# Corpus linguistics @Lancaster University

# Why study Linguistics at Lancaster?

The Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University has consistently been ranked among the best in the world. In 2021, we came 15th in the QS World University Rankings.
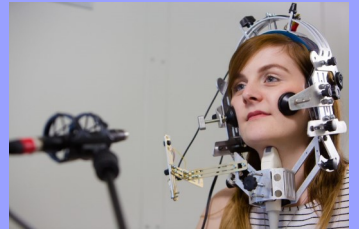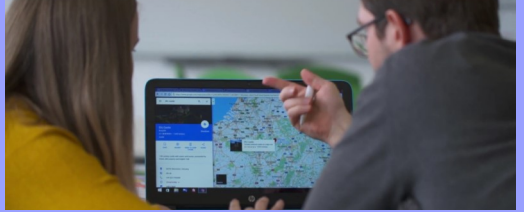
We are the largest Linguistics Department in England, offering an unrivalled range of expertise, particularly in empirical and applied aspects of linguistics.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
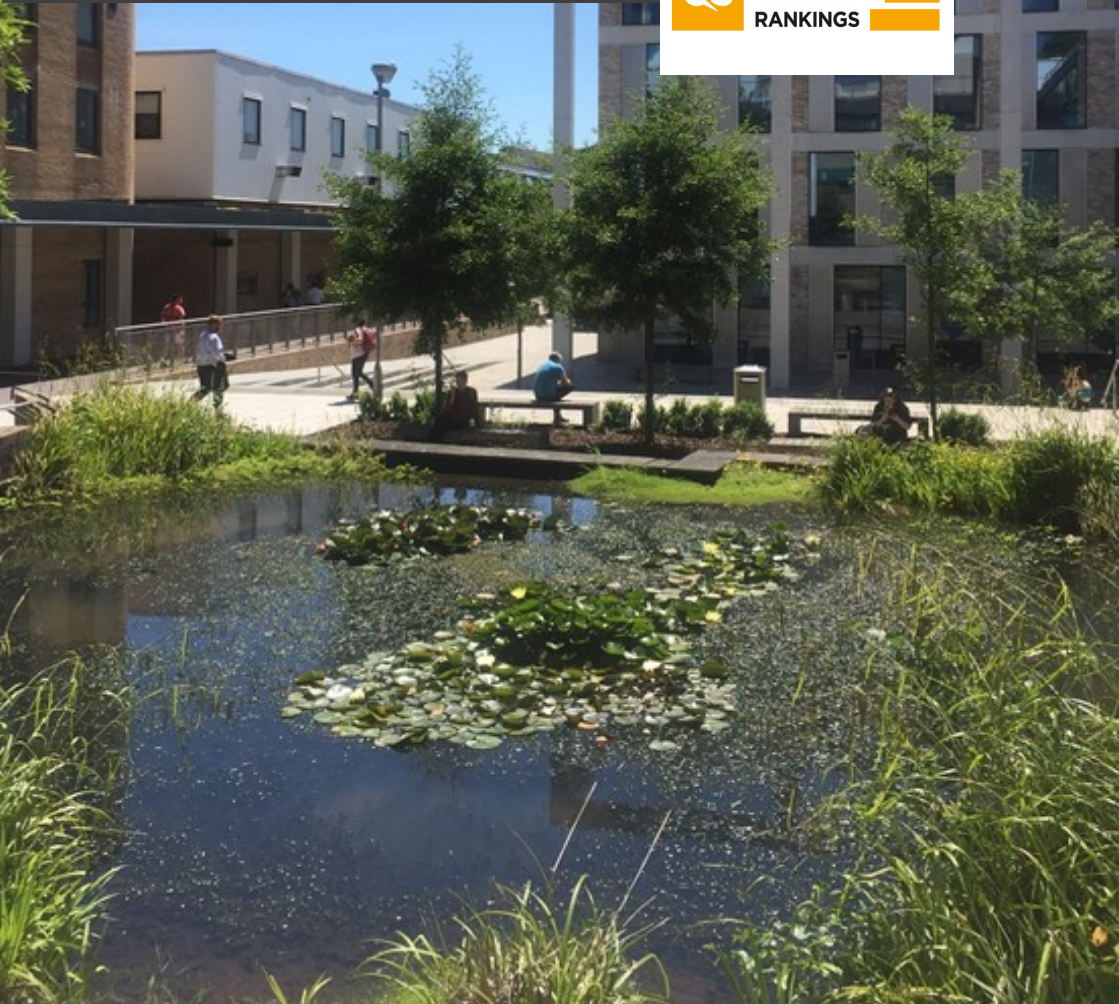
The Linguistics department at Lancaster is internationally renowned for its research and innovation in a wide range of fields.

