ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Canterbury
Language plays a central role in everything we do. This subject explores questions such as: what do languages have in common? Are humans genetically disposed to learn language? What principles affect how languages change over time?

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, seeking to understand how language is structured, used and acquired. Studying English Language and Linguistics allows you to explore a dynamic, varied and often controversial field that is crucial to our understanding of spoken and written language.

The degree at Kent offers a mix of theoretical debate and practical applications. You study how languages are structured – how they organise speech sounds into words and words into sentences – and how they are acquired by young children and processed by adults. In addition, you study how language is used in various social, political, cultural and philosophical contexts, and what governs the choice and interpretation of words in the media, literature, work negotiations and everyday conversation. In the process, you develop good analytical and writing skills and debate the latest cultural and critical theories, exploring processes of language acquisition, the relationship between language and society, and the interfaces between spoken and written forms of language.

Choice of programmes

English Language and Linguistics is available to study as a single honours or joint honours degree. See p10 for details.

A year abroad/placement year

It is possible to spend a year studying abroad as part of your degree. The Department of English Language and Linguistics has strong links with overseas universities, where the teaching is in English. For details on taking advantage of overseas opportunities during your degree, see p13 or go to www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

You also have the opportunity to spend a year on a work placement, gaining valuable experience and enhancing your employability. For more information, see p13 or go to www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement/

Excellent teaching

Our academics are leaders in the field and their passion for their subject will inspire you. They will challenge you to develop your own opinions and ideas, encouraging you to become an independent thinker. We offer high levels of support both during teaching sessions and in one-to-one meetings and our staff members are friendly and accessible. The close working relationships you develop help you to succeed in your studies.
The international environment of the School gives you the opportunity to look at the subject from a wide range of perspectives. Around 11% of our students are from the European mainland and a high proportion of our teaching staff are from other countries in Europe. Many of our staff speak a second language or undertake fieldwork abroad.

**Supportive community**

English Language and Linguistics is taught within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL). The School also offers degrees in French, German, Hispanic Studies and Italian, so you become part of a wider community of language and linguistics students, sharing interests and experiences.

As a student, you are a member of an academic community that welcomes and encourages original ideas and independent thinking. Both the Department of English Language and Linguistics and the School host regular research events including conferences, seminars and lectures, which you are invited to attend and take part in.

Within SECL we have a dedicated student support team, who are able to provide pastoral care and help you with your academic needs. The University also offers a variety of support services. For details see: www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing or www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

**A successful future**

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be prepared for life after university. During your studies, you develop key transferable skills considered essential for a successful career. For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please go to p8 or see our web pages at www.kent.ac.uk/employability or www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

**World-leading research**

In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities. Modern languages and linguistics at Kent was ranked 3rd in the UK for research quality and research output. SECL’s research is highly rated and our academics are at the forefront of their fields.

**A global outlook**

Kent is known as the UK’s European university and has international partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions. We have an international community on campus: 42% of our academic staff come from outside the UK and our students represent 158 different nationalities.

---

*of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class technical resources as well as excellent academic and leisure facilities. The campus is within easy reach of London and mainland Europe, and benefits from a multicultural learning environment.

Linguistics Laboratory
The Linguistics Laboratory (LingLab) has facilities for experimental and quantitative research in linguistics. The lab is open to undergraduates who are undertaking dissertations, as well as to students willing to volunteer in research projects. LingLab members can use high-quality equipment to record speech either in the lab or elsewhere. The LingLab also has specialised software to analyse recording data for phonetic and sociolinguistic studies, to carry out experiments in language and speech processing and acquisition, and to analyse literary texts. It is one of the few linguistics labs in the UK equipped with an eye-tracker, which has been used for the study of speech, conversation and reading.

Multimedia laboratories
The School has two multimedia laboratories available for both small group teaching and individual study. The labs are equipped with PCs, headphones and microphones and are used for English Language and Linguistics modules that require the use of these facilities (for example, modules on the study of speech and on language processing).

