

Course Summary: March 29, 2026

## 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: **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

This four-year **Linguistics with Chinese or Japanese** degree concentrates on developing your understanding of:

- how languages work
- how we communicate
- 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.

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 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. 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

### **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 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

<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 A (HE Entry Level) Chinese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Chinese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese I	20
Level A (HE Entry Level) Japanese II	20

Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese II	20
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 will take the following compulsory modules:

Modules	Credits
Phonological Theory	20
Syntactic Theory	20

If you're undertaking the **Japanese** stream, you must take both Level B or both Level C Japanese modules:

Modules	Credits
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	20

If you're undertaking the **Chinese** stream, you must take both Level B or both Level C Chinese modules:

<b>Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese II	20

<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Chinese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese II	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese I	20
Level B (HE Intermediate) Japanese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	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

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

## Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
<a href="#">Year Abroad Tutor Posts</a>	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 will develop your own interests by choosing from topics linked to your lecturers' research specialisms. These include syntactic and phonological theory, second language acquisition, language origins and evolution, child language acquisition and language change, as well as specialisms within Japanese or Chinese. You will also undertake a dissertation project, leading your own research in close collaboration with a faculty supervisor.

## Modules

### Compulsory Modules

If you're undertaking the **Japanese** stream, you must take both Level C or both Level D Japanese modules:

Modules	Credits
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	20
Level D (Further Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level D (Further Advanced) Japanese II	20

If you're undertaking the **Chinese** stream, you must take both Level C or both Level D Chinese modules:

Modules	Credits
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese II	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese II	20

You must also take one of the following modules (shown in the list below):

Module	Credits
Short-form Dissertation 1: English Language and Linguistics	20
Short-form Dissertation 2 English Language and Linguistics	20
Dissertation/T&I Project	20
<b>Optional Modules</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese I	20

Level C (HE Advanced) Chinese II	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese I	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Chinese II	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level C (HE Advanced) Japanese II	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Japanese I	20
Level D (HE Further Advanced) Japanese II	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
Philosophy of Linguistics	20
Short-form Dissertation 1: English Language and Linguistics	20
Short-form Dissertation 2: English Language and Linguistics	20
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
Dissertation/T&I Project	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 kinds of independent research recommended by your tutor.

### Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- 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 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
- Ibaraki (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
- 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

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
- 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.

## Make a difference

### 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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