Linguistics
Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies

Phonology
Literacy
IPA
Cognition
Neurolinguistics
Syllable
Teaching ESL
Power
Words
Syntax
Historical
Inflection
Phrase
Context
Speech
Psycholinguistics
Sign
Language
Root
Constraint
Logic
Identity
Brain
Communication
Language
Semantics
Expression
Lexicon
Morphology
Meaning
Paradigm
Writing
Fricatives
Phonemes
Vocabulary
Discourse

Carleton University
Canada’s Capital University
The School of Linguistics and Language Studies (SLaLS) offers two programs in the study of language and language use: Linguistics, and Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies. Linguistics is the scientific study of language and linguistic knowledge, while Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies focuses on language use in social and educational settings, including the teaching and learning of language.

Students of Linguistics investigate what people know when they know a language—its sounds and their patterning (phonetics and phonology), words (morphology), sentences (syntax) and meaning (semantics). They learn how language is acquired, how it is represented in the human mind, and how it varies across languages and dialects. Students of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies learn how language succeeds (or does not succeed) in conveying meaning in specific contexts. They examine how language is used in academia and in the workplace, and how it works as part of, or how it can change, power relations, gender relationships and socio-political structures.

Our students develop skills in analysis, logical reasoning, and written and verbal expression that are necessary in today’s highly competitive job market. Students develop an understanding of the human mind and human relations, and learn to apply the results of their studies to real-world issues. Employers of all stripes value the skills our students acquire.

A degree in linguistics can lead to work in the computer industry, speech-language pathology, education, language documentation, and linguistic research. Students in our applied program can learn about teaching and learning languages (English as a Second Language [ESL] or other languages) and go on to work at interesting and rewarding jobs, often including world travel. They can also learn about language use in specific discourse communities (e.g., teachers, students, bankers, engineers and architects, government policy-makers, etc.). Students with these backgrounds are in demand with a variety of employers—government, private sector, NGOs—whose success depends on highly effective professional communication.

The Carleton advantage

Teaching and research

Carleton University is one of the leading universities in Canada in the fields of Linguistics, Applied
Linguistics and Discourse Studies, and Teaching English as a Second Language. SLaLS is recognized nationally and internationally for its research into both theoretical and applied linguistics. Faculty members carry out research in a variety of areas: syntax, phonology, psycholinguistics, historical linguistics, language acquisition, language teaching, curriculum development, language policy, language testing, adult literacy, educational linguistics, the development of writing abilities and the use of language in the workplace.

Choosing the right program
Bachelor of Arts (General) or (Honours)
Bachelor of Arts (Combined Honours)

Linguistics
What is language? How are languages organized? How are they represented in the brain? How do languages differ and how are they alike? These are some of the questions you will examine if you choose to study linguistics.

Our programs focus on seven key areas:
- **Phonetics**: What kinds of sounds are used in human speech? How are they made? What are their acoustic properties?
- **Phonology**: How do different languages use the sounds of human speech? How many different sounds does a language need?
- **Morphology**: How are words constructed? How do they combine to form longer words?
- **Psycholinguistics**: How is language processed? How do young children learn language, and do it so quickly?
- **Syntax**: How are words combined into sentences? How do different languages organize words to communicate the same meaning?
- **Semantics**: How is meaning conveyed and understood?
- **Historical linguistics**: How and why do languages change? How are different languages related to one another?

Both the three- and four-year programs examine each of these areas, with more advanced studies available to students in the Honours program, which includes a thesis option.

Core courses
Core courses include an introduction to linguistics, linguistic analysis, phonetics, phonology, syntax and semantics. Students may also select from
topics such as morphology, pragmatics, historical linguistics, language typology and universals, child language, and language and the brain.

**Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies**

Applied Linguistics emerged as a distinct discipline in the late 1970s with a concern for solving real-world problems related to language learning and teaching, language in education, language policy-making, language testing, language in society and effective communication in the workplace. Discourse Studies and Writing Studies focus on the study of text, talk, writing and, more recently, multimodal and multimedia discourse; they employ a range of research methods including case studies, ethnography, critical discourse analysis, genre analysis, and computer-assisted corpus analysis.

Our programs focus on three main areas:

- **Applied Linguistics**: How are languages learned, taught, and assessed? How can language policies influence language practices and protect minority or endangered languages? What makes professional communication in a first or second language effective? What role does language play in creating social identities and social orders?