These facilities enhance your understanding of the subjects taught, and give you the opportunity to take part in research. When using the labs for the study of speech, for example, you can record your own voice and analyse it using specialised software. You are also able to take part in experiments examining how we perceive language.

Library and IT resources
The Templeman Library has extensive printed and electronic collections specifically aimed at supporting the courses and subject areas taught at Kent. There are also over a thousand PCs on campus and a range of support services for help or advice.

English Language and Linguistics Society
Kent Union (the student union on campus) hosts a wide range of societies. The English Language and Linguistics Society is an academic society based around a common interest in language. It hosts discussions, conferences, speakers, and plenty of socials, including Scrabble and a spelling bee to keep you on your toes! For more details, please see kentunion.co.uk

Diverse environment
Our students come from a variety of backgrounds; they include a number of mature students with work experience, as well as an increasing number of students from overseas. This mix means you not only learn from your lecturers, but also from the experiences of your peers.

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral.

Kent has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan outlook. The campus has its own cinema, theatre and a student nightclub. There are many restaurants, cafés and bars on campus, as well as a sports centre and gym. Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, a bookshop, a bank and cash machines, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus ride into town.

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.
Khoi Nguyen is in his final year of studying English Language and Linguistics.

Why did you choose to come to Kent?
I really liked the way the University presented itself as the gateway to the wider world – Kent is very proud to maintain ties with many different universities and because I’m from Germany that appeals to me. Also, the campus is very nice; it’s very green, with lots of bunnies everywhere, and Canterbury is a beautiful city.

Why did you choose this subject?
Very early on I was interested in language, its variation and how different people speak differently and why that might be. I was particularly interested in English because it was my best subject at school and in linguistic terms English has some things that make it special. I discovered there was a course in English Language and Linguistics and I knew it was made for me.

How is your course going?
I’ve been able to pick and choose the modules I’m interested in. You can choose ‘wild’ modules from other programmes, too, and because I’m interested in sociolinguistics I’ve chosen to do a Sociology module each term.

My favourite module is Language Variation and Change, which is about the differences in language and why such differences come about – the ‘why’ can be tricky! I’ve also enjoyed History of British English, which is about how English evolved.

In third year lots of people do a dissertation and that’s been one of my favourite parts as well. My dissertation is on performance poetry. Sociolinguists are like social scientists: they go out and interview people and ask about their lives, and I had lots of useful connections for my research through my involvement with the Creative Writing Society. Because of the nature of the research it’s very personal. Everyone has a story that they don’t tell in public because they don’t want to seem vulnerable, so I found it rewarding when I managed to create a connection. I really like people, and their language, so that’s why I enjoyed it.

What are the lecturers like?
I think our department is one of the best in terms of how friendly it is. The lecturers are extremely forthcoming and welcoming and always make time for you. They are all active researchers so you get expertise on every aspect of the course, which readily shows in the dissertation seminars.

What social activities are you involved in?
There are many, many student societies here. I’m on the committee of the Creative Writing Society and it’s become a huge part of my life. I’ve made my best friends there, definitely. We meet twice a week, once in a café in town to read our work (and then a lot of us go to the pub) and also on campus for a writing workshop. We also organise local trips and a big annual trip – last time we went to Seville.

Lately I’ve been performing a lot at poetry slams and events. If you know you’re going to be speaking in a room full of people, you put a lot more effort into it!

What about the facilities on campus?
The library has changed a lot over my time here – they started having it open 24 hours a day which is very convenient and I’ve taken advantage of that once or twice! The cinema at the Gulbenkian is good – there are films that are cheaper to watch here than in town – and there are music performances in the Colyer-Fergusson building.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I’m going to do an MA in Linguistics and I’m also applying for a doctoral traineeship, which would mean I could go straight on to a PhD. It’s very difficult to get a job in academia but I would love to!

