



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH,
DRAMA AND CREATIVE
STUDIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS



Why study English Language at Birmingham?

The Department of English Language and Linguistics is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. You will be taught by experts in the field, with a wide range of interests and specialities. English at the University of Birmingham is ranked in the Top 5 in the *Guardian University Guide 2019* and the Top 35 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2019*.

- Birmingham is internationally renowned for its work in cognitive linguistics, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, language learning and teaching and stylistics. We take a 'real world' approach to studying language, looking at the language we use and encounter every day as the basis for the modules you can choose. You can study conventional aspects of the subject such as grammar, phonetics and phonology and sociolinguistics, or you can choose to explore newer areas such as authorship analysis, clinical linguistics, language in new media communications and world Englishes.
- Your personal tutor will guide you through the programme, helping you to select options that will suit your chosen career path. We have several informal routes through the degree programme, which will help you into a wide range of different careers, ranging from advertising and journalism, to specialist roles in forensic linguistics or speech and language therapy, to teaching English as a foreign language. Our modules will help you to develop transferable and specific skills, that will help you to thrive after graduation.
- You can apply to study abroad for a year in an approved university around the world. If you achieve a grade of 2.1 or above in your first year, then you will be invited to apply for a Year Abroad in your second year. If your application is successful, you will go abroad in your third year and return to us for your final year. Find out more at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/yearabroad
- As a student in the Department of English Language and Linguistics, you can also apply to spend a semester abroad at one of our carefully selected partner universities, where we have close personal ties with academic staff. If your application is successful, during your time abroad you will be able to study modules in English Language and related subjects, including topics specific to the place of study. It is possible to attend universities where all the modules offered will be taught in English.

'Choosing modules of interest has allowed me to tailor the course to suit me.'

ELLIE, BA English Language

'I would recommend Birmingham. The University offers excellent academic credentials, great social opportunities and an exciting city to live in.'

JASPER, BA English Language, graduate

OUR PROGRAMMES

All of our BA programmes draw on particular strengths in fields such as applied linguistics, cognitive linguistics, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, grammar and stylistics. Language study requires discipline, observation, exploration and imagination. Some aspects, such as grammar and phonology, demand particular attention to detail, accuracy and an analytical mind. Fields such as psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics, will develop your ability to collect, analyse and evaluate your own data. We adopt a critical approach in all of our modules and you will have many opportunities to show your understanding of how different forms of language serve different purposes and are often sources of controversy.

You will also have the chance to use new resources, such as computer held databases (corpora) and a range of experimental techniques such as eye-tracking, to help you investigate how language is used in the real world. In addition, your own use of language in your oral expression and written work, developing the ability to write in different styles and developing your own critical voice, will be a vital and continuing source of interest to both you and us.





BA English Language

Our single honours English Language programme offers the chance to study different aspects of English language and its use. The programme also challenges you to develop and sharpen your own ideas about the language we all use on a daily basis. The modules you study will equip you with a well-rounded set of tools for the analysis of English. Your degree builds to a final-year dissertation: a research project which you will carry out independently but under supervision. You will select your own topic for research, collect data, assimilate relevant literature and construct a substantial report on the project, showing judgement and persuasiveness. This is the culmination of the research skills you will build up throughout your degree programme.

BA English Language and Linguistics

In your second year, you will have the opportunity to decide whether you would like to pursue modules on our Linguistics pathway. The modules here are specialist modules, designed to deepen your knowledge of languages other than English, to explore the ways in which languages evolve and to develop skills in specific disciplines where detailed linguistic knowledge is essential. The aim of the English Language and Linguistics pathway is to offer students a specific combination of modules, that will build up skills in close linguistic analysis and draw on knowledge from a range of sub-fields. Choosing this pathway will allow students to graduate with the degree title BA English Language and Linguistics, which may be desirable for certain career paths (such as further study or research, or careers such as speech and language therapy).

BA English Language and Literature

This is a specialist programme aimed at students who have a particular interest in combining the analysis of everyday language, with an enthusiasm for the in-depth study of literary texts. You will have the opportunity to study the ways in which the English language has developed over time, how language varies in different contexts and how this is reflected in literature. You will utilise the key linguistic skills you develop in the Language half of your degree, to complement your study of a wide range of texts, for example, using close linguistic analysis to better understand the ways in which writers captivate and engage their readers.

