

Careers in Linguistics

Our linguistics programmes provide students with expertise and a combination of skills that are highly valued by a range of potential employers both within and outside academia. One possible career path lies in language education, such as language teaching at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, in both private and public educational settings. Our graduates may also find positions in the media, publishing, public relations and various corporate, governmental and non-governmental organisations recruiting language and communication specialists.

Another career path lies in academic research in a university setting, following postgraduate work (generally a PhD). A range of other career options are also available depending on the specific programme taken; for example, speech therapy for psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics graduates, and language policy for sociolinguistics graduates.

What our students think about us

In the most recent student opinion survey, the Department achieved exceptional student satisfaction scores, including a score of 88% satisfaction on the skills and subject knowledge of staff; 86% on acquiring advanced knowledge and understanding; 85% on gaining specialist insight into the subject; 85% on the approachability of staff; 83% on intellectual stimulation; 83% on improving analytic skills; and 83% on improving the ability to learn independently.

Many positive aspects of the postgraduate experience at Essex were singled out for special praise, including the stimulating environment and research orientation of teaching; the helpfulness, supportiveness, responsiveness and international reputations of staff; the high quality of teaching and teaching materials; and the excellent library and IT facilities. One MA student said "Essex teachers are the best in the world!"

Academic Staff

Theoretical/descriptive/computational linguistics

Professor Bob Borsley
 Professor Andrew Radford
 Professor Louisa Sadler
 Professor Andrew Spencer
 Dr Mike Jones
 Dr Wyn Johnson
 Dr Nancy Kula
 Dr Doug Arnold

Psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics

Professor Harald Clahsen
 Dr Claudia Felser
 Dr Sonja Eisenbeiss

Sociolinguistics

Professor Peter Patrick
 Dr David Britain
 Dr Rebecca Clift
 Dr Enam Al Wer

Other MA Programmes

- MA Applied Linguistics
- MA Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication
- MA Applied Linguistic Research
- MA Computer Assisted Language Learning
- MA English for Specific Purposes
- MA English Language Teaching
- MA English Language Teaching - Young Learners
- MA Language Testing and Programme Evaluation
- MA Management and Professional Communication
- MA Second Language Acquisition
- MA Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Other members of staff

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Professor Roger Hawkins | Dr Julian Good | Dr Bojana Petrić |
| Dr Helen Emery | Dr Nigel Harwood | Dr Karen Roehr |
| Dr Adela Ganem | Mr Anthony Lilley | Mr Phil Scholfield |

