

UNIVERSITY of  
STIRLING



REDEFINE

WITH A  
MASTERS

MSC ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

## WHY STUDY AN MSc ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS?

**The MSc English Language and Linguistics aims to equip students with a sound knowledge of contemporary linguistic theories through advanced study of language. The course covers the theory behind linguistics and the application of these techniques in a broader cultural context.**

One of the strengths of the course is that it is relevant to students with different levels of experience. It covers the basics but is taught at a high level and encompasses a broad range of fields

within linguistics. You will learn the formal aspects – phonetics, syntax and semantics – but the research expertise of the three dedicated members of staff is also reflected in more specialised topics.

Some modules are shared with Translation and TESOL courses, which provides students with an even greater opportunity to broaden their knowledge. This Masters qualification is aimed at those who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of topics within language and linguistics and who want to do so in a friendly environment which provides the additional benefit of small group teaching.

## IS AN MSc ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS FOR ME?

Students will usually have a degree in English, English Language or Linguistics, and we would normally expect a minimum of a second-class Honours degree. However, there is no prerequisite that your first degree must be in the area of linguistics.

Applications are welcomed from those with a background in other disciplines, such as psychology and sociology. We receive applications from all over the world and our recent cohort has included students from across the UK, the USA, Poland, Spain, Greece, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Thailand, Malaysia, Mongolia and China. Such a diverse international mix, and the ability to draw on different backgrounds

first-hand, has added an interesting and positive dimension to modules in areas such as sociolinguistics.

As well as full-time study, we also offer a part-time option and we strive to be as flexible as possible with part-time students in terms of fitting study around other commitments.

As well as Stirling's reputation for enjoying one of the most aesthetically-pleasing campuses in Europe, we also boast a friendly and sociable postgraduate environment.

Additional to the course is a linguistics reading group for English Language and Linguistics students and staff.



For further information  
on course content visit:  
[stir.ac.uk/iw](http://stir.ac.uk/iw)

## RESEARCH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The course has been offered by the University of Stirling since 2011 and, to date, the majority of our students have been looking to continue their studies following completion of the course. Some embark on advanced research in this particular area at PhD level, while others go on to study another vocational Masters degree. A postgraduate degree in English Language and Linguistics provides a solid grounding in the theories and methods essential for a range of research and teaching careers, but the transferable skills you gain will also equip you for a wide range of employment opportunities outside of these areas.

Excellent communication, presentation and problem-solving skills are all highly sought after by many employers. Our graduates are generally very adaptable and go on to a wide range of careers in a variety of sectors, including: private and public sector management, speech therapy, teaching, health communication research, marketing and advertising.

Research opportunities are present almost all the way through the programme through assignments which require independent research and investigation. In LINPP04, students are equipped with skills and methods in sociolinguistic research design and conduct their own independent project. The dissertation is also an ideal opportunity to develop a sustained piece of original research.



You can find out more about funding opportunities at:  
[stir.ac.uk/scholarships](https://stir.ac.uk/scholarships)

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*Having graduated with an undergraduate degree in Linguistics, the English Language and Linguistic postgraduate degree helped me to build upon my previous understanding of language and provided me with the range of critical skills that I need to be able to carry out my work.*”

**BETH HARVEY**  
Former ELL Student



## FIVE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE THIS COURSE

1

The quality of **teaching is second to none** and our staff are all research-active within their own particular specialisms.

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2

You will benefit from **close supervision** and small working groups, while being encouraged to take responsibility for your own studies.

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3

The course at Stirling offers a broad base and **varied range of linguistics topics** for students with different levels of experience in the field.

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4

The University of Stirling is renowned for its **beautiful campus** and you will also benefit from a friendly postgraduate environment.

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5

You will be equipped with the knowledge and qualifications required for further research study, as well as a **wide range of transferable skills** to take into the marketplace.

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

Teaching takes place in the form of regular lectures and small group tutorials. Assessment is via module coursework and a dissertation. Full-time and part-time modes of study are available.

### Full-time:

MSc – 12 months,  
PG Diploma – 9 months,  
PG Certificate – 3 months.

### Part-time:

MSc – 24 months,  
PG Diploma – 15 months,  
PG Certificate – 3 months.

### Modules (subject to staff availability)

**Semester 1:** Linguistic Structures and Linguistic Contexts (core modules); Current Issues in Bilingualism, Historical Linguistics and the History of English, Grammar for TESOL (option modules).

**Semester 2:** Sociolinguistics and Varieties of English, Evolutionary Linguistics, Language and Cognition, Old English, Corpora in English Language Research and Teaching (option modules).

### Arts Training

You'll also take the skills-oriented Arts Training Module to further your own intellectual interests and career aims at some point during your studies.

### Dissertation

The most significant piece of work on the course will be a 15,000-word dissertation on a subject of your choosing, in consultation with a member of the course team. The dissertation is written during the summer under supervision.

## KEY TEACHING STAFF

There are three dedicated members of staff who, between them, represent a comprehensive range of topics that make up the field of linguistics. Dr Bethan Benwell's interests lie in the applied end of linguistics, focusing on areas like sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and conversation analysis. Dr Andrew Smith specialises in cognitive linguistics and evolutionary linguistics. Dr Stephen Penn's interests lie in historical linguistics and he offers options in the History of the English Language as well as Old English.

University courses, services and procedures are continually reviewed, enhanced and revised, and this may result in some changes between the time of publication and the date when the student enters the University. Where any changes will affect an applicant, the University will keep the applicant fully informed.



## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent is normally required. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant relevant experience are encouraged to apply.

If English is not your first language you will need to provide evidence of your proficiency in the English language.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Students whose first language is not English will be expected to have an IELTS qualification of at least 6.0 with 5.5 minimum in each skill.

## TUITION FEES AND FUNDING

Details of tuition fees can be found at: [stir.ac.uk/115](http://stir.ac.uk/115)

For Scottish students and EU domiciled students, this course is currently approved for PTF (Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan) funding from SAAS. For more information, please visit: [saas.gov.uk](http://saas.gov.uk)

You can find up to date financial information and funding opportunities here: [stir.ac.uk/scholarships](http://stir.ac.uk/scholarships)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[stir.ac.uk/iw](http://stir.ac.uk/iw)



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