

**Kingston
University**
London



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English Language and Communication BA(Hons)

joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/englang



English Language and Communication BA(Hons)

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When people think about English Language and Communication (or linguistics), they tend to think it is about studying grammar. But English Language and Communication involves so much more than that. It looks at language on a number of different levels: focusing on how language works and how it is composed of different sub-systems; how we make and interpret meaning; how we communicate in speech and writing; and how we use language to signal our identity.



Why study English Language and Communication at Kingston University?

- This course studies language in a systematic way and shows how the theory of language and communication can be applied to everyday life.
- English Language and Communication can be studied in combination with an extensive choice of other subjects such as English Literature, Creative Writing, Media & Cultural Studies and Journalism and is also available as a part-time course.
- Our academic staff are experienced teachers and published authors.
- The quality of teaching was rated 'excellent' in the last national assessment.
- You will have access to state-of-the-art facilities to enhance your learning experience.
- You can choose to study abroad for a semester, either at Kingston's partner universities in the United States or through Erasmus at a number of institutions in Europe.
- The wide choice of career paths available to graduates makes this an ideal course if you want to keep your job options open.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies, supporting both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts;
- referencing; and
- music theory.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Why is language important?

We live our lives immersed in language: it is all around us. By studying language and communication in a systematic way, you will learn what an incredible thing language is and discover the power of language in all its various contexts. For example, you will investigate the complex relationship between language, culture and society; you will look at the reasons we speak of acquiring a first language, but learning a second; you will explore how it is that you are able to make sense of words and sentences, whether they be spoken or written.

Our programme

English Language and Communication at Kingston is primarily a linguistics course, with an applied focus. After the first year, during which you spend some time looking at the more formal aspects of language, most of the courses involve looking at the way language is used in the real world.

For example, you will study:

- the role played by language in communication;
- how people learn and teach second languages;
- whether or not speakers of different languages 'see' the world differently;
- how speakers vary their language use according to context; and
- how people use language as a badge of identity.

Studying English Language and Communication will develop your ability to weigh up issues and analyse problems relating to language and communication in contemporary society. You will be introduced to the role and function of language in relation to other forms of communication and be afforded the opportunity to explore different systems of communication and develop your ability to think and write critically. You will discover how we make sense of the world through language in all its forms.

Teaching and support

Teaching in the Languages department was rated as 'excellent' in the last national assessment exercise.

"Quality of feedback to students [is] comprehensive, well articulated, clear and constructive." Extract from external examiner's report, 2010.

Language facilities

Our facilities include state-of-the-art digital computer labs, linguistic software and excellent computing resources, as well as, of course, a comprehensive library.

International connections

In Year 2 you can choose to spend a semester studying as an exchange student in both Europe and the wider world (the USA, Australia, New Zealand), although places may be limited outside Europe.

Careers

An understanding of the way in which language operates is an excellent basis for future work in any professional field. Highly developed communication skills are fundamental to success in many career areas, including business, media, and the caring professions. Graduates from this course have used their communication skills and professional knowledge of language in careers in the media, PR, recruitment, training and other business areas. Many graduates have also gone on to postgraduate studies in journalism and the media, translation, speech therapy, law conversion courses, education, business, and linguistics.

What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary. The module list also varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

English Language and Communication modules are studied in combination with another (half field) subject of your choice.

Year 1

In your first year, you will be introduced to the basics of language – what it is, what it does, and how we can describe it. You will learn some useful tools for linguistic analysis and have the opportunity to look at real examples of language, be they written or spoken, in all their different guises.

English in Action

This module provides an introduction to language and society and asks questions such as: What is language? How is language used in day-to-day activities? Why do we choose different ways of saying things? We also explore how language is used in the media.

Systems of Language

This module looks at the basic components of language. It is a description of language from its smallest component parts, such as sounds, and words, to larger elements of language use, such as clauses, sentences and texts. We put language under the microscope and look at phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics.

Analysing English

In this module you explore English grammar in different contexts, such as how speakers use the rules of English grammar to create different meanings.

Introduction to Language and Communication

This module gives an insight into different views about the nature of language (structural, communicative, interactional) and a basic understanding of the main building blocks of language (sounds, words, clauses, sentences) and its modes of production (oral, written).

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS). This scheme provides a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree.

Year 2

In your second year, you must follow core modules in Research Methods for Linguists and in Sociolinguistics. Option modules will allow you to explore some of the main applications of linguistics in more depth, choosing from a variety of subjects.

Research Methods for Linguists

This module equips you with skills in research design, data collection and analysis as well as skills in the presentation of academic work.

Sociolinguistics

This module examines variation in language, multilingual speech communities, language planning and maintenance, and language and ethnicity.

Introduction to Language Acquisition

This module covers the logical problem of first language acquisition, child language development, language acquisition in bilingual children and language as a uniquely human phenomenon.

