Why do we assign specific meanings to certain sounds and call it ‘language’? How do babies acquire language? What techniques do writers use to express meaning? Linguistics is the scientific study of language. On this programme, you explore how language is structured, acquired and used in different contexts, including the media, literature and everyday conversation.
WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS AT KENT?

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether discussing the history of English or exploring how babies acquire language, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and challenge you to contribute your ideas.

World-leading research
In the Centre for Language and Linguistics, our staff collaborate with experts in anthropology, psychology, philosophy and computing. They write books, contribute to journals, present at conferences and introduce you to the latest research.

Career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and team work. You have access to careers advice and opportunities to gain work experience, boosting your CV and your confidence.

Academic support
University is different from school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help you by assigning you an academic adviser, running a peer mentoring programme and offering help with academic skills, such as essay writing.

Year abroad opportunities
We have great contacts with other European universities and with universities in South Africa, Southeast Asia and North America; teaching is in English. If you choose to spend a year abroad, lots of exciting opportunities are open to you.

Friendly community
You study English Language and Linguistics alongside students studying modern foreign languages and literature. You become part of a friendly community with shared interests and have the opportunity to learn from one another.

Lively campus
Kent is a campus university, so everything you need is within walking distance. You can watch a play or film at the Gulbenkian arts centre; dance at The Venue nightclub; keep fit at our sports centre and meet friends at one of many campus cafés and restaurants.

Careers in the media
If you are interested in a career in the media, we offer modules that allow you to put theories into practice while building a portfolio of media-related writing. You could also add a year to your degree to study for the nationally recognised Diploma in Journalism (see p8).

Specialist facilities
The Linguistics Laboratory at Kent provides professional-standard equipment. Our academic staff support you in conducting your own experiments, extending your understanding of this fascinating field of study.
Flexible programme

At Kent, we introduce you to linguistics through core modules in your first year, ensuring you have a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build. You then have the scope to tailor your programme to your interests and career plans: for example, exploring how ‘English’ changes according to the social, geographic or historical context in which it is used, examining the impact of developmental disorders on language use or discovering how a writer’s choice of language creates meaning and character.

Independent rankings

The Times Good University Guide 2019
• Linguistics at Kent is ranked 7th overall.

National Student Survey 2018
• Over 94% of final-year Linguistics students who responded to the survey were satisfied with the overall quality of their course.

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) 2017
• Over 98% of Linguistics graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months.

Teaching Excellence Framework
• Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK Government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*. 

*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
STUDENT VIEW

Elise Mcmellin is in her final year studying English Language and Linguistics. This is what she told us about her course.

Why did you choose English Language and Linguistics?
I have a real passion for language, how we process things in our mind and produce them mechanically in our mouth. It’s syntax, child language acquisition, phonology and language processing; all these aspects really interest me.

Why did you choose Kent?
It was partly the module choice. At Kent there is such a varied choice of modules, so you can tailor your degree to what you excel in. Also, I came to the Open Day and asked a few lecturers to tell me about the course, and they were so enthusiastic about their subjects and their research! So, I came here because it is so important to learn from lecturers who are passionate and at the forefront of innovation.

Can you remember how you felt when you first arrived?
I arrived partway through Welcome Week and I thought I would be behind with making friends, getting to know course mates and getting involved in activities. But, it was fine! I was straight in with going out and doing things, and this course has so many seminars of smaller groups of students, so you make friends really easily.

How is your course going?
I’m really enjoying it. I’ve loved the modules, and felt like I’ve had a lot of support from lecturers. I’ve particularly enjoyed modules such as phonetics, phonology, language acquisition and language processing. With these you learn about the many levels of communication, which a native speaker performs automatically. There are also modules in teaching second languages, writing in the media, pragmatics, and history of English, for example. So you could find yourself studying meaning, speech, the change of language, gender differences, analysing texts, teaching, language processing or even crafting pieces. I’ve loved it because I’ve learnt so much about so many different aspects of language.

What do you think of your lecturers?
They are really friendly, enthusiastic and so approachable. Our course is relatively small compared with others, so you get to know your lecturers quite well and they can offer you the individual help that you might need. They’re always saying, ‘Come to my office hours. Send me an email. Do you understand this? Are we all following? Has anyone got any issues?’ It’s amazing; they really care about your success.

