Linguistics is the scientific study of language—an important part of what makes us human.

Have you ever wondered why language learning is so easy for infants, why it’s much harder for adults, or how automatic translation and voice recognition work? To answer these questions, linguists study the formal properties of language, how it evolves, and how it is used in social situations.

Simon Fraser University has one of the largest and most diverse linguistics programs in Canada, including BA major/minor programs, graduate degrees, and certificate programs in Speech Science and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

We offer courses focused on:

- Language learning and teaching
- Computational linguistics
- Neurolinguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Psycholinguistics
- Speech science
- Indigenous Languages

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A LINGUISTICS DEGREE?

The study of linguistics prepares you for a variety of different careers:

- Speech Language Pathologist
- Computational Linguist
- Audiologist
- Research Analyst
- Communication Specialist
- Translator/Interpreter
- Forensic Linguist
- Immigration Officer
- ESL/Foreign Language Instructor
- Software Engineer
In order to declare a Linguistics major, students must complete LING 220 with a passing grade and have a CGPA of at least 2.40.

Below is a sample pathway map that is to be used only as a guideline. For the full BA requirements, please consult the Academic Advisor or refer to the Academic Calendar: www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/areas-of-study/linguistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower Division - LD</th>
<th>Upper Division - UD</th>
<th>Indigenous Languages - ILG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ LING 220 (3) Intro to Linguistics</td>
<td>☐ LING 282W/Q (3) Writing for Linguistics Pre-req: LING 220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus 9 units in LD 100/200 level LING and/or ILG courses

☐ LING 100/200 (3) ☐ LING 100/200 (3) ☐ LING 100/200 (3)

Pick ONE of the following UD writing courses:

☐ LING 301W (3) Linguistic Argumentation Pre-req: LING 282W; OR LING 222 and any LD writing course *

☐ LING 309W (3) Sociolinguistics Pre-req: LING 282W

☐ LING 321 (3) Phonology Pre-req: LING 282W; OR LING 221 and any LD writing course *

☐ LING 322 (3) Syntax Pre-req: LING 282W; OR LING 222 and any LD writing course *

Pick TWO of the following courses:

☐ LING 323 (3) Morphology Pre-req: LING 301 or LING 309 or LING 482

☐ LING 324 (3) Semantics Pre-req: LING 282W; OR LING 222 and any LD writing course *

☐ LING 330 (3) Phonetics Pre-req: LING 282W; OR LING 221 and any LD writing course *

Plus 15 units in UD 300/400 level LING and/or ILG courses

☐ LING 300/400 (3) ☐ LING 300/400 (3) ☐ LING 300/400 (3) ☐ LING 300/400 (3) ☐ LING 300/400 (3)

For the full list of LING courses, see www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/courses/ling
YOUR FIRST YEAR

Below is a sample plan of what your first year in Linguistics could look like.

TERM 1
- LING 220
- LING elective (100, 111, 160, 200, 250, 280, 290)
- Designated Breadth elective outside LING (B-Soc, B-Hum, B-Sci)
- Elective (optional)

TERM 2
- LING 282 (W/Q)
- LING elective (100, 111, 160, 200, 250, 280, 290)
- Designated Breadth elective outside LING (B-Soc, B-Hum, B-Sci)
- Elective (optional)

GENERAL ELECTIVES

The following courses are open to all students and do not require any pre-requisites.

Most of these courses also fulfill your Breadth-Social Sciences (B-Soc) or Breadth-Science (B-Sci) requirements.

NOTE: If you are a Linguistics major student, you cannot count these courses as part of your B-Soc/Sci requirements.

LING 100 - COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE (3)

Language is unique to humans and distinguishes us from other species. Although all languages are complex cognitive systems, children acquire them with seemingly little effort, all across the world. This course introduces the scientific study of language through comparisons with animal communication systems, and investigation of language origins, patterns, and structures. B-SOC

LING 111 - THE WONDER OF WORDS (3)

Words are constantly evolving. Most of the English words and terminology we use today are borrowed from Latin, Greek, French, and Germanic languages. This course explores the origins and changes of English words. B-SOC

LING 160 - LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY (3)

Language is a social phenomenon, and varies according to a person’s cultural identity, background, beliefs, and values. For example, English in Vancouver is distinct from English in New York City or Hong Kong. Take this course to understand the relationship between social factors, culture, and language use. B-SOC
LING 200 - FOUNDATIONS OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR (3)

How do we actually use English? This is a practical introductory course which will help you develop strong analytical skills, understand how sentences are put together, and improve your writing skills and reading comprehension. This course is particularly suited for students interested in teaching English as a second language.

LING 220 - INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS (3)

How does language work? This course examines how language is constructed in the human mind, and breaks language down to speech sounds and how they fit together to establish meaning. This course will examine examples from a range of languages, with English as the main focus.  **B-SOC**

LING 280 - INTERDISCIPLINARY TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS (3)

This course introduces topics that combine fundamental linguistics concepts with concepts from other fields in order to answer applied or theoretical questions. Topics vary each time it is offered. Past topics include:

- Career Pathways in Linguistics
- Indigenous Languages in Canada
- The Language of Social Media

LING 290 - THE SCIENCE OF SPEECH (3)

In this course, you will identify speech in many forms: from the international phonetic alphabet, to waveforms on a computer, to moving your tongue, lips, jaw etc to produce foreign speech sounds. You will also study how this science of speech can be applied, whether in tech fields, in health clinics, in the courtroom, in the classroom, or in art.  **B-SOC or B-SCI**

CONTACT US

Department of Linguistics  
Simon Fraser University  
Robert C. Brown Hall 9201  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

778 - 782 - 4585  
lingdept@sfu.ca  
facebook.com/sfulinguistics  
twitter.com/SFULinguistics  
instagram.com/sfulinguistics

sfu.ca/linguistics