It came 1st for Graduate Prospects and 7th for Linguistics in the UK in The Complete University Guide 2022.

OUR DEPARTMENT

Lancaster University opened in 1964 with an intake of just 330 students; today it is a major research university with over 15,000 students from all over the world.

It is a campus university— it is 3 miles from the city centre and spans across 500 acres of parkland.

In 2021, it was ranked one of the top 10 universities in the UK by The Independent, The Guardian, and The Times.
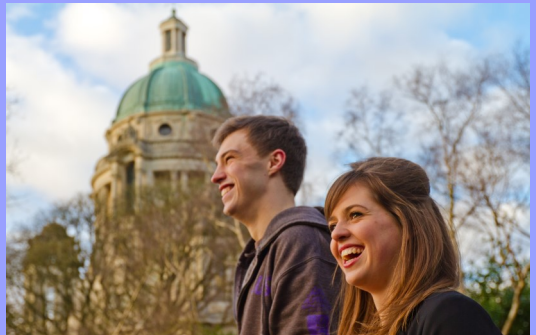
OUR UNIVERSITY

Lancaster began as a Roman settlement on the banks of the river Lune.

It is next to the Lake District and Morecambe Bay, areas of outstanding natural beauty.

It has a large, medieval castle where executions were held. It is now owned by the Queen, and is no longer used for this purpose (phew)!

OUR CITY

Our distance learning postgraduate courses are aimed at those wishing to enhance their careers from home, work, wherever and whenever is convenient. You can gain relevant knowledge and skills by studying alongside your ongoing professional and personal commitments.

### Corpus Linguistics (MA/PgCert)
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/masters-level/corpus-linguistics-distance-ma/

We offer one-year PGCert and two-year MA programme in Corpus linguistics. You will develop core skills that will allow you to analyse large amounts of linguistic data (corpora) using cutting-edge computational technology. In addition, you will learn how to collect and compile your own corpora and will discover new things about the structure of the English language.

## Corpus linguistics: MOOC pathway (MA/PgCert)
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/corpus-linguistics

This programme offers you an opportunity to take a free eight-week MOOC in Corpus linguistics and then join either the MA or the PGCert programme in corpus linguistics and have the MOOC counted as a module on the programme. This gives you the possibility to try learning corpus linguistics for free for one term without any obligations and then decide if you'd like to study corpus linguistics at Lancaster for a full degree.
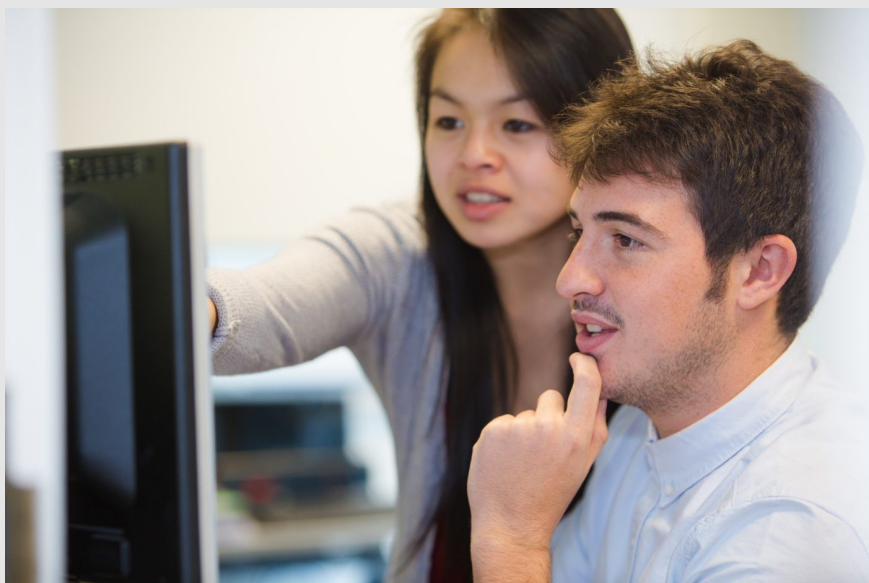


# PATH TO A LANCASTER DEGREE...

## Master

MA degrees are taught programmes with several optional modules. They allow you to develop knowledge in specific areas and acquire transferable research skills. It includes a dissertation, in which you explore a topic of your interest.

# What is the difference between a Master and a Postgraduate Certificate?

## PgCert

Postgraduate Certificates are similar to MA programmes and cover the same core topics, only on a smaller scale. PG programmes are taught online, and do not include the dissertation component. You can still choose to pursue an MA after completing a Postgraduate Certificate.

