THE LITTLE BOOK OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS AT BROOKES
Applied linguistics

The emphasis of this course is on applying theories of linguistics to understanding and solving real-world issues. You will look specifically at the following two areas:

**Education and Language Acquisition:** how we acquire language (as individuals and a species), as well as the learning and teaching of language.

**Persuasive discourses:** critical study of the use of language in areas such as journalism, advertising and public relations.
What will I study?

You will explore how language works as a complex system, and why English has become the global language of communication.

In year 1 you will take core introductory modules which fall into the following three categories:

- Cognitive linguistics and language learning
- Sociolinguistics
- Descriptions of language in use

In years 2 and 3 you will take more advanced modules and begin your own research into the areas that interest you most.
Cognitive linguistics and language learning

These modules consider the relationship between language and the mind. They draw on a number of topics including language processing, language development in infancy and early childhood, cognitive processing in reading, the neural bases of bilingualism, and cognitive processing of sign language.

You will also address the way young and adult learners acquire a foreign language and the way they use this language; the language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and the role of memory, as well as conditions such as dyslexia and aphasia.
Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics explores the effect society has on the way language is used. It considers attitudes towards language and how language use varies according to the social context, for example, bilingualism and the use of dialects.

These modules will look at the relationship between language and identity, covering areas such as language and gender, language and race, language and religious identity, language and sexual identity, and language and social class.
Descriptions of language in use

These modules consider how we use language in different contexts, and how language can be used to create particular effects.

You will begin by looking in detail at the grammatical organisation of language, before considering how we interact in different social situations, from natural conversations to formal institutional contexts.

You will also consider how language works with other means of communication (such as visual imagery) across a variety of media platforms to communicate ideologies, as well as the social, political and cultural theories behind these.
Research and expertise

You will be taught by tutors who are active researchers. They draw on their own research interests to create a programme that you’ll find stimulating and enjoyable.

Our current areas of staff research expertise include:

- Psycholinguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Corpus linguistics
- Language learning and teaching
- Language and carnival
- Intercultural communication
We actively encourage you to become a researcher in your own right, and by designing and undertaking your own research you will develop excellent analytical and independent study skills, adding weight to your CV.

100% of English Language and Communication students are satisfied with the overall quality of the course and say that staff are enthusiastic about what they are teaching.

2016 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY. SOURCE: UNISTATS
“The course particularly interested me due to the modular element; studying language from a variety of different perspectives meant I could further my interests in teaching and the media, but also take modules focusing on areas completely new to me, such as forensic linguistics.”

IMOGEN DUNN, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE
“The best thing about living in Oxford is that there is always something for you to do, whatever your interests. I particularly enjoy the cosy cafes and ‘olde worlde’ style pubs that are unique to Oxford. There are also a vast range of restaurants that cater to everyone’s taste due to the ethnic diversity of the city.”

DAWN YARDLEY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION STUDIES GRADUATE
Teaching experience in South America

English Language and Linguistics students have the opportunity to teach in a bilingual school in South America for twelve weeks. You will stay with locals in their homes, and help to teach children in the classroom.

It offers the ideal opportunity to gain work experience and employment skills, whilst also giving you the chance to live abroad and immerse yourself in the local culture.
“I chose to study English Language and Communication because I believed it would give me a wide range of skills that would prove useful in future employment. Language is all around us and knowing how to analyse language use and how to use language effectively are two skills that are particularly important in marketing.”

DYLAN WILLIAMS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE
“Having the ability to tailor my course to what I wanted to study was really great, and it meant I could cover areas such as media, psycholinguistics, and even forensic linguistics!”

MEREDITH SNEDDON, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION
Careers

Employers value graduates who have a good understanding of language on a global scale.

If you are interested in people, cultures and human diversity, then this course could lead to a career in teaching, locally or internationally, as well as careers in tourism, marketing, the media, or public relations.
Recent English Language and Linguistic graduates have gone on to careers such as:

- Working in broadcast media (BBC and ITV)
- Online publishing
- Digital marketing
- BBC Radio presenting
- Journalism (Times Online)
- Speech therapy
- Primary and secondary teaching
- The UN Public Information Department in Geneva
- TEFL teaching in South America

Every year we run an alumni event where you will have the opportunity to network with recent graduates working in a variety of professions.
Combination courses

English Language and Linguistics can be combined with four other courses. The possible combinations are English Literature, Education Studies, Japanese Studies and Communication, Media and Culture.

If you are interested in teaching English abroad, Oxford Brookes works in partnership with the British Study Centre’s School of English and you will be able to apply for the Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) at a reduced cost.
“As I am hoping to go into PR and Communications, the ‘communication’ side of ELC has really given me a host of new skills and information that I think will be very useful in my chosen career”

JESS FISHER, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION GRADUATE

83% of our research is internationally recognised

REF 2014
School of Education

For more information about English Language and Linguistics:

www.brookes.ac.uk/elc