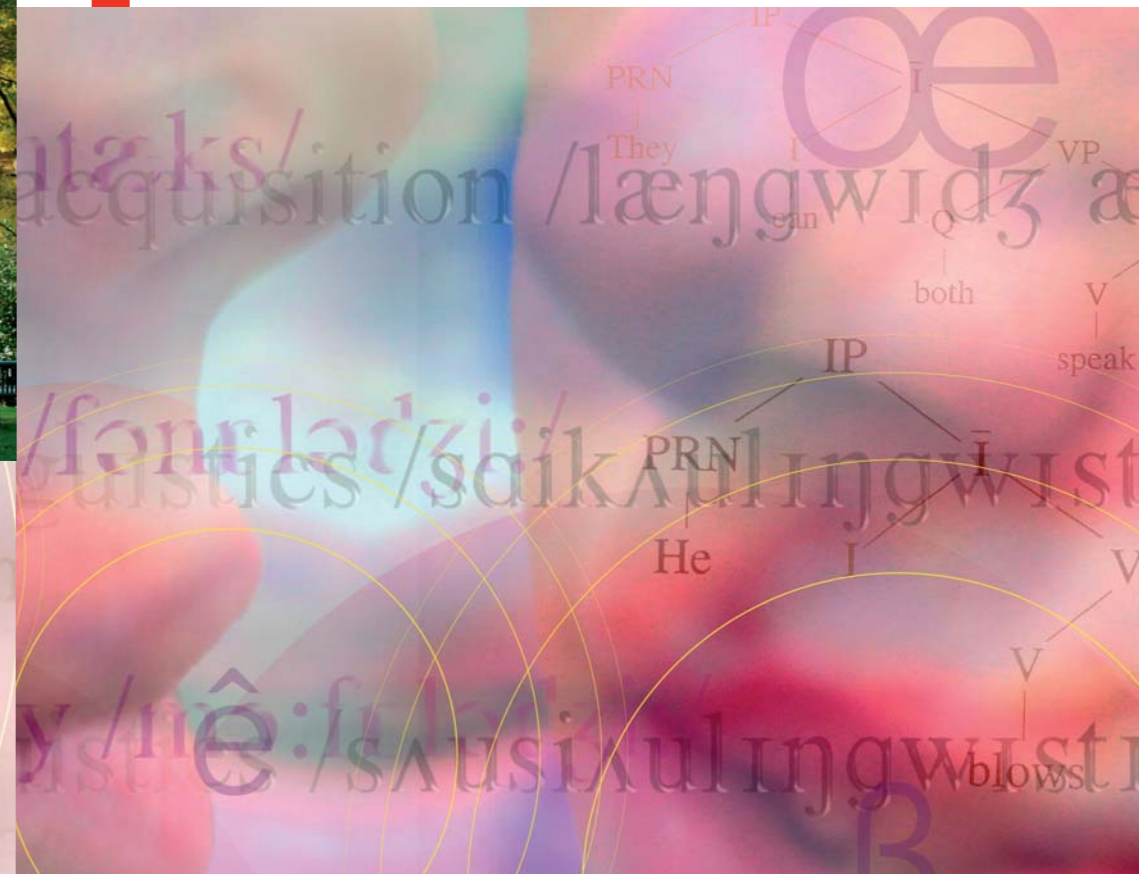
Further information

For more information about our MA and PhD programmes, entry requirements, the application procedure and career options, please visit our website at: www.essex.ac.uk/linguistics or contact us by e-mail or telephone:

	MA Programmes	PhD Programmes
International enquiries	E-mail: ling-pgt@essex.ac.uk Telephone: +44 1206 874470	E-mail: ling-research@essex.ac.uk Telephone: +44 1206 873473
Home and EU enquiries	E-mail: laladms@essex.ac.uk Telephone: 01206 873473	E-mail: ling-research@essex.ac.uk Telephone: 01206 873473
Apply online at: www.essex.ac.uk/pgadmit		



Graduate Programmes in Linguistics



The Department of Language and Linguistics at the University of Essex has been offering degrees in Linguistics for four decades. We have two-dozen specialist staff in Linguistics and over 200 graduate students, roughly half pursuing an MA, and half a PhD. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, 85 per cent of our research was rated as “recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour”, and 25 per cent was deemed to be “world-leading in terms of originality, significance, and rigour”. Essex had the highest proportion of Linguistics research rated as “world-leading” in England. This means you are taught by staff doing some of the best research in their field anywhere in the world.

Why study Linguistics at the University of Essex?

- Over 20 MA courses in four areas: psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics; sociolinguistics; general/theoretical/descriptive/computational linguistics; and applied linguistics and ELT – more than anywhere else in England;
- We offer both highly specialised and more general programmes with flexible syllabuses;
- Open to both full-time and part-time students;
- Teaching informed by cutting-edge world-class research;
- High ratings given in student surveys to our departmental modules, teaching, facilities, and the friendliness, approachability and helpfulness of our staff;
- Strong research group culture, with staff regularly collaborating and co-publishing with their research students;
- Excellent research facilities, including dedicated laboratories which run reaction-time and eye-movement monitoring experiments, and language corpus facilities, such as the British National Corpus and CHILDES;
- Approximately 15,900 volumes in the library’s linguistics holdings and subscriptions to 150 linguistics journals;
- Situated on a green campus (200 acres of parkland with three lakes) on the outskirts of the historic Roman town of Colchester, and only an hour away from London and Stansted airport;

- Plenty of student accommodation on campus, costs generally lower and the quality of life higher than elsewhere in the southeast of England;
- Everything you need is close at hand on the campus and there are security staff to attend to your safety.

Our MA courses

Each course consists of eight modules, followed by a supervised dissertation. You can also audit additional modules to follow your interests. We offer over 100 optional modules to cover a wide variety of topics in all areas of linguistics.

