Phonology (LS2EP) aims to support the other Part 2 core and optional modules by further familiarising you with the phonetic and phonological systems of the English language. It also aims to impart a high level of competence in the transcription of English sounds and stress, and introduce the intonation system of English. **Assessment methods:** Exam.

Discourse Analysis (LS2DA) introduces you to a range of approaches to analyse authentic language (texts and conversation) and you will learn how people negotiate with words 'what they are doing' and 'who they are'. We will also consider the applicability of discourse analytic approaches to the study of language in a variety of social and political contexts. **Assessment methods:** Essay, transcription and analysis, and reading tests.

Sociolinguistics (LS2SLG) help you to further develop an awareness of the concepts and approaches involved in the study of language and society. You will learn why people from different places and those who belong to different social groups speak differently, the attitudes and prejudices people have about language, and the ways we use language strategically to manage our identities and social relationships. **Assessment methods:** Essay, reading tests, and web project presentation.

YEAR THREE

In between Second and Third Year, you may decide to study abroad with our Study Abroad team who have links to universities in Europe, America and Asia, or you may wish to take our yearlong Placement Experience module (LS2YPE). This module enables you to conduct a related work placement in the UK or abroad. At the end of your year, you will return to study your Part 3 modules graduating with a four-year degree with Placement Experience.

In the third year ('part 3') you will have the opportunity to produce your own research project (LS3DI) or work on a group project in a local workplace (LS3PCP). You will also take a compulsory module on Language and Communication in Professions (LS3LCP) and choose from an exciting list of option modules about how to apply English Language and Linguistics to different kinds of careers and real life contexts.

Language and Communication in Professions (LS3LCP) will enable you to explore the role of language in a range of different professions including business, law, medicine, entertainment and media. You will use the analytical tools you have learned in the course to solve communication problems in workplaces, evaluate the effectiveness of documents, webpages, videos and other professional genres. You will also explore how language is used to negotiate identity, agency, and power in professional contexts.

Assessment methods: Project report.

Dissertation (LS3DI) provides you with an understanding of how to engage in an extended piece of original research. It offers an opportunity to explore further an area of your own interest, and a broader appreciation of the procedures involved in the development of knowledge. **Assessment methods:** Dissertation.

Some of the dissertations written by our students in recent years include:

- Jihadist communities of practice: A critical multimodal discourse analysis of the Islamic State's strategies of socialization in their propaganda magazines.

- Phonological differences in English accent varieties.
- An investigation into how far Alan Carr and Jonathon Ross's sexuality and masculinity influences their language choices.
- Representation of convicted rape criminals in American media.
- A study of derivational morphology and phonology in students with dyslexia.
- A study of attitudes towards the Welsh language and its revival.
- Context-to-context comparison of the language used by politicians: How are aims achieved using language?
- Language and prejudice: An investigation of minority groups in multi-platform texts.
- Effects of globalization on linguistic practices of communities.
- Swearing in society: The use of taboo language among men and women: why it occurs and what attitudes people have towards it.
- Language use and the culture of abuse on Twitter.

Professional Communication Project (LS3PCP)

This module allows students who do not wish to write a dissertation to conduct a workplace-based project in which they will learn how to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in the course to a real-world professional context. You will work in teams of four or five to propose and implement a project with a local company or organization. Possible projects include conducting a research project with an academic, a company or organization; designing promotional materials, websites, or newsletters for a company or organization; engaging in social media marketing; or planning and executing a public event. At the end of the module, you will write an individual critical report reflecting on your experiences conducting the project.

Assessment methods: Proposal, project report, and reflective essay.

Optional modules

Part 3 optional modules reflect the research specialisms of our staff, so you will be taught by world-class experts in your chosen field. You can choose optional modules based on your own interests and aspirations for your future career. We use a variety of different assessment methods: coursework essays, research projects, oral presentations, depending on the learning outcomes for each module.

The following module options were available in recent years please note that a slightly different choice may be on offer when you join us):

Year One

Globalisation and Language: introduces you to the role of language in globalisation. You will examine the reasons for the spread of languages around the globe historically and in the future (especially in the context of political developments such as Brexit, and the increasing importance of other languages such as Chinese). You will also explore debates about linguistic imperialism and the political dimensions of language use and language policies

Year Two

Analysing Speech: prepares you for doing all kinds of fieldwork that involves pronunciation. It is useful for those interested in the pronunciation of children, in how accents differ, in analysing foreign accents, in forensic speaker comparison, and in sociolinguistic research involving speech patterns.

Language and Gender: provides you with an understanding of the sociolinguistic research on gender and language over the last 40 years.

Language in New Media: introduces you to the ways digital media are changing how people use language. You will be introduced to a range of theories to study social media, visual communication, and other aspects of digital media.

Language in the Mind: introduces you to how the mind acquires, stores and processes language (known as psycholinguistics). It covers a wide range of topics from psychology, linguistic analysis, speech science, and neuroscience.

Introduction to English Language Teaching: provides you with an overview of key aspects of language teaching methodology and practice.

Literature, Language and Education (Placement Module): provides you with an opportunity to apply the knowledge that you have learnt in our course to workplace situations in educational contexts.

Year Three

Language and Migration: introduces you to the study of the role of language in migration by focusing on the multiple and complex ways that migration has been sustained and constrained through language use for centuries.

Intercultural Communication: studies how people from different cultures communicate with one another in various face-to-face and digitally-mediated contexts.

Corpus-based Approaches to Language Description: introduces you to the key concepts and tools of corpus linguistics and provides you with a basic training in uses of specialist software programmes for the analysis of language use.

English in the World: looks at how English has developed as an international language in terms of societal roles and linguistic features since the time of Elizabeth I.

Issues in Bilingualism: introduces you to the study of bilingualism, examining current theories and research methodologies in the areas of language development, sociolinguistics, education and language policy.

Child Language Development provides you with an understanding of language development in typical healthy children, together with the experience of encoding child language data and using a computer program to analyse it.

Teaching the Language Skills: provides an introduction to the processes involved in the development of the oral/aural (i.e., listening and speaking) and literacy (i.e., reading and writing) skills in a second language.

FIND OUT MORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT STUDYING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.READING.AC.UK/ENGLISH-LANGUAGE-AND-APPLIED-LINGUISTICS, AND FOLLOW THE LINKS TO THE “UNDERGRADUATE” PAGES.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION ABOUT OUR COURSES, OR ABOUT APPLYING TO STUDY WITH US, YOU CAN EMAIL US AT

appling@reading.ac.uk

Disclaimer:

This information was issued in May 2021 and describes in outline the courses and services offered by the University starting in 2020. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press. However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in this publication.

Sample modules are provided as a taster of some of the modules that may be available at the University. The sample modules listed may be compulsory (core) or optional modules. Information is correct at the time of going to press but the University cannot guarantee that a module appearing in this will definitely run or that all optional modules will be available to all students who wish to take them.

The University takes all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this information, it does not however, guarantee the provision of such services.

To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check <http://www.reading.ac.uk/Ready-to-Study.aspx> for up-to-date information.

The University of Reading: awarded Silver
in the national trial of the Teaching
Excellence Framework (TEF)