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The general (conversion) MA programme is designed to be appropriate for students who have no background in Linguistics, or a limited background in Linguistics. We assume no prior background and start at a foundational level, but we aim to bring students to a high level very quickly so that they are prepared to undertake a dissertation project at a high level. This programme is also appropriate for students who have some background in Linguistics (for example, a few of classes as part of an English degree, Literature degree, Languages degree, etc.). Students in this situation typically find that the first few weeks of classes will review some familiar material, but that the classes quickly move to a level that is more advanced than their prior experience.

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If there are extenuating circumstances, a switch may be possible at a later stage, please contact the programme director to discuss this.

Yes, you can study the programme on a part-time basis over two calendar years. As a part-time student, you will take fewer modules in each year but please note that teaching does place during the working day.

This is advice from recent MA students:

The full-time MA programme is quite intensive, and will take up much of your time. You may find it difficult to work a job in addition to doing the programme full-time, especially at certain parts of the year (like exam time), though people differ of course. This may be easier to handle if you have a job that is very flexible or if you have a lot of control over the hours that you work.

Once you arrive, you have time until early December to make changes to your Term 2 module selection.

For the general MA programme, it is not usually possible to take an elective module in Term 1 as this term is dedicated to giving you a solid background in theoretical linguistics. Further information will be provided in early September, in the documentation and information session arranged with offerholders.

You cannot normally take a course to learn a language, but data from different languages is used across most modules and you can often use examples from a specific language to support your argument. Students also often study an aspect of a specific language for their dissertation.

From our perspective, we are usually happy for you to take option modules from other departments or other schools. However, the possibility of this varies greatly depending on which modules, and which other departments/schools you are interested in because the other department (and the module leader) has to accept you onto the module. Some modules have very little space for outside students, and some have very specific prerequisites. Many students do end up taking option modules offered by other departments, and we are typically happy to assist you in pursuing this, but it depends on the other department's approval.

Yes, our department places a strong focus on experimental methods for studying language, in addition to more traditional linguistic analysis. There are modules that focus on experimental linguistics that you can choose, and you can also choose to focus on experimental linguistics for your dissertation.

It may be possible to study an option module on this topic offered by another department, details are included on our list of option modules. Occasionally, we have seminars in the department that touch on this area, including a recent seminar led by one of our alumni focusing on NLP, but these are not held every year.



It will generally be in the area of your supervisor's expertise but does not necessarily have to in their specific research topic. You and your supervisor will agree on the topic, and you can also explain what you are interested in and what you are good at.

The programme is designed as a conversion course which helps facilitate further studies in Linguistics or in other related areas. The programme also does prepare you with a lot of analytical skills that will be valuable in a lot of different careers. For instance, many students have gone into marketing and journalism, media and communication, language teaching, speech and language technology, translating and interpreting, management; other students carry on studying linguistics with a view to working in Linguistics in academia.

The MA Linguistics is an intensive course which covers all the main areas of theoretical linguistics and also gives you a taste of empirical/experimental work in the field, so it provides essential background and some training in research skills. If you do well in the programme, your chances of being accepted onto an MPhil/PhD programme in theoretical linguistics are good. However, it is unlikely that you could proceed straight after completing the MA Linguistics programme to a PhD due to the very early application deadline for PhD programmes (and especially for funding) - it is usually too early for a student to be able to develop a good research proposal. Most students find that they need to first finish the Master's dissertation, before they are ready to think about an appropriate topic for doctoral research, so there is usually an interim year between the Master's and starting a PhD. However, there may be exceptions to this and it may depend on where you want to go to do your doctoral work.

The recently established MPhil programme may be of interest:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/research/linguistics/study-linguistics/mphil-linguistics>.

It certainly is not necessary. A number of our general MA students go directly into a PhD programme. Even on the general MA programme, it is possible to go into depth in a specific sub-area (see related question above), and the general MA degree provides students with the background to produce dissertations of a very high quality. If you do well on the programme, you should be in a good position to look directly towards a PhD programme at the completion of your MA degree.

We will set up a Whatsapp group for students studying on the MA Linguistics programme in 2024-25, which offerholders can join to get to know others before arrival.

In Welcome week, there will be some social events where you can meet others, and you will of course also get to know each other in lectures and tutorials.

LingSoc, the Linguistics student society, also provides opportunities to get to know students, including undergraduate and PhD students in Linguistics.

Generally, dissertation supervisors are assigned internally from the Linguistics department. However, in special instances it has been possible to be supervised from a different department although this requires various steps and is not the typical case.

Nonetheless, you can learn from other modules beyond the Linguistics department either by taking an elective module or by auditing a module from another department. If the module tutor allows you to audit their course, you will have access to all of the module material and be able to attend the lectures, however, you would not be assessed or receive any credits for this.

There is [a seminar series within Linguistics](#) which occurs fortnightly during term time where external speakers are invited to give talks on specific areas and discuss papers. This is a great opportunity to network for future research opportunities! Other departments within the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences and beyond offer similar seminars you will be able to attend.

Applications for UCL accommodation will open in March 2024, and current students have found this type of accommodation more convenient and lower in cost than private providers. Further information at <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/accommodation/accommodation>