PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**BA English and Linguistics** - BA English with Linguistics OR - BA Linguistics with English (Level 6)
Name and title of interim exit qualification(s)	Dip HE; Cert HE
Is the programme offered with a Foundation Year?	Yes
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (3 years; 4 years with Foundation Year); Part-time (4 years; 6 years with Foundation Year) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
[QAA subject benchmark group(s)](#) [Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#)	Linguistics English
UCAS code	Q332; Q333
Birkbeck Course Code	UUBAENLG_C (3 years full-time) UBAENLGC_C (4 years part-time) UUBFENLG_C (4 years full-time with FY) UBFENLGC_C (6 years part-time with FY)
HECoS Code	100320 100328
Start date of programme	Autumn 2022
Date of programme approval	Autumn 2021
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	**2024-25**
Date of last revision to document	29 Aug 2024

Admissions requirements

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

UCAS tariff: 96-128 points (48 for Foundation Year Entry)

The UCAS tariff score is applicable to you if you have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. UCAS provides a tariff calculator for you to work out what your qualification is worth within the UCAS tariff.

Course aims

For Foundation Year (year zero), see Foundation Year programme specification.

This programme is designed for students who are interested in both the social scientific, linguistic study of the English language and its literary and cultural manifestations. The programme explores how the English language is acquired, structured and has been/is used in different social situations and (con)texts (spoken/written). Students will develop an in-depth knowledge of the structure and function of language below and above the sentence/utterance – studying phonetics, phonology, grammar, semiotics, pragmatics and discourse. They will learn how language is acquired and how it is stored and processed in the mind/brain; and what happens when things go wrong. They will also explore sociolinguistic and literary issues, including how the use of English varies across time and space, in different social groups and settings, online and offline, and its role in institutional structures, (e.g. media, politics), and in the increasingly globalised world. Our diverse and interdisciplinary portfolio of modules will enable students to explore language in the contemporary world and learn how to apply this knowledge to their future career. In the third year, students will have the opportunity to carry out their own project or extended critical literature review in an area of study which enthuses them, with the support of a supervisor. We offer a friendly and supportive environment in which you will be able to design a course geared towards your own interests and career objectives.

Linguistics:
On this programme students learn about the structure and functions of language, and study the linguistic ideas and theories which enable us to model and analyse how language is patterned and how it is used. Specifically, you will study the major areas of linguistic, and learn how each of these areas enables us to understand how language is structured, and how people use language to communicate meanings, as well as information about themselves and their identity.

By studying linguistics, students can develop a scientific, critical approach to thinking about how language works, and how it functions within society. A unique feature of the BA LL is that students study aspects of Applied Linguistics – the application of linguistic methods to problems in real-world contexts. These aspects of linguistics are not normally taught as part of undergraduate degrees in linguistics.

English
This course aims to:

- Provide a stimulating introduction to English as taught at Birkbeck in the School of Arts.
- Provide progression from foundation year level to MA study in English and related subjects at Birkbeck.

- Provide a broad and balanced degree programme enabling students to engage imaginatively in the reading and analysing of literary texts from all periods from the early medieval period to the present.
- Enhance students' abilities in critical thinking, enabling them to develop independent critical judgement.
- Develop students' knowledge of a range of textual forms (including poetry, drama, novels, short stories, graphic novels) and genres (such as tragedy, comedy, the gothic, science fiction, romance, life-writing).
- Develop students' knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of critical theories, such that they are able to enter into critical debate and make their own use of various methodological approaches.
- Enhance students' ability to write lucid, logical and well- structured prose, enabling them to write on the subject matter of their modules at progressively extended length, in a range of academic, and, as appropriate, creative, genres.
- Develop students' understanding of the ways literature responds to and helps shape its social and political contexts, exploring issues such as race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, and environmental politics.
- Provide students with a broad and balanced understanding of the practices of academic reading, research and writing.
- Enable students to develop skills in editing and revising their own writing.
- Enable students to consolidate learning through lecturer/peer feedback.
- Produce well-rounded graduates ready to make a contribution to the professional environment across a range of relevant sectors (arts and culture, education, charity, law, the civil service), or to progress to postgraduate studies.

The final degree title is determined by the balance of credits to be taken in the areas of English and linguistics, e.g. students who achieve no more than 210 credits in English and 150 credits or more from modules taken in linguistics will be eligible for the BA English **and** Linguistics degree title. BA English **with** Linguistics requires students to take at least 90 credits in Linguistic modules, while students with a focus on Linguistic modules could be awarded BA Linguistics **with** English if they have at least 90 credits in English modules.

