



Linguistics as a New Minor Subject

Details for 2021-22

1. Why take this New Minor Subject?

Linguistics is for you if you are curious about language as one of the most fascinating aspects of human knowledge and behaviour. Perhaps you are interested in accents, dialects, or slang, or you are a good learner of languages, or you are intrigued by how language changes over time, or you wonder how humans manage to learn and produce language. Linguistics is also appealing to those who enjoy detailed, problem-solving analysis and careful argumentation. It involves key transferable skills in problem solving and critical thinking.

2. What will I learn?

You will learn about core aspects of linguistic description and linguistic theory, and build upon these foundations with modules on advanced and applied topics.

3. What will I do?

You will take four modules (20 credits) in each year of the three years. In Senior Fresh year, you will be introduced to the study of formal aspects of language, with modules on sound, grammar and meaning, and also on child language acquisition.

The Junior Sophister year builds on this with more theoretical aspects of grammar and sound (syntactic and phonological theory), word structure (morphology), and laboratory-based approaches to phonetics.

In your Senior Sophister year you will choose four modules from a menu of options on a diverse range of topics including discourse analysis, language learning, sign linguistics, sociolinguistics, vocabulary, and voice and prosody in communication.

4. How will this be assessed?

A wide range of assessment types is used, including take-home exercises and projects, original data collection and analysis, essays and reports, class tests, and oral presentations, among others.