

Course Summary: March 14, 2025

Linguistics with Chinese or Japanese BA Honours

- UCAS code: **Q1T4**
- Full time
- 4 years

Explore how language works and how it's structured, alongside the study of Mandarin Chinese or Japanese.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2025**

Next start date:

- September 2025

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **Not set**
- International: **£23800**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**
- IB: **32 points**

[View contextual offers](#)

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Course overview

This four-year Linguistics with Chinese or Japanese degree concentrates on developing your understanding of how languages work, how we communicate, and the growth of language in the mind.

You'll explore linguistics in the context of English and either the Chinese or Japanese language. You'll build a firm foundation of skills and knowledge to pursue many potential career paths.

You will study the language of your choice from a beginner or advanced level depending on previous experience. Building your fluency in Mandarin Chinese or Japanese alongside your study of linguistics will give you a unique perspective on the language.

In your third year, you'll immerse yourself in East Asian culture as you spend the year in China or Japan. You'll further improve your language skills and confidence, and gain a first-hand appreciation for the language in context.

Our cutting-edge programme is shaped by the research specialisms of our world-leading researchers. This ensures, that your studies explore the latest ideas and most exciting areas of linguistics, such as:

- first and second language acquisition
- language evolution and computational modelling

- language variation and change
- psycholinguistics
- theoretical linguistics

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2024-25.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

Your stage 1 modules will lay the foundation for in-depth analysis and description of language. They focus on topics such as:

- the structure of words and sentences (morphology and syntax)
- the sounds and sound systems of language (phonetics and phonology)
- language acquisition and language variation and change

Your language modules in the School of Modern Languages will provide you with a solid foundation in the language systems (grammar, orthography, and phonetics) of Mandarin Chinese or Japanese.

You'll develop your reading, listening, writing and speaking skills in preparation for your year abroad.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
The Nature of Language	20
Introduction to the Structure of Language 1: Phonetics, Phonology & Morphology	20
Introduction to Language Structure 2: Syntax, semantics and pragmatics	20
Dealing with Data	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese	40
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese	40
Academic Study and Research Skills	0

You will need to select 40 credits of Japanese modules or Chinese modules.

In your linguistics modules you'll develop your knowledge of core aspects of grammar and sound patterns. You'll also work on how these apply to a range of languages.

You'll broaden your understanding of language study by exploring the social context in which languages are learned, used, and how they change over time.

In your Mandarin Chinese or Japanese modules you'll continue to develop your reading, listening, writing and speaking skills in preparation for your year abroad.

Modules

Compulsory Modules

You take the following compulsory modules.:

[Phonological Theory](#) (20 credits)

[Syntactic Theory](#) (20 credits)

If you're undertaking the Japanese stream, you must take one of the following compulsory modules:

[Level B \(HE Intermediate\) Japanese](#) (40 credits)

[Level C \(HE Advanced\) Japanese](#) (40 credits)

If you're undertaking the Chinese stream, you must take one of the following compulsory modules:

[Level B \(HE Intermediate\) Chinese](#) (40 credits)

[Level C \(HE Advanced\) Chinese](#) (40 credits)

Optional Modules	Credits
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese	40
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese	40
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese	40
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese	40
Sociolinguistics	20

Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties	20
Monsters, Misery & Miracles: Heroic Life in Old English Poetry	20
Experimental Methods in Linguistics	20
Multilingualism	20
Pragmatic Theory	20
It's not what you say, it's how you say it: Prosody and intonation	20
Introduction to Second Language Acquisition	20

Your third year will be spent studying in either China or Japan.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Year Abroad Tutor Posts	100

Optional Modules

You take one of the following optional modules:

Study Abroad (20 credits)

Year Abroad Work Placement Report (Semester 1) (20 credits)

Year Abroad Work Placement Report (Semester 2) (20 credits)

You'll continue to study advanced language modules in your chosen language, reflecting the fluency you will have gained during your year abroad.

You will also start an independent project. During this project you'll lead your own research in close collaboration with a faculty supervisor.

You can select your remaining modules from an array of choices, each of which is closely aligned with your lecturers' active research specialisms. These currently include:

- comparative syntax
- phonological theory
- second language acquisition
- language origins and evolution
- child language acquisition
- language change

Modules

Compulsory Modules

If you're undertaking the Japanese stream, must take one of the following compulsory modules:

[Level C \(HE Advanced\) Japanese](#) (40 credits)

[Level D \(Further Advanced\) Japanese](#) (40 credits)

If you're undertaking the Chinese stream, must take one of the following compulsory modules:

[Level C \(HE Advanced\) Chinese](#) (40 credits)

[Level D \(HE Further Advanced\) Chinese](#) (40 credits)

Optional Modules	Credits
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese	40
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese	40

Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese	40
Level D (Further Advanced) Japanese	40
Sociolinguistics	20
Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties	20
Monsters, Misery & Miracles: Heroic Life in Old English Poetry	20
Experimental Methods in Linguistics	20
Multilingualism	20
Pragmatic Theory	20
It's not what you say, it's how you say it: Prosody and intonation	20
Introduction to Second Language Acquisition	20
Origins and Evolution of Language	20
Language in the City	20
Short-form Dissertation 1: English Language and Linguistics	20
Short-form Dissertation 2: English Language and Linguistics	20
The History of Linguistic Ideas	20
Language and Ageing	20
Advanced Second Language Acquisition	20
Laboratory Phonology	20
From Input to Output: The Blackbox of Child Language Acquisition	20
Medieval and Early Modern Meaning: English Historical Semantics	20
Dissertation/T&I Project	20

Information about these graphs

We base these figures and graphs on the most up-to-date information available to us. They are based on the modules chosen by our students in 2023-24.