What are the facilities like?
There’s a new linguistics lab available to students and also used by lecturers. It has a soundproofed room, which allows you to get recordings of speech that are uninfluenced by other sounds for your research projects. There’s an eye-tracking device too, which helps discover how the brain processes language, and there are other bookable lab rooms for students to use, if they need. You can take part in research all year round as a participant, but you can also be a research intern for lecturers. For example, in the summer term of my first year, I helped a lecturer collect materials for a research project using the eye-tracking equipment, which looked at the order in which we try to decode an utterance.

What are you planning to do after you graduate?
I’m currently applying for a Master’s in Speech and Language Therapy, ultimately to work with children who have phonological disorders. There is a lot of competition to get in but the careers advisers here at Kent have been fantastic. They have helped me refine my CV, polish my personal statements and run trial interviews.

Any advice for someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Be ambitious. It’s a really safe place, with a lot of support, so you can really delve into interests. You have to have the courage to learn something that you don’t yet know anything about. You might find that your personality and the way your brain is wired magically click with modules that you didn’t even know existed. So – always be ambitious.
CHOOING YOUR DEGREE

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a quick guide to the English Language and Linguistic degrees on offer.

**Single honours**

**English Language and Linguistics**

[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/88](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/88)

This single honours degree is a three-year programme exploring the dynamic and often controversial field that is crucial to our understanding of spoken and written language. It combines theoretical and practical elements and explores both the structure of language and its multifaceted relationship with society.

Opportunities to enrich your studies and enhance your employability include the following:

- **Year Abroad** – find out about studying or working abroad on p11.
- **Year in Journalism** – this is an exciting opportunity to work in a newsroom environment as you study for the National Council for the Training of Journalists’ (NCTJ) Diploma in Journalism. For more details, see [www.kent.ac.uk/journalism](http://www.kent.ac.uk/journalism)
- **Year in Computing** – find out more at [www.cs.kent.ac.uk/ug/year-in-computing.html](http://www.cs.kent.ac.uk/ug/year-in-computing.html)
- **Year in Data Analytics** – find out more at [www.kent.ac.uk/mathematics-statistics-actuarial-science/about/year-in-data-analytics](http://www.kent.ac.uk/mathematics-statistics-actuarial-science/about/year-in-data-analytics)

**Joint honours**

Taking a joint honours degree gives you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge by studying two subjects; study is normally divided on a 50:50 basis. The most popular combination is with a literature subject but many other combinations are available.

To find out more about the following programmes, go to [www.kent.ac.uk/ug](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug) and add the course code shown below:

- Asian Studies (/398)
- Comparative Literature (/382)
- Drama (/292)
- English Literature (/305)
- French (/312)
- Hispanic Studies (/219)
- History (/363)
- Italian (/220)
- Management (/1914)
- Philosophy (/353).

**International students**

If you are applying from outside the UK and don’t have the necessary English language qualifications, you could apply for the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). The IFP can provide progression to the first year of the English Language and Linguistics single honours degree. For more details, see [www.kent.ac.uk/ifp](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ifp)

**Part-time degrees**

You can study English Language and Linguistics on a part-time basis. Some of the joint honours combinations available also allow part-time study but you cannot study part-time if you combine English Language and Linguistics with a modern foreign language.
You study a combination of compulsory and optional modules covering areas such as language sound and structure, style and the way language is used in different contexts.

Your studies are divided into Stages 1, 2 and 3. If you choose to spend a year abroad, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Teaching and assessment

Your classes each week could include lectures, interactive forums, discussion groups or workshops, depending on the material and the nature of the module. You also have group tutorials on a regular basis. All modules require extensive private study, including reading, writing, researching, reflection and discussion.

At each stage, some modules are continuously assessed, while others combine coursework and examination. Stage 1 marks do not count towards your final degree result but marks at Stages 2 and 3 do count. Assessment methods include essays, practical work, critical commentaries, portfolios, in-class assessments, seminar presentations, oral and written examinations, and computer-based work including online collaboration and discussion forums.