Course structure

Please see Arts Foundation Year programme specification for Foundation Year modules.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 3 years					
Year 1					
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Comp	T1
4	AREN257S4	Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon*	30	Compulsory	T1
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language (Level 4)	30	Core	T2
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Compulsory	T2

Year 2					
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5	ARLL001H5	Contemporary and Global Englishes	15	Core	T2
5		English option	30	Option	
5		English option	30	Option	
Year 3					
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Linguistic options(s) and/or	2 x15/ 30	Option	T2
6		English option and/or	30	Option	
6		English option OR	30	Option	
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement	30	Option	
Part-time – 4 years					
Year 1					
4	ARLL004S4	Doing Languages Cultures and Applied Linguistics	30	Compulsory	T1
4	LNLN026S4	Approaches to Language	30	Core	T2
4	ENHU007S4	Writing London	30	Compulsory	T2
Year 2					
4	AREN257S4	Production of the Human: Decolonising the Canon*	30	Compulsory	T1
5	LNLN012S5	Analysing Language Structure and Use	30	Core	T1
5		English option	30	Option	
Year 3					
5	SSAC060H5	Investigating Language	15	Core	T2
5	ARLL001H5	Contemporary and Global Englishes	15	Core	T2
5		English option	30	Option	
6		English or Linguistics Options (see below, Year Four)	2x15	Option	
Year 4					
6	LNLN023S6	Linguistics Final Year Project	30	Core	T1-T3
6		Linguistics options AND/OR	15/30	Option	T2
6		English option(s) AND/OR	15/30	Option	
6	ARAR010S6	Industry Placement	30	Option	

AREN257S4 Production of the Human can be substituted with *AREN285S4 Writing For Reading, Reading for Writing* for students who are required to attend college in Term 3.

Indicative list of Linguistics options:

Options are normally offered in alternate years.

SSAC038H6 Language Learning
SSAC039H6 Language Teaching

SSAC031H6 Neurolinguistics
SSAC033H6 Psycholinguistics

SSAC042H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Communities
SSAC043H6 Multilingual and Multicultural Individuals

SSAC049H6 Sociolinguistics
SSAC068H6 Language and the City
SSAC054H6 Identity in Applied Linguistics Research

Core:	Module must be taken and passed by student
Compulsory:	Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)
Option:	Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching on the programme is varied. English and Linguistics modules at Levels 4 and 5 are typically taught by lectures, seminars, and workshops. Modules at Level 6 are usually taught in seminar groups as well as through individual supervision sessions for the Dissertation. Some modules include one-to-one tutorials by arrangement (for example to discuss essay feedback). You may also encounter other forms of teaching - e.g. language work – depending on the options you choose.

Lectures are designed to provide you with an outline or overview of the topic, to engage you with the material and direct you to other resources. They are a springboard for your own learning. Seminars are group sessions where you will be asked to contribute to discussion or group work around the topic, with material set in advance for which you need to prepare. Workshops based on more hands-on exercises that allow you practice skills such as close reading and critical analysis.

Other important modes of learning include: note-taking, textual analysis, private study, library and archival research, use of internet sources, as well completion of the assessed work.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. We use a variety of assessment methods. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Assessment methods in **English** include commentaries, essays, take-home examinations and the option of an independent final year dissertation, as well as a wide range of exercises designed to evaluate different abilities and prepare students to the range of genres, lengths, and writing skills required in the twenty-first-century workplace.

The **Linguistics** subjects in the degree are assessed entirely by coursework, mainly in the form of essays.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

English
At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Have a wider and deeper knowledge of English literature.
- Recognize, discuss, and write about forms and genres of literary text.
- Write analytically.
- Have knowledge of current and recent critical theories relevant to the study of literature and apply them as critical tools.
- Demonstrate critical skills in the close reading and analysis of literary texts
- Choose appropriate subjects and write about them, as well as to edit, develop, and extend an analytical (and as appropriate creative) piece of work.
- Demonstrate research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically and to present it in the form of an essay, report, presentation or creative piece.
- Have gained skills of self-evaluation enabling you to reflect on your own practice.
- Demonstrate bibliographical skills, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work.
- Think critically and independently.

Linguistics

Studying linguistics develops a number of skills, including reasoning skills, abstract thinking, being able to critique and evaluate ideas, synthesise information from different sources, and problem solving. Linguistics also helps to develop the ability to construct and evaluate models, and explore the relationships between theories and the phenomena that theories are designed to explain.

On successful completion of the course you will be expected to be able to:

- Understand key concepts in modern linguistics and to apply them to analysing how language is used.
- Develop a critical understanding of human language, and what makes it unique among communication systems.
- Construct and evaluate linguistic arguments

- Compare and evaluate different ways of analysing data, and the nature and limitations of the various theoretical frameworks which have been proposed to explain language.

Careers and further study

You will find **English** and **Linguistics** graduates in a wide range of roles in the creative industries, as well as, in education, law, the civil service and business roles. Our graduates leave with valuable attributes such as:

- High-level oral and written communication skills in English and in a foreign modern language
- Research skills
- Skills in evaluating and assessing various types of information
- The ability to convey your ideas and build an argument
- The ability to analyse and process complex ideas
- Independent research skills as well as the ability to work as part of a team

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.