Teaching time is made up of:

- scheduled learning and teaching activities. These are timetabled activities with a member of staff present.
- structured guided learning. These are activities developed by staff to support engagement with module learning. Students or groups of students undertake these activities without direct staff participation or supervision

Teaching and assessment

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 through a combination of:

- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Presentations

Skills and experience

Practical experience

Studying Linguistics at Newcastle means you will benefit from access to our state-of-the-art Linguistics Laboratory. [The LingLab](#) hosts collections of language data for analysis of linguistic variation and change. It also hosts a range of equipment for advanced articulatory, phonetic and psycholinguistic research. Activities are supported by a dedicated lab manager.

You will also have access to the award-winning [Language Resource Centre](#), in the School of Modern Languages. These facilities support and facilitate your language learning, and encourage cross-cultural communication.

Research skills

As part of your degree, you will complete an independent research project in your final year. You will collaborate with a faculty member to investigate a novel topic that you are passionate about. You will also be offered a range of opportunities to participate in staff research projects.

Opportunities

Study abroad

Your third year is spent studying in a Chinese or Japanese speaking country at one of our partner institutions.

In China our current partner institutions include:

- Beijing Language and Culture University
- East China Normal University
- Hainan
- Sichuan
- Xiamen University

In Japan our current partner institutions include:

- Aichi

- Akita
- Dokkyo
- Fukuoka
- Hiroshima Shudo
- Hitotsubashi (Tokyo)
- Hokkaido (Sapporo)
- Hosei (Tokyo)
- Kyushu
- Iberaki (Mito)
- International Christian University (Tokyo|ICU)
- Kobe
- Kyoto University
- Kyoto University of Foreign Studies
- Kyushu (Fukuoka)
- Nanzan (Nagoya)
- Ryukoku University (Kyoto)
- Aichi Prefectural University (Nagoya)
- Kobe City University of Foreign Studies
- Sophia University (Tokyo)
- Waseda University (Tokyo)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

You'll be based in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics. The School is located in the Percy Building, which is at the heart of our city-centre campus. You'll join a lively community of students, academics, writers, and professionals.

You'll have access to:

- A library of 1.4 million books and 54,000 journals on 26km of shelving
- The Percy Building's student common rooms, study areas and café

- Northern Stage, Great North Museum & the Hatton Gallery for events and exhibitions
- The Students' Union for shops, societies and gigs
- A digital media lab for developing documentaries and film-making

Our literature and creative writing teaching is linked to the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts (NCLA) programme. This will give you regular contact with leading creative artists.

[Find out more about the NCLA programme](#)

You'll also have access to a diverse programme of events, including spoken-word events and creative writing courses.

[Find out more about the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics](#)

Support

You'll have the support of an academic member of staff as a Personal Tutor throughout your degree to help with academic and personal issues affecting your academic progress.

Peer Mentors will help you in your first year. They are fellow students who can help you settle in and answer questions you may have when starting university.

Your future

English Language and Linguistics students acquire a range of valuable skills which equip them to pursue diverse career paths.

Your training can be used in:

- teaching English as a foreign language
- publishing
- journalism
- advertising, branding and marketing
- information services and data science

You will gain skills such as critical reasoning and problem solving, project and data management, oral and written communication, collaboration and independent research.

Our degrees provide excellent preparation for a wide number of professions. With further training, our graduates have also become:

- lexicographers
- translators and interpreters
- speech and language therapists
- social researchers
- legal sector workers (including forensic linguists)

Employability

Employability and the engagement with the wider world go hand-in-hand in this degree.

Many of our modules, particularly in your final year, model their assessments on the kind of tasks you might be employed to do:

- constructing marketing briefs
- drafting website copy
- curating exhibitions
- designing experiments
- coding websites
- analysing data
- writing a clear and persuasive argument

Beyond our modules, there are plenty of extracurricular opportunities. These range from freelance work for Newcastle's student newspaper to paid internships in the department. In particular, [the Newcastle Centre for Literary Arts](#) hires students to work on everything from event management to app design.

Make a difference

Careers support

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

From 1 January 2021 there is an update to the way professional qualifications are recognised by countries outside of the UK

[Check the government's website for more information.](#)

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- To watch videos about student life in Newcastle, visit
www.ncl.ac.uk/lovenewcastle
- Visit **www.ncl.ac.uk/tour** to take virtual tours of the campus and city
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival/regulations

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