# Alexandra Terashim

Alexandra has received a bursary to take our Corpus Linguistics (Distance) MA.

> "Applying for this program represents a major pivot in my life..."

**Can you tell us a little bit about your background and research interests?**

Applying for this program represents a major pivot in my life—I already have a PhD in genetics and worked for several years as a researcher in a lab. But something was missing for me and a few years ago, I stepped away from the bench and turned towards the communication side of science, spending a few years helping scientists edit and revise papers for publication, which led to my current position, teaching academic writing to English language learners.

**Why have you applied to study MA in Corpus linguistics at Lancaster University?**

My career goal is to have a position in academia that combines teaching, research and supervision of graduate students, but I feel that I need additional qualifications to achieve my goals. I have been contemplating an MA in applied linguistics for several years as a way to acquire research training and qualifications in this field. In parallel, I became aware of Lancaster University as one of the leaders in the field of corpus linguistics by reading literature and taking part in the Corpus Linguistics MOOC on FutureLearn. Last fall, when I saw the announcement for this new distance MA program in corpus linguistics, I knew it was time to apply!

# OUR PHD PROGRAMMES

## PhD Linguistics by Research Only
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/linguistics-phd/

The traditional thesis-only PhD can be completed on a full or part-time basis. We welcome proposals for doctoral research in any of the Department's many areas of teaching or research.
With over 100 doctoral students studying with us on a full-time or part-time basis, either at Lancaster or off-site, there is a strong doctoral-level research culture in our department.

## PhD in Linguistics by thesis and coursework
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/linguistics-by-thesis-and-coursework-phd/

This unique and flexible programme is designed for you to complete your coursework and develop your thesis simultaneously . Initial coursework provides a strong foundation of knowledge and skills as you develop your capacity to engage with theory, critically evaluate previous studies, and carry out independent research.
In your first year, will complete compulsory modules in research methodology and applied linguistics that are taught by distance. In addition, you have the opportunity to take additional modules from the department's MA programmes and the Faculty's Research Training Programme.

# INDIVIDUAL COURSES

We also offer specialisation courses for Institutional credit. These are ideal if you need to develop knowledge and skills in a specific area. Each of these courses can be taken separately, run for one term (three months), and are offered online.

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/corpus-linguistics-distance-ma/#structure

| Term | Course |
|------|--------|
| Term 1 (Oct–Dec) | Fundamentals of corpus linguistics |
| Term 1 (Oct– Dec) | Corpus based grammar and vocabulary of English |
| Term 2 (Jan– Mar) | Corpus design and data collection |
| Term 2 (Jan– Mar) | Using corpora in Language teaching |
| Term 2 (Jan – Mar) | Corpus-based discourse analysis |
| Term 3 (Apr – Jun) | Statistics and data visualization |

### Corpus based discourse analysis

The module offers an in-depth exploration of Corpus based discourse analysis, a prominent area of the application of the corpus method with a very long tradition at Lancaster University. The module provides an overview of different areas in which corpus-based discourse analysis can be employed and a detailed discussion of linguistic and societal implications of these topics as well as relevant social and linguistic theories.

### Corpus based grammar and vocabulary

The module offers corpus based description of the grammar and lexicon of the English language. It guides students through grammatical, lexical and lexicogrammatical patterns observed in large general corpora, provides relevant terminology and teaches students how to describe words and grammatical structures.

### Corpus design and data collection

The module develops key skills in corpus design and data collection. Building on a long tradition of corpus development at Lancaster University and providing specific examples from recent projects such as the British National Corpus 2014, Guangwai Lancaster Corpus of L2 Chinese or Trinity Lancaster Corpus, the module offers both theoretical knowledge and practical skills for the students to be able to build their own corpus.

### Fundamentals of corpus linguistics

The module offers a practical introduction to key corpus linguistic techniques such as concordance analysis, the analysis of wordlists and ngram lists, keyword analysis and collocation analysis. It also provides an overview of practical applications of corpus methods in a wide range of areas of linguistic and social research.

## Statistics and data visualisation

The module offers a practical introduction to the statistical procedures used for the analysis linguistic data and language corpora. The module provides an overview of the main statistical procedures (e.g. Correlation, cluster analysis and factor analysis, T-test, ANOVA, chi-squared test and regression models) used in the field of corpus linguistics together with examples of application of these methods.