Module information

Please note that the module lists below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details given below are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). See www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

To read a full description of any of the modules listed, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module code shown below.

Stage 1

Compulsory modules (single honours)

Students take:
- The Structure of Language (LL302)
- Sounds of English (LL303)
- Foundations of Linguistics (LL313).

Optional and elective modules

Students choose at least two of the following:
- Global Englishes (LL309)
- Grammar for Everyone (LL312)
- Language, Self and Society (LL304)*
- Meaning and Discourse (LL305)*
- Tackling Text: Explaining Style (LL307).

Their selection must include at least one of the modules marked with an asterisk*. They may also choose elective modules from other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours

Joint honours students take the compulsory modules listed under single honours above and at least one of the optional modules. They take the modules required for their other subject (see the course information at www.kent.ac.uk/ug).
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME (CONT)

Stage 2

Compulsory modules
There are currently no compulsory modules at Stage 2.

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose at least three of the following modules:
- English Language in the Media 1 (LL536)
- English Language in the Media 2 (LL537)
- First Language Acquisition (LL544)
- Guided Research in Linguistics (LL542)
- Language Variation and Change (LL552)
- Learning and Teaching Languages (LL543)
- Morphology (LL522)
- Philosophy of Language (PL602)
- Phonetics (LL545)
- Phonology (LL553)
- Semantics and Pragmatics (LL534)
- Stylistics: Language in Literature (LL550)
- Syntax 1 (LL519).

They may also choose elective modules from other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours
Students choose at least two of the optional modules listed for single honours above. They may also be able to select elective modules from other subject areas across the University. In addition, they take the modules required for their other subject.

Year abroad or work placement
Students who choose to add a year abroad take this between Stages 2 and 3 (see p11).

Stage 3

Compulsory modules
There are currently no compulsory modules at Stage 3.

Optional modules (single honours)
Students choose at least three of the following modules:
- Dissertation (LL599)
- English Language Teaching 1 (LL539)
- English Language Teaching 2 (LL540)
- History of British English (LL551)
- Language in Atypical Circumstances (LL531)
- Language Processing (LL512)
- Philosophy of Language (PL576)
- Phonology (LL553)
- Pragmatics and Intercultural Communication (LL548)
- Stylistics and Creative Writing (LL510)
- Syntax II (LL526)
- Topics in Semantics (LL535)
- Writing in the Media: a Practical Approach (LL530).

They may also choose elective modules from other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours
Students choose at least two of the optional modules listed for single honours above. They may also be able to select elective modules from other subject areas across the University. In addition, they take the modules required for their other subject.
You are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment. You could also take the opportunity to improve your proficiency in a second language, or learn a new one.

For many students, the year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Having risen to the challenge of living in another country, they have a renewed belief in their ability to succeed.

You don't generally have to decide to do a year abroad before you start your course, although if you choose to study English Language and Linguistics as a joint honours programme with French, Italian, German or Hispanic Studies, spending a year abroad is compulsory.

We have exciting exchange links with universities in Canada, China (Hong Kong), Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the USA, as well as many European destinations. See the A to Z course list at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html for details.

**Placement year**

The placement year provides the opportunity for you to gain experience in the workplace as part of your degree. The placement can be either paid work or an internship. It gives you the opportunity to increase your contacts and networks so that you can hit the ground running when you graduate.

If taken, the year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit.

Tuition fees for the placement year are greatly reduced and some employers may offer expenses or a salary.

There are many benefits to taking a placement year: it gives you the chance to gain some knowledge of the work environment, acquire new skills and develop your confidence.

For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
SUPERB STUDY SUPPORT

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module choices and essay topics with you.

You are assigned an academic adviser to help you get the most from your degree programme. You can arrange to meet them to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments, and they are able to refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer support
Sometimes you might find an aspect of your course particularly challenging. If this happens, the best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our academic peer mentoring scheme, we can match you with second- or third-year students who can help you to get to grips with specific modules on your programme.

Study skills advice
Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you to increase your competence and confidence and fulfil your potential. You can request a one-to-one appointment or attend workshops on a diverse range of topics, from making the most of lectures to writing well and avoiding plagiarism.

