Programme Specification 2018-19

LINGUISTICS TRIPOS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding body</th>
<th>University of Cambridge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching institution</td>
<td>Faculty of Modern &amp; Medieval Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation details</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of final award</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts (Honours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme title</td>
<td>Linguistics Tripos</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCAS code</td>
<td>Q100 BA/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>HECoS code(s)</td>
<td>100328 (linguistics)</td>
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<td>Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifications framework level</td>
<td>6 (Honours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date specification produced</td>
<td>July 2019</td>
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The Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

In addition to the University Teaching Officers within the department, the Linguistics Tripos lecture programme benefits from contributions from linguistics specialists elsewhere, notably in the language departments of the MML Faculty, and from Research Associates and Research Fellows within the Department and the Colleges. Supervision is shared among the University Teaching Officers and these other specialists in linguistics; advanced PhD students are also offered the opportunity to supervise.

The Department is situated on the Sidgwick Site in Cambridge. The Faculty Library has a well-stocked and continuously updated Linguistics section, and the Department has its own up-to-date phonetics laboratory, with a network of workstations with speech analysis software and a sound-insulated room, as well as a psycholinguistics laboratory with two experiment rooms and eye-tracking facilities.

Programme structure

Linguistics is divided into a one-year Part I and a two-year Part II, subdivided into Parts IIA and IIB. Part I provides a foundation across a wide range of linguistics taught within the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics. Part II allows students to specialise in the areas which particularly interest them, and in both IIA and IIB there is a wide choice of lectures taught within and beyond the Department, the latter including the linguistics of particular languages. Part IIB includes an element of individual research as students are required to write a dissertation on a topic of their choice.

Part I Linguistics Tripos students take four papers in the following:
- Paper 1 - Sounds and words
- Paper 2 - Structures and meanings
- Paper 3 - Language, brain and society
- Paper 4 - History and varieties of English

Part II is subdivided into Parts IIA and IIB. In both years students choose from a wide range including papers dealing with different linguistic levels and perspectives. In Part IIA students take four papers chosen from those taught by the Department; these cover all the major areas of theoretical and applied linguistics including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics, historical linguistics, psycholinguistics, language
acquisition, computational linguistics, etc. There is also the option of selecting from a list of related papers which can be borrowed from other Departments. Students who have switched to the Linguistics Tripos having completed Part I in a different Tripos must offer two papers: ‘Sounds and words’ and ‘Structures and meanings’ plus two chosen from those offered by the department or from the list of borrowable papers.

In Part IIB students choose two more papers plus a compulsory paper in Linguistic Theory and a dissertation.

Educational aims

The course aims:

(a) to provide teaching to support undergraduates’ learning and development so that they acquire an understanding of:
- the structure of language (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics);
- language variation and change;
- areas of linguistics and psycholinguistics related to applied domains;
- a range of different theoretical approaches and methodologies;
- the interdependency of descriptions and theories;
- the appropriate tools and methodologies to analyse language;

(b) to provide academically able students with an excellent education which is informed by current developments in scholarship and research;

(c) to provide a stimulating environment in which students can reach their intellectual potential;

(d) to provide an integrated structure of learning and teaching;

(e) to help students develop a wide range of intellectual abilities and skills which will enable them to make a significant contribution in their chosen careers and walks of life, including training in academic research.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course students will have acquired the following skills.

(a) Knowledge and understanding:
- a general understanding of the nature of linguistic theories and explanations;
- an informed awareness of the relation between language, cognition and society;
- an understanding of problems in the acquisition and interpretation of linguistic data;
- familiarity with the theories, central analytical concepts and methods of enquiry across the various fields of linguistics;
- following completion of Part IIB, students will have carried out a small research project requiring the application of linguistic methods and reasoning.

