

Course Summary: March 29, 2026

## Linguistics BA Honours

- UCAS code: **Q100**
- Full time
- 3 years

Explore how language works and how it's structured, from the physical properties of speech to how languages change over time.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

### Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£24,500**

### Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **ABB**

- IB: **32 points**

**UCAS Institution name and code:**

- NEWC / N21

## Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)

Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

## Course overview

Our Linguistics BA Honours degree focuses on developing your understanding of:

- how language works
- how we use language
- the growth of language in the mind

You'll explore **linguistics** in relation to English and other languages to build a firm base of skills and knowledge. This will open up many career paths to you - from journalism and data science to teaching or further postgraduate study.

In your first year, you'll study a **foreign language**, modern or ancient, alongside linguistics. Throughout your degree, you'll follow a cutting-edge programme shaped by the expertise of our **world-leading researchers**. You'll explore the latest ideas and most exciting areas of linguistics, such as:

- first and second language acquisition
- child language acquisition
- language variation and change
- psycholinguistics
- theoretical linguistics

At the end of this course, you'll become a confident and competent professional. You will become an expert in the **scientific study of language**, covering sound systems, structure, and social context.

### **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 2025-26.

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 first year lays the foundation for analysing and describing language, focusing on topics such as word and sentence structure (morphology and syntax) and the sounds and sound systems of language (phonetics and phonology).

Alongside your Linguistics modules, you will also choose one foreign language from a choice of French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Latin or Ancient

Greek. Module information for all language choices will be available when you begin your course.

You'll have the option to study your chosen language at beginner or intermediate level, depending on your previous experience.

## Modules

<b>Compulsory Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
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
<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Level B (HE Intermediate) French	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) German	20
Introduction to Linguistics	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Spanish	20

Introduction to Linguistics is only available to students studying Level B (HE Intermediate) in French, German or Spanish.

You will develop your knowledge of core aspects of grammar and sound patterns and 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 developed over time.

## Modules

You must take **two** of the following modules:

Phonological Theory (20 credits)

Syntactic Theory (20 credits)

Pragmatic Theory (20 credits)

<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Career Development for second year students	20
Phonological Theory	20
Syntactic Theory	20
Sociolinguistics	20
Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties	20
Pragmatic Theory	20
CHiLD: Current Hypotheses in Language Development	20
Introduction to Second Language Learning and Teaching	20
Experimental Practicum	20
Philosophy of Linguistics	20
Overseas Exchange (Semester 1)	60
Overseas Exchange (Semester 2)	60

You only take one of the following modules if you undertake the Study Abroad exchange programme:

Overseas Exchange (Semester 1)

Overseas Exchange (Semester 2)

You will develop your own interests by choosing from topics linked to your lecturers' research specialisms. These include syntactic and phonological theory, low-education second language and literary acquisition, language origins and evolution, child language acquisition and language change.

You will also undertake an independent project, leading your own research in close collaboration with a faculty supervisor.

## Modules

You must select **one** of the following modules:

[Short-form Dissertation 1: English Language and Linguistics](#) (20 credits)

[Short-form Dissertation 2: English Language and Linguistics](#) (20 credits)

[Long-form Dissertation: English Language and Linguistics](#) (40 credits)

<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<a href="#">Career Development for final year students</a>	20
<a href="#">Phonological Theory</a>	20
<a href="#">Syntactic Theory</a>	20
<a href="#">Sociolinguistics</a>	20
<a href="#">Early English: Texts, Patterns and Varieties</a>	20
<a href="#">Pragmatic Theory</a>	20
<a href="#">CHiLD: Current Hypotheses in Language Development</a>	20
<a href="#">Introduction to Second Language Learning and Teaching</a>	20
<a href="#">Experimental Practicum</a>	20
<a href="#">Philosophy of Linguistics</a>	20

Short-form Dissertation 1: English Language and Linguistics	20
Short-form Dissertation 2: English Language and Linguistics	20
Long-form Dissertation: English Language and Linguistics	40
Language and Ageing	20
Advanced Second Language Acquisition	20
Laboratory Phonology	20
Medieval and Early Modern Meaning: English Historical Semantics	20
Current Issues in Linguistics	20
New Words in English	20

## 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 forms of independent research recommended by your tutor.

### Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Assessments
- Assignments – written or fieldwork
- Coursework
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays

- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Presentations
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal

## 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 English 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.

### 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. Though this is not a four-year degree generally, some students do a placement year.

## Opportunities

### Study abroad

You can study abroad for one semester in your second year as part of this degree. In Europe we have links with:

- Ghent University, Belgium
- Leipzig University, Germany
- Groningen University, Netherlands

- Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands

We also have links with universities in other parts of the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and the USA, including, but not limited to:

- Monash University, Australia
- University of Sydney, Australia
- McGill University, Canada
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Vermont, USA

[Find out more about Study Abroad.](#)

## Work placement

During your degree, you'll have multiple opportunities to undertake a meaningful work placement. In your second and third years, you may choose to take the Career Development Module which offers academic credit for 50 hours of placement. You can choose to carry out your placement via part-time work, volunteering, or in a local school. You will be assessed through a mixture of written work, presentations, and professional skills assessment.

In addition, you'll have the option to spend 9 to 12 months on a work placement. You will receive University support from our dedicated Careers team to help you secure your dream placement in the UK or abroad. Work placements take place between stages 2 and 3.

You'll gain first-hand experience of working in a sector, putting your learning into practice, and developing your professional expertise. Previous placements have been in a range of sectors, including:

- journalism and broadcasting
- sustainable energy
- politics
- digital media and marketing
- education

- finance
- museum and heritage
- travel and tourism

If you choose to take a work placement, it will extend your degree by a year. Placements are subject to availability.

[Find out more about work placements.](#)

## 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
- the School of Modern Languages' [Language Resource Centre](#)

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

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 and journalism
- advertising, branding and marketing
- law and policy
- 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 Stage 3, model their assessments on the kind of tasks you might be employed to do:

- constructing marketing briefs
- summarising reports
- 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.

## Follow in their footsteps

- Name: Oliver
- Nationality: British
- Graduated: 2020
- Now working as: Senior Web Developer at The Verve Group and Founder of Compiled

"Studying Linguistics was a great foundation for my career, where there was plenty of opportunity to specialise. I've always had an interest in both natural and programming languages and was able to choose modules with a focus on Computational Linguistics."

Find out what Oliver liked the most about studying Linguistics at Newcastle University and how this degree helped him in his career.

[Read about Oliver's journey.](#)

## Careers support

Our 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

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

## Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate)**
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **[www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni](http://www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni)**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at  
**<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>**
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person  
**[www.ncl.ac.uk/openday](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/openday)**
- Contact us online at **[www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries)** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

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**<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>**

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