Any advice for future students?
Coming to university is a great opportunity to reinvent yourself because nobody has any preconceptions about you and the kind of person you are. Surprise yourself and allow other people to surprise you!
Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. Six months after graduation in 2016, more than 96% of Kent graduates were in a job or pursuing further study.

In the area of Linguistics, Kent was ranked 4th in the UK for graduate prospects in The Complete University Guide 2018.

Our English Language and Linguistics graduates go into many different careers. Some of the specialist skills offered by the course are particularly relevant for careers in teaching English as a first or second language. Other possible careers include forensic linguistics (for example, working for the police), speech therapy and audiology, and speech and language technology.

More general career paths include advertising, journalism, publishing, public relations, writing, teaching, company training, broadcasting and the media, and the civil or diplomatic services.

Gain transferable skills

Studying for a degree is not just about mastering your subject area. Employers are looking for a range of key skills and you are encouraged to develop these. Dealing with challenging ideas, thinking critically and analytically, and learning to write well and present your ideas clearly are important skills that you gain while pursuing your degree in English Language and Linguistics. You also develop your IT skills, problem-solving skills and your ability to work in a team.

If you have a career path in mind, Kent allows you to tailor your studies to suit your needs. For instance, you might want to gain specific skills in the areas of formal or experimental linguistics, literature, cultural studies, or language teaching. We help you to choose your options to give you the best chance of success in your chosen field.

Classroom modules

The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has developed classroom-based modules that allow you to gain work experience in a secondary school. These modules provide you with the opportunity to combine study with work experience, so you gain credit towards your degree while working. The modules offer an insight into teaching as a career option. Even if teaching is not your chosen career path, the module extends your experience, and so broadens your career options.

Please note that entry onto these modules is via a selection process that includes an interview and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check on applicants’ suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults. The University currently pays for the DBS check.

Travel to the school where you are undertaking your work experience may involve additional expenses; these vary and you may apply for a bursary to help you with these costs: www.kent.ac.uk/ces/bursarykew

SECL employability

SECL has a programme of events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness during your studies. Many of our students develop professional skills and gain hands-on experience through our range of paid and voluntary work opportunities. For more information on the employability support available within the School, see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

Careers advice

Kent’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, apply for jobs, write a good CV and perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. The Service can also provide up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate. For more information, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/employability

DID YOU KNOW?

Spending a year abroad or on a work placement as part of your degree can boost your employability. See p13 for more information.
Joel Tennant graduated in 2014 with a first-class BA (Hons) in English Language and Linguistics. He currently works for the Guardian Media Group.

What attracted you to studying English Language and Linguistics at Kent?
Language builds entire worlds, it forms our cultures, it is a lens through which we make sense of problems and how we express ourselves. I carried that notion with me as I researched universities and it was Kent that seemed to really approach the subject with as much passion as I hoped. I looked up each lecturer and read summaries of their work and everything seemed to fit just right. I wasn’t looking for a department of academics who would never challenge me, I was looking for the opposite and found it when I registered for my degree.

What was the course and the teaching like?
My degree course was incredibly varied, it was deeply enjoyable but equally there were a lot of long hours in the library and in study groups formed with my fellow students.

My lecturers were extremely knowledgeable; they brought their own experiences and their own questions to the lectures and seminars. I found great mentors and role models in a couple of my lecturers and I’ve kept in touch with them since I graduated.

What social activities did you get involved in?
In my first and second year I wrote for the student union newspaper, InQuire. I wasn’t that great a writer but I was passionate and I wanted to improve myself and meet like-minded people. In my third year, I became President of the English Language and Linguistics Society. With some great events and speakers, most notably including David Crystal, we managed to put ourselves on the map, and we even staged an arts festival on campus with a few other societies.

How did your degree course lay the foundation for your chosen career path?
My degree was all about building: what we speak and what we write is a construction with thousands of tiny connected pieces. With a good idea of how some of those thousands of pieces fitted together, I knew I wanted to be in a career all about making everything work, down to the last piece. Marketing demands that. Miss one thing out and a campaign that looked great in your mind can fall apart in reality.

