Linguistics
BA Honours
UCAS code Q100
3 Years

This degree focuses on how language works, how it is structured and what it does, from the physical properties of speech, to how languages change and develop over time.

You learn about the growth and development of language in the brain as well as methodologies for the scientific study of the human language faculty.

In addition, you study a modern language from a choice of French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese or Japanese.

Modules cover topics such as:
- phonetics/phonology
- grammar and sound patterns
- social contexts in which languages are learnt

You can complete a dissertation in your third year, investigating a topic that you are passionate about. You will also be offered a range of opportunities to participate in staff research projects.

Highlights of this degree

Quality and Ranking
The quality of linguistics at Newcastle is highly recognised. We rank:
- 7th in the UK – *The Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020*
- 94% overall student satisfaction score – *National Student Survey 2019*
- top 100 – Linguistics category – *QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019*
- top 200 – Arts and Humanities category – *Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject 2018*

Boost your employability with a work placement
Apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so.

You’ll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability.

Find out more about Work Placements.

Field trips and events
Studying at Newcastle means much more than your time spent in the classroom or the library. The School organises regular field trips to cultural venues in the region such as:
- theatres
- The Wordsworth Trust (Dove Cottage)
- Lindisfarne
- Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children’s Books
- local museums including Beamish and the Great North Museum

We are home to the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts (NCLA). This brings internationally renowned writers to Newcastle, through a year-long festival of readings, discussion and debate.

Study abroad
You have the opportunity to study abroad for one semester in your second year, through the Erasmus programme. The work that you do and the grades you achieve are counted towards your final degree.

The School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics has Erasmus links with the following universities:
- Leiden in the Netherlands
- Peter Pazmany in Hungary
- Gdansk in Poland
- Ghent in Belgium

We also have study abroad links with two universities in Canada – Dalhousie and New Brunswick - available through our Non-EU Study Abroad exchange programme.

Facilities and support
As a student at Newcastle, you will be part of our School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, which has a long and prestigious history.

Facilities
The School occupies its own building, the Percy Building, in the heart of campus where you will join a lively community of students, academics, authors and professionals.

All of our students enjoy exceptional library provision from our award-winning Library Service, which houses over one million books and a huge range of electronic resources.

Writing opportunities
Newcastle University Students’ Union is home to one of the best student newspapers in the country, *The Courier*. You also have the opportunity to submit poetry and short prose for the School’s magazine, *Alliterati*.

Support
You’ll have a personal tutor throughout your degree – an academic member of staff who can help with academic and personal issues. You’ll also have access to a peer mentor in your first year – a fellow student who can help you settle in and answer any questions you have.
**Social activities**

There’s a lively literary society, EngSoc, which organises social and academic events around a literary theme, as well as a Linguistics Society. There’s an active student drama scene on campus, with two student drama societies open to all. You have opportunities throughout the year to get subsidised tickets for theatre productions in Newcastle.

**Find out more**

Visit the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics’ website, where you can watch:

- video interviews of our current students
- video interviews of our graduates and find out what they’re doing now

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**Course Details**

**Modules for 2019 entry**

**Please note**

The module and/or programme information below is for 2019 entry. Our teaching is informed by research and modules change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, student feedback, or insufficient numbers of students interested (in an optional module). To find out more read our terms and conditions.

Module/programme information for 2020 entry will be published here as soon as it is available (end of May 2020).

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year and you need to complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each Stage. Further information, including the credit value of the module, is available in each of the module descriptions below.

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**Stage 1**

**Compulsory modules**

- SEL1008  The Nature of Language
- SEL1027  Introduction to the Structure of Language 1: Syntax and Phonology
- SEL1028  Introduction to the Structure of Language 2: Morphology and Meaning
- SEL1032  Language Variation and Change: Dealing with Data

**Optional modules**

You will take a further 40 credits of one foreign language. Alternatively if you have studied A Level French, German or Spanish you may select two modules from the following options:

- SML1019  Introduction to Linguistics*
- FRE1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) French
- GER1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) German
- SPA1071  Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish

* Only available to students studying Level B (HE Intermediate) in French, German or Spanish.

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**Stage 2**

**Compulsory modules**

- SEL2000  Phonological Theory
- SEL2089  Syntactic Theory

**Optional modules**

You take four of the following modules:
Stage 2

SEL2086 Introduction to Child and Adult Language Acquisition
SEL2091 Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language
SEL2212 Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties
SEL2219 Monsters, Misery and Miracles: Heroic Life in Old English Poetry
SEL2223 Speakers as Wordsmiths: the Creation of New Words in Present-Day English
SEL2229 Conceptual and Empirical Issues in Linguistic Research
SEL2230 Multilingualism

With the Degree Programme Director’s approval you may choose one module from other subject areas within the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics or other Academic Schools. Alternatively you may take one of the following modules:

NCL2007 Career Development for Second Year Students
NCL2100 Developing Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Employability

Work Placement (optional)

You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months on an optional work placement between Stages 2 and 3. You can apply to spend your placement year with any organisation and will receive University support to do so. It will extend your degree by a year and is subject to availability. It isn’t available if you’re spending a year studying abroad. Find out more about Work Placements.

