Linguistics BA

Linguistics is the study of the capacity to use language. This includes phonetics and phonology (how sounds are produced and received), morphology (how words are built from smaller elements), syntax (how words are combined to form sentences), and semantics and pragmatics. The Linguistics BA focuses on these aspects, while the Experimental Linguistics BSc focuses, additionally, on the experimental methodologies for studying them.

### Key information

**Programme starts**
September 2020

**Location**
London, Bloomsbury

### Degree benefits

- **You will gain** broad-based training in linguistics together with the opportunity to explore other themes such as language acquisition and language processing.
- **UCL is known** worldwide for its teaching and research in linguistics and the work of our staff appears in internationally acclaimed journals and books.
- **Our focus on** small-group teaching helps develop a friendly and supportive atmosphere. LingSoc, the linguistics student society, runs a mentoring scheme whereby second-year or final-year students support new students.
- **You will have** access to extensive computer facilities and to a specialised on-site library in addition to the UCL Main Library.

### Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 15 or 30 credits and adding up to 120 credits per year in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year.

In the first year your modules are all compulsory, providing a foundation in linguistics and helping you assess where your own interests and strengths lie. In the Linguistics BA pathway you will take an additional module covering the acquisition of language by children while the Experimental Linguistics BSc pathway replaces this with a module in experimental methods.

In year two, Linguistics BA students take at least four intermediate modules covering the core areas of semantics and pragmatics, phonetics or phonology, and syntax. They will also take a further 30 credits of modules from any area of linguistics, and up to 30 credits of university-wide electives.

Experimental Linguistics BSc students take at least three intermediate modules from the core areas of semantics and pragmatics, phonetics and phonology, and syntax. They will also take modules on statistical methods, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics, as well as one 15 credit elective module.

In their final year, students on both pathways undertake a research project, involving a deep and sustained study of a subject in which they are especially interested. Students on the Linguistics BA pathway take three advanced modules from the core areas of linguistics and one further intermediate or advanced module offered in any area of linguistics. Experimental Linguistics BSc students take one advanced module in a core area of linguistics, one further linguistics module of their choice, one laboratory-based module, and one experimental module.

The elective modules you take in years two and three may include modules offered outside Linguistics, for example, many students choose to take language courses taught by the UCL Centre for Languages & International Education.

### YEAR ONE

**Core or compulsory module(s)**

- All students entering the programme will study:
  - Core Issues in Linguistics
  - Introduction To Generative Grammar
  - Introduction To Phonetics And Phonology A
  - Introduction To Phonetics And Phonology B
  - Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics A
  - Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics B
  - Linguistics BA students will additionally study:
    - Introduction to Children's Language Development

**BSc Experimental Linguistics students will additionally study:**

- Introduction to Research Methods

**Optional modules**

- All first-year modules are compulsory.
YEAR TWO

Core or compulsory module(s)

- BA Linguistics students will study Semantics, Pragmatics, Syntax, and either Phonetics or Phonology at intermediate level amounting to 60 credits.
- BSc Experimental Linguistics students will study 60 credits of modules in Research Design, Child Language Development, Psycholinguistics, and Neurolinguistics.

Optional modules

- Linguistics BA students select 30 credits of further linguistics modules, and 30 credits of elective modules from across UCL.
- Experimental Linguistics BSc students select 45 credits of intermediate modules across the areas of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, and phonology, as well as 15 credits of elective modules from across UCL.

FINAL YEAR

Core or compulsory module(s)

- Students on both BA Linguistics and BSc Experimental Linguistics complete the Long Essay/Project, worth 30 credits.
- In addition, Linguistics BA students select 45 credits from the core areas of their choice, and 15 credits of advanced or intermediate modules in linguistics not already taken.
- Experimental Linguistics BSc students take one practical laboratory-based module, and one experimental module totaling 30 credits. In addition, they select 15 credits of advanced modules from the core area of their choice, and 15 credits of advanced or intermediate modules in linguistics not already taken.

Optional modules

- All students select 30 credits of further intermediate or advanced modules in linguistics, or any intermediate or advanced modules available at UCL.

Your learning

Teaching is mainly delivered through lectures, workshops and small-group teaching (tutorials in which you meet with a group of between five and 12 students and a staff member to discuss topics covered in the lecture) as well as a virtual learning environment. Some modules also involve workshops.

Assessment

Each module is assessed and examined separately, often by a combination of essays, exercises and examinations. Your performance in a module is always assessed in the same academic year in which you take it.

Your career

In addition to subject-specific skills, you will also acquire the analytical, investigative and study skills essential for most graduate careers, which could include law, computing, commerce and industry. Recent national surveys show that Linguistics graduates have above average employment rates and starting salaries after graduation.

Many Linguistics graduates from UCL carry on with the subject at graduate level often with a view to pursuing an academic career. Linguistics connects with many other disciplines and a number of graduates go on to work in these areas, e.g. teaching languages, especially English as a first or foreign language, speech therapy, advertising or the media.

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

We are looking for students with strong analytical skills who are fascinated by languages and intrigued by how the human mind works. We place particular emphasis on your personal statement and will be looking for clarity of expression and evidence that you have considered the subject in detail.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS

**Standard Offer:** AAB. Experimental Linguistics BSc pathway: AAB. One or more subjects from English Language, Mathematics or science preferred. Experimental Linguistics pathway: at least one subject from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology.

**Contextual Offer:** BBB Experimental Linguistics BSc pathway: BBB. One or more subjects from English Language, Mathematics or science preferred. Experimental Linguistics pathway: at least one subject from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Psychology.

GCSE

English Language and Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA

**Standard Offer:** 36 points. A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects preferably to include English Language, Mathematics or a science subject, with no score lower than 5. Experimental Linguistics pathway: A score of 17 points in three higher level subjects including one from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics or Psychology with no score below 5.

**Contextual Offer:** 32. Experimental Linguistics BSc pathway: 32. points. A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects preferably to include English Language, Mathematics or a science subject, with no score lower than 5. Experimental Linguistics pathway: A score of 15 points in three higher level subjects including one from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics or Psychology with no score below 5.

CONTEXTUAL OFFERS – ACCESS UCL SCHEME

As part of our commitment to increasing participation from underrepresented groups, students may be eligible for a contextual offer as part of the Access UCL scheme. For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)

UCL Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES

The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2020/21 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. Fees for future years may be subject to an inflationary increase. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2020/21 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2020/21)
// Overseas: £19,960 (2020/21)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

If you are concerned by potential additional costs for books, equipment, etc. on this programme, please get in touch with the relevant departmental contact (details given on this page).

FUNDING

Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT

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Department: Division of Psychology and Language Sciences

Brexit

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit

Disclaimer

This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus