

Programme Specification

BA English Language and Linguistics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: Q310

UFENLGXLS

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA English Language and Linguistics with Placement Experience - 4 years (UCAS Code: Q311) BA English Language and Linguistics with Study Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Linguistics

Programme information and content

This programme provides students with a thorough understanding of how language works and how people use language in the real world. It also provides them with a range of practical skills (such as analytical skills, written, oral and multimedia communication skills, problem solving skills and skills associated within groups), which they can apply to a range of different workplaces. The course includes a wealth of opportunities to practice applying the knowledge and skills learned to real world problems in a variety of contexts including education, media, politics, business, digital technology, and everyday life and relationships.

The course aims to produce graduates with sound critical understanding of language, and more importantly, graduates with a global perspective, an understanding of different cultures, an awareness of how language impacts issues of equity and social justice, and a range of analytical and communication skills to underpin their life-long personal development and enhance their employability.

The range of optional modules allows students the opportunity to specialise in particular aspects of English Language Studies such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language teaching, language and gender, and language and media. Throughout the course, students are also trained to produce a variety of different genres from written reports to digital videos.

As language forms the basis for nearly everything we do, graduates are well placed to find employment or pursue further study in a wide range of careers such as language teaching,

speech and language therapy, communication and media, writing and content creation, public relations and marketing, management, and public service.

Because of the particular focus on employability, throughout the course students are given the chance to use what they have learnt in workplace situations through, for example, a year-long placement module in Part 2, opportunities for mini-placements embedded in many optional modules, and the opportunity to choose a semester-long Professional Communication Project. The final year includes compulsory module in Language and Professional Communication designed to prepare students to find a job.

Part 1:	Provides a basic grounding in the description and analysis of language as well as a broad overview of the scope of English Language and Linguistics and the role of language in social life. It also equips students with various skills necessary for university level work, for instance effective verbal communication and academic writing, analytical and research skills, time management and digital literacies.
Part 2:	Provides further grounding in the core subjects in linguistics: Grammar and Syntax, Phonetics and Phonology, Discourse Analysis, and Sociolinguistics. As students are studying these subjects, they also learn and practice different methods for conducting research in linguistics. A variety of optional modules allow students to pursue more specialised areas of enquiry from interdisciplinary perspectives, including language teaching, language development, language and the media, and language in society and culture. Modules also encourage the development of transferable skills such as teamwork, giving oral presentations, critical thinking, negotiating and so on. Students are also provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement, as well as the opportunity to study abroad for a semester. Part 2 students also begin the process of identifying their Dissertation topics or identifying companies/organisations with which to pursue their Professional Communication Projects.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Placement experience year: students engage in a year-long work placement in which they apply the skills and theories that they have mastered during the first two years. Work placements can take place either within the UK or abroad. Assistance in securing placements is available from the Department and the University Careers Office, and students are required to report and reflect on their experiences throughout the placement. Year abroad: students study at an overseas university for a year, where they pursue in-depth some aspect of English Language or Linguistics study which is taught at that university, as well as taking a range of available option modules. Study abroad placements are facilitated by the University, and students are given guidance on module selection and study plans. While they are abroad, they are in constant contact with their academic advisors at Reading.

Part 3:	Gives students the opportunity to conduct supervised, independent research on a specialised topic for the Dissertation or a Professional Communication Project, in which they apply what they have learned to conducting a practical project for a company or organisation. In conducting the Dissertation or Professional Communication Project they receive support and advice from their supervisor on a one-to-one basis. There is also an additional suite of optional modules on more specialised topics taught at a more in-depth and advanced level that enable students to enhance their critical, analytical and transferable skills.
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Programme Learning Outcomes - BA English Language and Linguistics

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Explain the principles of phonological contrast, the organisation of the sound system of the English, and the principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse
2	Examine the main areas of applied linguistic enquiry, the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making, and a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied
3	Identify ways in which the mind acquires, stores and processes language, drawing on theories from linguistics, psychology, speech science and neuroscience.
4	Apply knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate and develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues.
5	Critically assess a) theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts, b) contrasting arguments and claims, and c) primary and secondary applied linguistic sources, in addition to challenging received conclusions.
6	Plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic, and develop creative intelligence with independent interpretation.
7	Write a phonological transcription of an English speech sample, parse English sentences and transcribe stretches of discourse using appropriate discourse analytic conventions.
8	Examine written and spoken discourse including multimodal texts and interpret linguistic information contained in large electronic corpora.
9	Incorporate in-text references in writing and develop reference lists.
10	Utilise IT (including word processing, internet search and communication and database analysis) and library resources.
11	Manage time and work as part of a team.
12	Critically evaluate language and society in effective communication in a range of career and professional contexts

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
Study Abroad	
By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.	
Placement	
By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.	

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS1ELS	English Language and Society	20	4
LS1GL	Globalization and Language	20	4
LS1SG	Sounds, Grammar and Meaning	20	4
LS1TAL	Techniques and Skills for Applied Linguistics	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in other Departments and modules from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS2DAN	Discourse Analysis	20	5
LS2EGP	English Grammar and Phonology	20	5
LS2SLG	Sociolinguistics	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics or modules from an approved list.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
LS3LPC	Language in Professional Communication	20	6

Students take either LS3DI Dissertation (40 credits) or LS3PCP Professional Communication Project (20 credits). The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Literature and Languages or modules from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work and fieldwork.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Additionally, you will be asked to produce mini research projects, designing or evaluating materials, portfolios, reflective journals, blogs, project outputs.

Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including Placement Experience

Part 2: one-third

Placement Experience: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or

- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Additional costs on textbooks £121 (approx.)

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA English Language and Linguistics for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
4 July 2025

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