Student support and wellbeing
You might need extra help to get the most from university. If you have a medical condition, specific learning difficulty, mental health condition or disability, the Student Support and Wellbeing team is there to support you.

The team is committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:

• helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
• applying for relevant funding to support you.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

“You turn up with an essay or an essay plan and they [SLAS] go over it with you and give you advice on your writing style. Even though I’d been doing OK, I realised that a few little tweaks could make all the difference. It’s great.”

Gaby Emson
Final-year student
What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind or haven’t yet thought much beyond university, we can help you to plan for success in the future.

Build your CV
Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems and working both independently and as part of a team. Employers look for people with transferable skills like these, which are also vital if you go on to further study.

At Kent, you have lots of other great opportunities to enhance your skills. For instance, you could:
• join a society or sports club (even better – get involved in running it)
• volunteer in the community
• work in a part-time job or take up a summer internship
• represent your fellow students as a student rep, or become a student ambassador
• become an academic peer mentor.

Getting involved like this means that you can earn Employability Points, which you can exchange for employability rewards. The more points you earn, the more valuable the rewards: we work with local, national and international employers to offer internships, work experience and a range of other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

Experience the world of work
By taking a part-time job alongside your degree studies you gain skills and experience as well as earning money – you might even get inspiration for your future career. Kent Union’s JobShop posts vacancies within the University and local area; you can also drop into the office on campus for advice and information. Another option is a longer-term work placement – see p11 for more details.

Find a great job
Many different career paths are available for graduates in English Language and Linguistics: teaching English as a first or second language, forensic linguistics (working for the police, for example), speech therapy and audiology, or speech and language technology. More general career paths include advertising, media, the civil and diplomatic services, journalism, public relations and publishing.

We have a programme of employability events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness. You can also visit our careers fair to talk to potential employers and use our award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice on preparing your CV. Our track record speaks for itself: over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months (DLHE, 2017).
I’m off to the University of Sussex soon to do an Applied Linguistics MA. I loved my time at Kent, but I think it’s important to experience academia in a variety of settings; my ultimate goal is to become a lecturer. I love teaching, and my dissertation definitely gave me the research bug. I also have a new freelance copywriting business that I’ve been working on, so I plan to devote some time to that as well.

What are my best memories of life at Kent? Ping-pong and pumpkin carving in the kitchen with my first-year housemates. Open mic nights in Woody’s. Finding people who were just as obsessed with the ‘Jabberwocky’ poem as me. Submitting my dissertation. Being handed my degree certificate and happy-sobbing all the way down the cathedral aisle.

My advice to anyone thinking of going to Kent would be – get involved! Take advantage of everything uni life can offer. Join as many societies as you can, write for the English Language and Linguistics blog, stand as a student rep, volunteer in psychology experiments. I did all this and wish I’d done more. Your time at Kent is what you make it – and you can make it breathtaking.

The support from the department was invaluable – my dissertation supervisor was a godsend. Lecturers were always happy to discuss readings, answer questions, or debate theories. But more than that, they are such fantastic people and were always there for a supportive chat. ‘Impossible’ worksheets are usually much less impossible over a cup of coffee.

The Careers and Employability Service was really helpful in helping me to prepare for life after graduation. They checked over my CV several times, and I raided their library of books about graduate roles more than once! There were always talks and workshops going on throughout the year too.

After graduating, I started a Business Administration Level 3 apprenticeship in the marketing department of a large nursery chain. Each day is incredibly varied, but my main duties involve writing blogposts, creating web pages, designing leaflets, analysing website traffic, coming up with new campaigns to entice more customers, or pulling data about targets and conversions. I’m also in charge of event management, and the CEO knew about my Linguistics degree and asked me to edit her soon-to-be published book.

My dissertation was called ‘Whose Body is it Anyway?: A Corpus Study of Transgender Representation in Children’s Fiction’. It sounds fancy, but it basically looked at the ways transgender and cisgender characters in YA [young adult] books used parts of their body – did they differ in agency? In emotion? In dominance? It threw up some interesting conclusions, the biggest one being that much more research is needed!