Language and Culture

This module examines cultural values in both written and spoken language and the cultural meanings embedded within routine social behaviour.

Global English

This module looks at the phenomenon of English as a world language in the context of global communication, and explores the social, cultural, political and technological factors that have contributed to the rise of English as a lingua franca (a language used by people whose native languages are different).

Year 3

In your third year you will deepen your knowledge of specific areas of linguistics and develop further your ability to think and write critically to a more advanced level.

Language and Gender

This module discusses key topics and recent research on gender differences in conversation, pronunciation and grammar, male–female miscommunication, and theoretical debates about gender, power, dominance and difference.

Stylistics

This module focuses on how meaning and effects are created through linguistic devices in literary and non-literary texts, such as fiction as well as media texts, including advertising and the news.

Second Language Acquisition

This module covers theories of second language acquisition and looks at factors influencing how people learn a second language.

Pragmatics

This module examines communication in action, and tries to explain how we get from what is linguistically encoded by language to the full meaning that speakers intend.

Third year modules also include four Special Studies modules that encourage students to undertake extensive and original research on an area of their interest.

Language and Emotion

In this module you will have the chance to explore the different ways of conceptualising, expressing and communicating emotion across genres and cultures. We will consider a range of perspectives for the analysis of emotion offered in the fields of cognitive, anthropological or systemic-functional linguistics that shed light to the cultural diversity, social histories and social functions of emotional expression.

Language and Media

This module aims to look at the various forms of language in media discourse and how language interacts with media, including newspapers, advertising, the internet, political speeches and transcripts from television shows.

Computer-mediated Communication

This module investigates linguistic, social and cultural aspects of computer-mediated discourse, including email and text messages, online discussion lists, e-chat, web pages and virtual communities.

The Meaning of Meaning

The notion of meaning is central to the study of language and communication. But what is meaning? This course explores ideas from a wide range of disciplines and introduces students to some of the key concepts needed to answer this question.



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
englang](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/englang)

Language staff

Dr Paul Booth

Intercultural Communication: pan-European advertising and how messages can be misinterpreted; Language Teaching Methodology: learning styles and language aptitude, teacher training, writing in a second language; Second Language Acquisition: language learning strategies (whether they are teachable or not), vocabulary profiles, eg receptive and productive knowledge.

Dr Noëlle Brick

English and French sociolinguistics: language and gender, language acquisition, code-switching and bilingualism.

Dr Korina Giaxoglou

Linguistic anthropology: relationship between language and culture, language as performance, the ethnography of communication approach, linguistic inequalities; Sociolinguistics: language variation, attitudes to language, analysis of oral narratives of personal experience; Discourse analysis: grammar in context, discourse coherence and cohesion, analysis of naturally occurring data (eg conversations); Intercultural Communication: understanding misunderstandings, 'small' and 'large' cultures and identities.

Dr Marina Lambrou

Stylistics: literary and non literary linguistics, how an individual's cultural and social background impacts on the way they speak and structure their narratives of personal experience; Sociolinguistics and language and identity: how social factors

such as age and gender contribute to language variation; Research Methods and Ethnography: collecting naturally occurring language; Language and Media: understanding the linguistic strategies underlying media language and mediation of texts.

Dr Thiresia Spilioti

Sociolinguistics: social interaction, language and identities, variation, Research Methods: ethnography, ethics and new technologies in data collection; Discourse Analysis: critical discourse analysis, and First Language Acquisition: language and brain, acquisition of grammatical and communicative competence. Research interests include media discourse, language ideologies and the sociolinguistics of technologically-mediated communication.

Dr Tim Wharton

Pragmatics: the distinction between linguistic and speaker meaning, how utterances are interpreted in context; Introduction to Language Acquisition: how children appear to attain grammatical competence so easily, the omnipotentiality of the child, differing approaches to acquisition and development. Research focuses on the pragmatics of non-verbal communication and prosody, expressive language use, the interaction between language, culture and cognition and the evolution of language and communication.

Dr Clarissa Wilks

Sociolinguistics: education, eg issues around the place of Standard English in schools, language and educational disadvantage, T and V address

forms, the study of language attitudes, language and the expression of ethnic identity; Second Language Acquisition: theories, research methodologies, second language vocabulary acquisition, influencing factors (age, sex, motivation, instruction, etc), learner strategies; Language and the brain: the mental lexicon.



"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 240 – 360 depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: A-level or equivalent to include English Language/Literature/related subject (80 points required). General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent.
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff.
- Plus GCSE: five subjects including Mathematics, English Language and English Literature (grade A–C preferred).

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course.
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Joint honours combinations

English Language and Communications is offered as a major, half or minor field in combination with the following subjects:

- Business
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Design (half field and minor field)
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- History of Art, Design & Film
- Human Rights
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Television and New Broadcasting Media

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.

www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office
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Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

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F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
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