You will have the opportunity to explore a range of approaches to the study of literature, with core modules on poetry and prose in your first year. As you progress through the programme, you will have the chance to specialise in areas and periods of particular interest, with a wide range of modules on offer such as: Fantasy and Fandom; The Gothic; Last Year's Novels; Modern American Poetry; Muslim Women's Popular Fiction and Twenty-First-Century Literature. The programme is characterised by an impressive level of variety and choice, allowing you to shape it to your own interests and career choices. Students on this programme who choose the Shakespeare module in Year 2, also have the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, to work at the internationally renowned Shakespeare Institute.

Joint Honours

You can combine the study of English Language with a number of other disciplines on the Language pathway of our Joint Honours English programmes. We offer these combined with: Classical Literature and Civilisation; History; Philosophy and Modern Languages (French, Italian, Russian or Spanish).

In your first year, study is split equally between the two disciplines. In subsequent years, our Joint Honours programmes offer a flexible approach, which allows you to tailor your course to suit your developing strengths and interests. In the second year, you might stay with the equal weighting or you might select to take more modules in one of your disciplines, effectively changing to a major/minor weighting. In the final year, you have the option to maintain your second-year weighting, switch your major discipline to your other discipline or revert to an equal weighting between your two subjects.



MODULES

There is a lot of choice in the programme we offer. You might choose to investigate how English has changed through the ages (History of the English Language), why words and phrases mean what they do (Phraseology), how language is processed in the mind (Psycholinguistics), or study how the use of English is a social and political issue in many parts of the world (Discourse and Society), the relationship between language and society (Sociolinguistics) or learn how to teach English (English Language Teaching). You will also take compulsory modules that give a thorough grounding in all aspects of the subject and develop your skills in carrying out your own research projects.

Careers and employability

Studying English Language at Birmingham provides an unparalleled opportunity to not only engage with a diverse cultural, textual and linguistic discipline, but also to develop skills in intellectual analysis, critical thinking and articulate expression – skills that last a lifetime and qualify you for many possible careers. During your time at Birmingham, you will also be encouraged to acquire practical skills that you will find just as useful in your future career, including oral presentation, professional documentation, group work and the uses of information technology. 90% of our English Language students enter work or further study within six months of graduation (DLHE 2017).

English Language graduates enter a wide range of careers including advertising, government, journalism and media, law, publishing and teaching at every level. Our graduates have started careers with employers including charities, educational institutions, local councils, media companies, publishers and a number of large commercial organisations, in roles such as creative advertising account executive, editorial assistant, marketing executive, parliamentary caseworker, recruitment consultant and speech and language therapist.

Entry requirements

| Course | UCAS code | Typical offer |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| BA English Language | Q310 | AAB–ABB |
| BA English Language and Literature | Q30A | AAB |
| BA Classical Literature and Civilisation and English | QQ3V | ABB |
| BA English and History | QV3C | AAB |
| BA English and Philosophy | QV3M | AAB |
| BA English and Modern Languages* | 7Q6Q | AAB |

*except for German



REQUIRED SUBJECTS AND GRADES

For BA English Language/BA English Language and Linguistics, A-level English Language, English Literature, English Language and Literature or a Modern Foreign Language is preferred.

For BA English Language and Literature, A-level English Literature or English Language and Literature is required at grade A.



NEXT STEPS

How to apply

Apply through UCAS.

Offer-holder Visit Days

Following the application process, offer-holders will be invited to an Offer-holder Visit Day and are strongly encouraged to take this opportunity to visit the Department and meet staff and students with whom they would be studying.



LEARN MORE

Email: study-elal-ug@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Full details on all courses with year-by-year breakdown can be found at: www.birmingham.ac.uk/elal

[@artsatbham](https://www.instagram.com/artsatbham)



This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be discontinued and new ones offered in their place.

Please note the information in this brochure is correct at time of publication but may be subject to change (June 2019).



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