How did you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
My first job was a marketing executive role with Saga in Folkestone. I was responsible for some very big campaigns and even became proficient in things I hadn’t expected to need, such as data analysis. Since then, I’ve moved to London, where I now work in marketing for Guardian News and Media.

The knowledge and experience I gained from my degree comes in really handy – when you’re one of the most-read media groups in the western world, you’ve got to make sure every word counts.

Could you describe a typical day in your current role?
Marketing doesn’t give you a typical day. My job is all about reacting to news events and to what topics are relevant for that day or week. Once we know what is important, we can create marketing that speaks to readers in a way that shows respect, rather than simply selling something. In between juggling different stakeholders, I often try to find time to sit with the newspaper editors and listen in on the day’s big news and find out what their thoughts about it are. It’s great just to be in the room with them, but with this culture of open communication, I can also do my job better.

What are your future plans and aspirations?
I live in London now and work for a news group I read all through university, so I think I’ll be sticking around and trying to work my way up in the organisation.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
University is huge, it seems that there are pressures everywhere but they are balanced by the freedom you have, too. You may feel alone, but you’ve never had so many people nearby who can help. Don’t let anything hold you back.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

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.

**English Language and Linguistics with a Year Abroad**

The programme is as above, but you spend a year studying at one of our partner institutions overseas between the second and third years of your degree (see p13 to find out more).

**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, either Comparative Literature or English and American Literature, but many other combinations are available:

- Asian Studies (TQ43)
- Comparative Literature (QQ32)
- Drama (WQ43)
- English and American Literature (Q391)
- French (RQ13)
- German (RQ23)
- Hispanic Studies (RQ43)
- History (VQ1H)
- Italian (RQ33)
- Management (QN10)
- Philosophy (VQ5H)
- Politics (LQ23).

To download a leaflet on the other subject you are interested in, go to [www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets](http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets)

**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)

---

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see [www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding)
Your studies are divided into three stages: Stages 1, 2 and 3. If you decide to spend a year abroad or on placement, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

There are certain compulsory modules that you must take and a wide range of optional modules, particularly in Stages 2 and 3. In addition to the optional modules offered by the Department of English Language and Linguistics, you can also choose ‘wild’ modules from other subjects.

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 given here are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

The following compulsory modules are taken by all students:

- Foundations of Language 1: Sounds and Words (LL310)

You then take at least one of the following:

- Global Englishes (LL309)
- Tackling Text: Explaining Style (LL307).

You also select at least one ‘wild’ module from the wide range offered at Stage 1 by the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities faculties.

Stage 1

At Stage 1, you study the cornerstones of the subject area, and gain an understanding of linguistic elements – the nature and structure of speech sounds, and the structure and meaning of words and sentences.
Stage 2
A wide range of modules are available at this stage. English Language and Linguistics students choose optional modules from those listed below:

- 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 (LL513)
- Learning and Teaching Languages (LL543)
- Morphology (LL522)
- Philosophy of Language (PL602)
- Phonetics (LL545)
- Research Skills – English Language and Linguistics (LL521)
- Semantics and Pragmatics (LL534)
- Stylistics: Language in Literature (LL518)
- Syntax 1 (LL519).

If you are studying for a joint honours degree with a literary subject (English and American Literature or Comparative Literature) you take the following as a compulsory module:
- Stylistics: Language in Literature (LL518).

Options may also be chosen from language-related modules in other subjects such as anthropology or psychology.