(b) Cognitive skills:
- the ability to assimilate and integrate information from a wide range of intellectual disciplines, some initially unfamiliar;
- the ability to interpret the significance of linguistic data;
- the ability to develop detailed arguments based on linguistic data and theory;
- the ability to evaluate critically others’ arguments;
- the ability to present linguistic data and analyses by appropriate means, including diagrams and technical notations;
- the ability to place particular linguistic ideas within the context of the historical development of ideas on language.

(c) Practical skills:
- the ability to work autonomously, manifested in self-direction, self-discipline and time-management;
• the ability to write and think under pressure and to meet deadlines;
• accurate and effective note-taking and summarising skills;
• library and bibliographic research skills;
• general IT skills (email, word-processing and internet use);
• specific IT skills, particularly those in acoustic phonetic analysis, corpus linguistics, language psychology and computational linguistics;
• advantages in mastering new languages as a result of familiarity with the grammatical and phonological possibilities of languages;
• the ability to plan, execute and write up a dissertation on a specific topic in linguistics.

(d) Interpersonal skills:
• ability to present and evaluate ideas orally and in writing to a high standard;
• self-reliance, initiative, adaptability and flexibility;
• appreciation of the subtleties of spoken communication in interpersonal interaction;
• ability to optimise written communication through an understanding of linguistic structure.

Teaching methods

Teaching is delivered by lectures relating to the various courses offered in the Tripos. In addition, for some courses there are practical classes. Throughout, students are expected to undertake independent reading and study to consolidate what is being taught.

Supervisions – small group teaching—provide feedback on written work and the chance to develop topics.

Assessment methods

Formative assessment is provided through the supervision system where feedback is given in oral and written form, and (where applicable) in practical and laboratory classes. Summative assessment is by three-hour examinations which mostly require discursive answers to evaluative questions. In Phonetics there is a practical test and a laboratory test. With the exception of these, examinations are scheduled at the end of the academic year.

Career Destinations

Graduates of Linguistics may pursue postgraduate research in linguistics or related areas, notably via the Cambridge MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics or equivalent courses elsewhere. A few undergo vocational training in linguistics-related areas such as speech therapy, or find employment in speech technology or more general applications of computing. Others go into a wide variety of careers, such as journalism, the media and arts, banking, publishing, accountancy, management, administration, marketing, the civil service, law, teaching, translation and interpreting. By the end of the year after they graduate, over 90% of our graduates are in employment or engaged in further study.

Quality Management

The Faculty Board is responsible for all teaching in the Faculty. The quality of the course is maintained by:

(a) scrutiny of the reports of External Examiners by the Faculty’s Undergraduate Studies Committee, the Faculty Board, and the General Board’s Education Section and implementation, where necessary, of suggested improvements;
(b) student feedback through lecture and class questionnaires;
(c) a 3-4 year review of all teaching, conducted by the Faculty’s Undergraduate Studies Committee;
(d) student participation in the Faculty Board and in the Staff-Student Liaison Committee.
(e) an Undergraduate Co-ordinator from among the staff, whose role includes monitoring
the Tripos and finding solutions to any problems which arise;
(f) mentoring of new staff, appraisal and evaluation of all staff by experienced colleagues
within the Department, and the provision by the University of staff development
programmes;
(g) the General Board’s programme for reviewing Faculties and Departments every six
years.

Indicators of Quality

The Guardian League Table 2016 places Cambridge Modern languages and Linguistics 1st
in the country (http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2015/may/25/university-

Results from the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, Unit of Assessment 24 (Modern
Languages and Linguistics) indicate that Cambridge Modern Languages and Linguistics
research is consistently at 3* (42%) or 4* (40%) level.

<table>
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<th>% of the submission meeting the standard for:</th>
<th>4*</th>
<th>3*</th>
<th>2*</th>
<th>1*</th>
<th>U/C</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>42.3</td>
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<td>10.0</td>
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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time
of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent).
Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year, and any
approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or
publication in the Reporter. The relevant Faculty or Department will endeavour to update the programme
specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of
the University is available online at: https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk/v