

LINGUISTICS

WHY STUDY LINGUISTICS?

Our capacity for language sets us apart from other species. It is an important part of our national and ethnic identities.

Linguistics explores how we combine words into phrases and sentences, how we convey social information and social goals, how language changes, how children learn language, and even how we understand what is meant but has not been said.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

Linguistics can prepare you for a career in language education, speech and language therapy, journalism, lexicography, advertising, marketing, computational linguistics, machine translation, speech synthesis and recognition and forensic linguistics.

"I've been able to put my linguistics stamps on projects I've worked on, and I'd love to get into AI and natural language processing and proofing."

"I'm so excited by how technology can connect us, make us more human, make life more beautiful and move us towards the world we want to live in."



Ellie Greenly
Partner Development Manager,
Microsoft

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in
Linguistics + English



"Students will be guided through a minefield of different sounds, words, accents and dialects which form the basics of language. The end goal – for them to have the tools to go out and study and preserve endangered languages in the field themselves."

John Middleton
Doctoral Candidate



WHAT CAN I STUDY?

You can study the structural and cognitive aspects of language, the use and functions of language in society and language change. You can also study the structure of English and the languages of the Pacific.

Get excited about your course options:



Stage 1 Course*

LINGUIST 101 - Language, Mind and Society

A survey of three areas: the interaction between language structure and use on the one hand, and social structure and social norms on the other (sociolinguistics); the relationship between linguistic and cultural knowledge (anthropological linguistics); and the inter-relationship of language and other cognitive structures, especially as it is revealed through language acquisition (psycholinguistics).

Stage 2 Course*

LINGUIST 201 - Phonetics and Phonology

Includes a survey of speech sounds in the world's languages, an overview of speech production and perception, and an introduction to how these sounds are organised into language. Includes a practical component in which theories are applied to language data.

Stage 3 Course*

LINGUIST 322 - Middle English: Language and Change

Combines historical linguistics, literature and social history to explore the evolution of English from its origins to its 'Middle' period (the years 1100 – 1500). Beginning with the ancestor of all Indo-European languages and tracing the emergence from it of the Germanic branch and the Germanic family of languages, study of English begins with its 'Old' period (somewhere around 700 AD), continues with the contact, impact and ongoing roles that Latin, Old Norse and Norman French had in shaping English up to the conclusion of the Middle English period.

Courses you could study*

Introduction to Linguistics

English Language to 1900

Applied English Grammar

Complementary majors include:

Linguistics



Asian Studies

European Studies

Māori Studies

Media and Screen Studies

Pacific Studies



“The study of linguistics has helped me understand the ways in which the languages I speak are interconnected. It has also allowed me to better comprehend the mechanisms through which language functions.”

Ginevra Bellondi

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Linguistics + English

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

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