Stage 3
In Stage 3, you can choose from the following optional modules:

- Comparative Literature and English & Linguistics in the Classroom (CP659) – note that this option is subject to selection via interview
- Dissertation (LL599)
- English Language Teaching 1 (LL539)
- English Language Teaching 2 (LL540)
- History of British English (LL524)
- Language and Gender (LL541)
- Language in Atypical Circumstances (LL531)
- Language Processing (LL512)
- Philosophy of Language (PL576)
- The Phonetics and Phonology of Prosody (LL547)
- Phonology (LL546)
- Topics in Pragmatics (LL533)
- Topics in Semantics (LL535)
- Writing in the Media: A Practical Approach (LL530).

“In the first year, our compulsory modules gave an introduction to the syntax and structure of language and then phonology, the sound of words. The second year is quite a jump. There’s a lot of theory: it’s not all subjective. We looked at the classic theorists, such as Roland Barthes, and at modern-day theorists too.”

Emily Adams
English Language and Linguistics
YOUR YEAR ABROAD OR PLACEMENT YEAR

Spending a year abroad or on a work placement is an enriching experience and develops skills that are valued by employers.

By studying abroad, you gain confidence and independence. You have the opportunity to further develop many of the skills employers are looking for, such as the ability to communicate effectively and to plan and organise your time. You also demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

Spending a year on a work placement is another great way to develop your confidence, your skills and your employability. Applying the knowledge you have gained at Kent to practical situations in the workplace can also enrich your academic studies.

A year abroad
The University of Kent is one of the few UK universities to offer all Humanities students the opportunity to apply to study abroad. The Department of English Language and Linguistics has partner arrangements with a number of universities in Europe, North America and Southeast Asia. Teaching on all of the courses offered is in English. To be eligible to study abroad, you need to meet certain requirements in relation to your attendance and academic achievement.

Your studies abroad are graded pass/fail but do not count towards your final degree classification. There are a number of costs that you will need to pay including accommodation, travel and living expenses; you may be eligible to apply for financial assistance, via a scholarship. To find out more, go to www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

A placement year
Like the year abroad, the placement year is taken between the second and final stages of your degree. You are responsible for arranging the placement but support and advice is available from the University’s Careers and Employability Service and the Placement Team in the School of European Culture and Languages. You can spend your placement year in the UK or abroad and, generally, the placement work must relate directly to your studies. Some students are paid by their employer during their placement year.

You need to fulfil certain criteria in order to participate in a placement year, including requirements in relation to your academic achievement. The placement must last for at least 24 weeks and you complete a number of assessment activities during this time. The placement year is graded on a pass/fail basis. To find out more, go to www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement

A placement year can help you to work out what kind of career is right for you, and provide you with useful contacts. Some students go on to work for their placement year employer after graduation.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject talks, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library and University accommodation. For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our Applicant Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Applicant Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and current students about your chosen subject. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visit

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or Applicant Day. It may be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this.

For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Self-guided tours
You can explore the Canterbury campus in person or from the comfort of your home. Our self-guided audio tour gives you a real flavour of the campus and you will hear from people who help to make Kent such an inspiring place to study – our staff and students. Go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html to get started.

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time

Degree programme

Single honours
• English Language and Linguistics (QQ13)
• English Language and Linguistics with a Year Abroad (QQ13)

Joint honours
English Language and Linguistics and...
• Asian Studies (TQ43)
• Comparative Literature (QQ32)
• Drama (WQ43)
• English and American Literature (Q391)
• French (RQ13)
• German (RQ23)
• Hispanic Studies (RQ43)
• History (VQ1H)
• Italian (RQ33)
• Management (QN10)
• Philosophy (VQ5H)
• Politics (LQ23)

Offer levels
Single and joint honours
BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 15 points at Higher.

Required subjects
• Q391: English Literature grade B or English Language and Literature grade B at A level; IB English A1/A2/B HL 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, RQ23, 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.

You need to be a proficient English speaker with a strong interest in language reflected in your qualifications, but all applications will be carefully considered.

Year abroad
If you choose the English Language and Linguistics with a Year Abroad option, you spend a year between Stages 2 and 3 studying in North America, Europe or Southeast Asia, where the teaching is in English.

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

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