## Using corpus in Language teaching

This module is designed to provide students with the knowledge of corpus linguistics that will enable them to bring corpora and corpus resources into their language classrooms. First, it provides the necessary theoretical understanding of the principles of corpus linguistics that underlie the correct use of corpus linguistic techniques. Next, the module will introduce students to a range of available corpus resources such as different types of corpora and tools available for analysing them. In the module, students will be given the opportunity to explore these resources and evaluate their usefulness for different teaching contexts and for different learner needs. Finally, the course will equip students with the practical skills necessary for developing effective classroom materials and activities using corpus linguistics.

**MA FUNDING SCHEMES**

A variety of funding options are available and are awarded on a competitive basis.

### Economic and Social Research Council 1 + 3 Awards (NWSSDTP)

https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/          https://www.ukri.org/

Lancaster University forms part of the ESRC's North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP). Each year, around 60 studentships are awarded across the four institutions that make up the partnership for research in areas covered by the ESRC.

### Lancaster Masters Scholarship

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries/masters-scholarship/

Lancaster University is delighted to announce that we will offer a generous scholarship to students who are liable for Home tuition fees. The scholarship is awarded as a tuition fee waiver for Postgraduate Taught programmes, for 2022 entry and will be automatically awarded if students meet the eligibility criteria and terms and conditions required.

### Departmental MA Scholarships (Fees only)

The Department offers one fees-only bursary for students wishing to study for a Masters on any of our MA programmes, including both campus-based and by distance programmes. The recipient will need to meet their general living expenses themselves.

## Geoffrey Leech Scholarship

This scholarship for MA study was originally set up by the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster to mark the retirement of Professor Geoffrey Leech, who sadly died in August2014. The scholarship continues thanks to a bequeathment left by Professor Leech. Geoff Leech was one of our most eminent and long-serving colleagues and was internationally renowned for his pioneering work in modern English grammar, stylistics, pragmatics and corpus linguistics. As co-author of the *Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* and the *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*, he was, and remains, one of the foremost authorities on the English language. The scholarship is for any of our MA programmes, both campus-based and by distance. The recipient will need to meet their general living

## Lancaster Global Scholarship

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-bursaries/global-scholarship/

Lancaster University is delighted to announce that we will offer a generous scholarship to high-achieving students from all international countries, who are liable for International tuition fees. The scholarship is awarded as a tuition fee waiver for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught programmes for 2022 entry and will be automatically awarded if students meet the eligibility criteria and terms and conditions outlined on our website.

## The Peel Trust Studentship

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/money/funding/the-peel-trust-studentship

The Peel Studentship Trust was established in 1964, by donations from the Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust. The awards are available for the support of students for first or higher degrees, in any subject. The period of the award is one academic year, although students can apply each year. The value of the award is determined by the Trustees in each case, up to an individual maximum of £2500.

## Alumni Loyalty Scholarship

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-fees-and-funding/postgraduate-scholarships-&-bursaries/

Lancaster University will offer a reduction in tuition fees to all taught masters programmes for eligible applicants, determined by the level of undergraduate or postgraduate award achieved. You do not need to apply for this scholarship, you will qualify automatically if you meet the eligibility criteria and the course entry requirements.

## Postgraduate Loan Scheme

https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan

This loan was introduced in the 2016/2017 academic year by HMRC. Eligibility as well as amount of money attainable is dependent on several factors such as residential status, age, and the nature of your course. It is paid in three instalments over the duration of your degree, and can be up to £11,570.

To find out whether you are eligible for MA funding, and for more information, visit our website:
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/masters-level/

PHD FUNDING SCHEMES

### Arts and Humanities Research Council Studentships (NWCDTP)

http://www.nwcdtp.ac.uk/
https://www.ukri.org/

Lancaster University forms part of the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP). Each year, approximately 50 studentships are awarded across the seven institutions that make up the consortium for research in areas covered by the AHRC.

### Economic and Social Research Council Studentships (NWSSDTP)

https://nwssdtp.ac.uk/
https://www.ukri.org/

Lancaster University forms part of the ESRC's North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (NWSSDTP). Each year, around 60 studentships are awarded across the four institutions that make up the partnership for research in areas covered by the ESRC.

We also have two new upcoming scholarships for PhD students: **Faculty Studentships** and **EAP Studentship Award.**
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/arts-and-social-sciences/

To find out whether you are eligible for PhD funding, and more information, visit our website:
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/linguistics/phd/

UKRI — Arts and Humanities Research Council

# How do I apply for Lancaster's programmes?

Applying to our programmes is easy, and only takes about 5-10 minutes. Simply choose the programme you want, and apply online at: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/applying-for-postgraduate-study/

## Contact Us
Considering different options? Need more information?

Get in touch with us at:
postgraduatelinguistics@lancaster.ac.uk