Stage 3

Optional modules

You choose one of the following modules:

SEL3326 Extended Study 1: Linguistics and English Language
SEL3327 Extended Study 2: Linguistics and English Language
SEL3329 Dissertation: Linguistics and English Language

You choose four or five modules from the following list:

SEL3012 Immigrant Second Language and Literacy Acquisition
SEL3026 Structure of a Language
SEL3046 Advanced Linguistics
SEL3056 Advanced Sociolinguistics
SEL3094 Accents of English
SEL3341 Old English: Texts and Translations
SEL3349 The History of Linguistic Ideas
SEL3352 Language Development: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches
SEL3372 Language and Ethnicity in 21st Century Britain
SEL3410 Special Topic in Linguistic Theory

You may replace one of the modules from the list above, with one of the following modules if not studied at Stage 2:

SEL2086 Introduction to Language Acquisition
SEL2091 Sociolinguistics and the Sociology of Language
SEL2212 Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties

Stage 3

SEL2219 Monsters, Misery and Miracles: Heroic Life in Old English Poetry
SEL2223 Speakers as Wordsmiths: the Creation of New Words in Present-Day English
SEL2230 Multilingualism

With Degree Programme Director’s approval you may choose one module from the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics or other Schools/Faculties. Alternatively you may take one module from the following list:

NCL3007 NCL Career Development for Final Year Students
NCL3008 NCL Advanced Career Development*

* Only available to students who have taken a Career Development module at Stage 2.

Teaching and assessment

Study at the cutting edge

The content of all of our degrees is shaped by the research specialisms of our staff, many of whom are international leaders in their field.

This means you have access to the very latest ideas and discoveries in linguistics, as well as exploring new and exciting areas of study.

We are part of one of the largest concentrations of research expertise in Linguistics and Language Sciences in the UK. Our research expertise includes:

- Computational linguistics
- Language variation
- Psycholinguistics
- Theoretical linguistics

Teaching methods

You can normally expect to spend around 10 hours per week attending lectures, seminars, workshops and film screenings, plus weekly study groups.

You also spend around 25 hours per week on class preparation, reading, writing, and other kinds of independent research recommended by your tutor

Assessment methods

You’ll be assessed by:

- written course work
- group presentations
- discussion-board postings
- end-of-semester examinations

Find out more

Visit our Teaching & Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University
Careers

Linguistics careers

English students acquire a range of valuable skills, which they can transfer to many different employment situations. Your literary and linguistic training can be used in journalism, librarianship, teaching and the highly competitive fields of writing, acting and directing.

You will also gain other skills such as the capacity to analyse and summarise material, to communicate, to work to a deadline, to argue a case, to work independently as well as collaboratively, to think logically and to be able to use computers.

This is excellent preparation for a wide number of professions and as such, our graduates have gone on to a variety of career areas including editorial, marketing, PR and other forms of media. Others have gone to work in law, politics, HR, teaching and supporting specialist learning.

Visit the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics website to watch video interviews with former students talking about their experiences at Newcastle and their careers since graduating.

Find out more about the career options for Linguistics from Prospects: The UK’s Official Careers Website.

What our graduates go on to do: employment and further study choices

See what our recent graduates went on to do and view graduate destinations statistics. These statistics are based on what graduates were doing on a specific date, approximately six months after graduation. Take a look at the most recent data available for our graduates.

The destination data is available in varying levels, beginning with the University and moving through Faculty and School down to individual course reports. This final level may give you some useful ideas about possible options after your course or a course you are considering.

Careers and employability at Newcastle

Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

96% of our 2017 UK-domiciled UG/PG graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.

85.5% of our graduates are in graduate level employment or further study within six months of graduating.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+. This enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

Fees & Funding

Tuition Fees (UK students)

2020 entry:
£9,250

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:

The maximum fee that we are permitted to charge for UK students is set by the UK government.

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (EU students)

2020 entry:
£9,250

You will pay the same tuition fees as UK students for the duration of your course.

For programmes where you can spend a year on a work placement or studying abroad, you will receive a significant fee reduction for that year.

Some of our degrees involve additional costs which are not covered by your tuition fees.

Please note:

As a general principle, you should expect the tuition fee to increase in each subsequent academic year of your course, subject to government regulations on fee increases and in line with inflation.

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Tuition Fees (International students)

2020 entry*:
£18,000

*Please note:
Tuition Fees (International students)
You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).
The tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.
If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.
See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Scholarships and Financial Support (UK students)
You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.
Newcastle University Scholarships
Government financial support

Scholarships and Financial Support (EU students)
You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government financial support.
Newcastle University Scholarships
Government financial support

Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)
We offer a range of scholarships to eligible international students:
Vice-Chancellor’s International Scholarships
Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarships
Vice-Chancellor’s Global Scholarships
We also offer International Family Discounts which are available for all international students with a close family member who has graduated from or is now studying at Newcastle University.
Newcastle University offers Sanctuary Scholarships for eligible undergraduate students (excludes MBBS and BDS students) from asylum-seeker and refugee backgrounds.
Some of our subject scholarships and sports scholarships are also available for international students.

Apply
Applying to Newcastle University through UCAS
To apply for undergraduate study at Newcastle you must use the online application system managed by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).
UCAS codes for Newcastle University
- institution name - NEWC
- institution code - N21

UCAS buzzword
Ask your teacher or adviser from your school or college for the UCAS buzzword. You need the buzzword when you register on the Apply system. This makes it clear which school or college you are applying from.
All UK schools and colleges and a small number of EU and international establishments are registered with UCAS.
If you are applying independently, or are applying from a school or college which is not registered to manage applications, you will still use the Apply system. You will not need a buzzword.

Making your application
On the UCAS website you can also find out more about:
- application deadlines and other important dates
- offers and tracking your application

Application decisions and enquiries
Find out more about our admissions process and who to contact if you need help with your application.

Our multi-award-winning Library has a wealth of study resources.