- **Discourse Studies**: How is language—spoken, written, visual—used in complex organizations such as workplaces, schools and media to achieve specific goals, and what is its level of effectiveness? How are texts and other symbol systems—such as photographs and video clips—used, and why and for whose ends? How do we use language to exercise or resist power?

- **Writing Studies**: How is writing used in academic, workplace, and community settings to construct knowledge, accomplish learning, and coordinate people’s activities? How is writing best taught and learned in these settings?

Both the three- and four-year programs examine each of these areas. Honours students may complete an optional Honours project, and many high-achieving students continue into our MA program.

**Core courses**

Core courses for this program include an introduction to linguistics, language analysis and a selection of other courses from topics such as discourse analysis, corpus analysis, second-language learning, writing, adult literacy, language testing, language in society, and bilingualism.
Language proficiency requirement
Students in either program are required to have a working knowledge of at least one other language besides English by graduation. Proficiency is determined by successful completion of 1.0 credit in the language or by an oral or written test given by the School.

Combined programs
You may wish to combine your studies in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies with studies in another discipline. You will need to fulfill the credit requirements for a combined program in both majors. You may also combine both of our own programs in the specially designated Combined Honours in Linguistics and Discourse Studies.

Minors
The School offers minors in American Sign Language, Chinese (Mandarin), German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, each of which requires four credits in the language. Minors are also offered in Linguistics and in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies.

First-year Seminar
BA students are encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. These Seminars provide you with the chance to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors in a small class of no more than 30 students.

A sample first year
First-year requirements are the same for our programs in Linguistics and in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies. This common core will allow you to confirm or change your choice of major before you begin to specialize in second year.

- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Linguistics and Introduction to Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies
- 1.0 credit in a course from the Social Sciences Breadth Area, such as Introduction to Psychology I and II or Introduction to Sociology I and II
- 1.0 credit in a modern language (American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian or Spanish)
- 1.0 credit in a First-year Seminar
- 1.0 credit in any other course of interest
Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Second Language (CTESL)
Carleton’s program, offered through the School of Linguistics and Language Studies, is one of Canada’s oldest and best-known TESL programs.

The CTESL program includes courses in theory and methodology, as well as a practicum that includes opportunities for classroom observation and supervised teaching in a variety of settings. With the proper course selection, the program may be taken simultaneously with the four-year Honours program in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, or with other majors, allowing you to graduate with both a degree and a certificate at the same time. You can also pursue this program as a post-degree certificate.

The CTESL program concentrates on teaching English to adults, either in Canada or abroad. It is widely recognized in Canada as a qualification to teach ESL at the post-secondary level in private language schools, colleges and universities. Overseas, it can lead to teaching positions at the elementary and secondary school levels, as well as at the adult level.

Certificate in American Sign Language (CASL)
Our CASL program is designed for anyone wishing to benefit from an officially recognized capacity for communicating with members of the deaf community who use American Sign Language. Students in the ASL Minor are able to obtain a Certificate if they fulfill the additional requirements. The CASL program may be taken simultaneously with the four-year Honours program in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, or with other majors, allowing you to graduate with both a degree and a certificate at the same time. You can also pursue this program as a post-degree certificate.
Future opportunities

The workplace
Career opportunities for students with a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies include language teaching, educational research, language planning and development, literacy work, lexicography, forensic linguistics, speech-language pathology, and computer speech production and recognition.

Graduate studies
Graduates of the Honours programs may be eligible for graduate studies in a variety of fields including theoretical linguistics, psycholinguistics, cognitive science, computational linguistics, speech-language pathology, applied linguistics, discourse studies, writing studies, language assessment and language education.

If you think that you may wish to pursue advanced studies, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is tailored to meet requirements at the graduate level.

Professional programs
Many professional programs, including law and teaching, welcome well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds. Linguistics, or Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, can be a strong foundation for a number of professional programs, and you are encouraged to pursue your interests in these fields.

Admission requirements
For admission to the Bachelor of Arts programs, you must have the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent, including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4U English (or Anglais).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment. Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary. Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

For more information
...on the School’s programs, please visit our website at carleton.ca/slals or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at carleton.ca/cuuc.
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

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This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.
For more information on all of Carleton’s undergraduate programs, visit

**admissions.carleton.ca**

where you can browse program descriptions, career possibilities, and electronic versions of all of our program guides. You can also check out financial aid options, book a tour, sign up for our monthly newsletter, watch Carleton videos, and connect with us on social media.

You may also wish to consult our current

**Admissions Viewbook**

We look forward to hearing from you!