Theoretical/descriptive/computational linguistics

- MA Linguistics
- MA English Language and Linguistics
- MA English Language
- MA Computational Linguistics
- MA Phonology
- MA Syntax

Psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics

- MA Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics
- MA Language Disorders

Sociolinguistics

- MA Sociolinguistics
- MA Sociolinguistics of the Arab World
- MA Varieties of English

Profiles of MA students



Kaili Clackson
MA in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics

“I chose Essex because I wanted to get a general overview of the subject and felt that the wide

range of modules on offer would allow me to explore the many different areas of linguistics. The flexibility of the part-time course also meant that I could continue to work three days a week. I really enjoyed the course, and the experience of being a mature student. I gradually realised that out of all the linguistic delights on offer, it was the psycholinguistics modules that interested me the most. I then completed a full-time MA in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics as preparation for my PhD.”



Zhao Kaifeng
MA in English Language and Linguistics

“My ultimate reason to study here is my patient, friendly and knowledgeable teachers.

Apart from the fame my department enjoys in the field of linguistics, the University of Essex interests me because of its international atmosphere. I had been dreaming of living and studying with people from various cultures, and Essex offered me the chance. The University has wonderful grounds and in particular the lakes are a great place to take walks and relax by after a hard day’s work. I’ve made lots of friends at Essex and I will always cherish the great times I have had living and studying here.”



Andrie Phili
MA in Sociolinguistics

“Studying at the University of Essex was a rewarding educational experience which satisfied my academic

expectations and offered me the opportunity to meet people from various cultures and backgrounds. During my studies for my MA Sociolinguistics, I was given the chance to focus on contemporary theories and methodologies thus acquiring the necessary knowledge and tools for continuing my academic career and pursuing my own research interests. The quality of academic staff was one of the University’s best advantages. Moreover, the University campus was a unique, friendly environment where study and pleasure were perfectly combined. I have no doubt that studying at the University of Essex has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. Just a few months after my graduation, I received a position at the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus where I am currently working. Nevertheless, I never miss the chance to go back, meet my old friends, and spend some productive educational time at the University’s library.”

Our PhD Programmes

We offer two types of PhD programmes: PhD by supervised research (three years), which is also available on a distance-learning basis; and an integrated ‘New Route’ PhD programme (four years), which combines taught modules tailored to suit your research project and supervised research. Examples of recent PhD topics include: tenses in colloquial French; auxiliary inversion in English; agreement in modern Greek noun phrases; a metrical contrastive analysis of English and colloquial Cairene Arabic; non-native language processing; child language development; morphology in the mental lexicon; language impairments in Down’s Syndrome and aphasia; English and indigenous language policies in Taiwan; ethnic variation in the phonology of Birmingham English; language use in medical encounters; and repair in Japanese conversation.

Profiles of PhD students

Hui-Yu Pan
PhD in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics



“I chose the MA Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics at the University of Essex because the Department of Language and Linguistics has an excellent reputation for its high quality of teaching and outstanding achievements in academic research. After I completed my MA, I decided to start my PhD in Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics at Essex, investigating effects of context in second language ambiguity resolution, and I also joined the Psycholinguistics Research Group in the Department. The great diversity of linguistics programmes available has given me much inspiration. Excellent instruction and good interaction between tutors and students in my research group has also provided great support for my studies.”

Bagamba Bukpa Araali
PhD in Sociolinguistics



“As an international student, I was apprehensive as to whether I would adapt quickly enough to the British system, but once I had arrived I was pleased to discover that the teachers were

very reassuring, friendly and helpful. The PhD supervision I received went beyond my expectations. Not only does the Department have a supervision system which involves many qualified teachers, our supervisor was our friend. My PhD research investigated maintenance and shift among the Hema, a pastoralist community in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am currently doing sociolinguistic research for SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) International and lecturing at Shalom University of Bunia.”

Nabila Louriz
PhD in Linguistics



“I chose the University of Essex for my PhD for its reputation as one of the leading departments of linguistics in the world. My experience there was rewarding on both the academic and social levels. The Department and my supervisor provided incredible support and guidance for me to undertake pioneering work in L3 phonology. In addition, Essex was a great place to socialise and make friends from around the world. Immediately after graduating in 2004, I was appointed as a professor of linguistics at Hassan II University, Casablanca in Morocco and have been there ever since.”