I only attended one university Open Day – at Kent. It was the first in my calendar, and I came away from it so enthused that I didn’t go to any others. I had a good chat with the head of the department, who showed such passion for English Language and Linguistics, and such interest in what I had to say, that I came away from the Open Day feeling I could achieve absolutely anything.

It would be impossible to pick one favourite module from my course. I loved different aspects of so many of them – and, of course, after the first year, all the modules are optional, so I only studied those I wanted to study! Each module, lecture and seminar group was so different. Seminar groups were entertaining and engaging, and I enjoyed being able to question things beyond the taught material.

Eloisa Lillywhite graduated with a first class degree in English Language and Linguistics in 2018. This is what she told us about her studies, and life after Kent.
Choosing a university is a big step, so it’s important to find out as much as you can before you make your decision. Come and visit us to see what we can offer you.

Open Days
Open Days are a great way to find out what life as a student at Kent is like. For instance, you can:
• learn more about the course you are interested in at a subject presentation
• ask questions – talk to the academic teams at the information stands
• experience our teaching at a taster lecture*
• find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extracurricular activities such as Kent Sport.

Informal visits
If you can’t make it to an Open Day or Applicant Day, you can still visit us. We run tours of the campus throughout the year.

If you live outside Europe, we appreciate that you might find it difficult to attend our scheduled events, so we can arrange a personal campus tour for you and your family.

Let us know you’re coming
Scheduled tours and personal campus tours (for international students) need to be booked in advance – you can do this via www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Self-guided tours
If you prefer to explore on your own, you can download a self-guided walking tour at: www.kent.ac.uk/informal or pick up a copy from us.

A self-guided audio tour is available too, which allows you to learn about Kent without even leaving home. See www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html

Meet us in your country
Our staff regularly travel overseas to meet with students who are interested in coming to Kent. We also have strong links with agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent.

Explore online
If you can’t come and see us, you can find out more about the academic team, the course and events in the department and School online at: www.kent.ac.uk/secl

Keep in touch with us via social media:
• www.facebook.com/unikentsecl
• www.twitter.com/unikentsecl
• www.instagram.com/unikentsecl
• www.youtube.com/unikentsecl

Contact us
If you would like more information on Kent’s courses, facilities or services, please contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 768896
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

* Programme of events varies according to subject.
COME AND FIND OUT MORE (CONT)

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time or part-time

Degree programme

Single honours
• English Language and Linguistics (QQ13)

Joint honours
English Language and Linguistics and...
• Asian Studies (TQ43)
• Comparative Literature (QQ32)
• Drama (WQ43)
• English Literature (TBC)
• French (RQ13)
• Hispanic Studies (RQ43)
• History (VQ1H)
• Italian (RQ33)
• Management (QN10)
• Philosophy (VQ5H)

Typical offer levels
Single and joint honours
BBB at A level; IB Diploma
34 points overall or 15 points at HL;
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma
and Access to HE candidates are
assessed on an individual basis.

Required subjects
• Q391: English Literature grade
  B or English Language and
  Literature grade B at A level;
  IB English HL A1/A2/B at 5/6/6
  or English Literature A/English
  Language and Literature A
  (or Literature A/Language and
  Literature A of another country)
  5 at SL or 6 at HL.
• RQ13, RQ33, RQ43:
  GCSE grade B or 6 in a second
  language; IB 4 at HL or 5 at SL
  in a second language.
• VQ1H: Classics-Ancient History,
  Classics-Classical Civilisation
  or History grade B at A level;
  IB History 5 at HL or 6 at SL.
• QN10: GCSE Mathematics grade
  C or 4; IB Mathematics 4 at HL
  or SL.

Year abroad
If you choose to spend a year
abroad, you take this between
Stages 2 and 3.
If you choose joint honours with
French, Hispanic Studies or Italian,
spending a year abroad is
compulsory.
See p11 for further details.

Scholarships and bursaries
For details of scholarships
and bursaries at Kent,
see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding

Offer levels and entry
requirements are subject to
change. For the latest information
see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

This brochure was produced in June 2019. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and for full details of our terms and conditions, see www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit