For further information, email Dr Elspeth Edelstein, Undergraduate Programme Convener:
elspeth.edelstein@abdn.ac.uk

You can also contact the Aberdeen University Linguistics Society. Our current students will be very happy to answer your questions about studying at Aberdeen!

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English Structure and Use

This course opens up new ways for students to think about language by introducing them to the fundamentals of English linguistics. Students will learn how to identify and analyse the major "building blocks" of language in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Examples for illustration and discussion will be drawn from varieties of English spoken in the British Isles and worldwide, with lectures and tutorials geared to providing students with an active vocabulary with which to discuss language, and essential tools with which to analyse its structure and function.

English Structure and Use is an 11 week course, with 2 one-hour lectures and 1 one-hour tutorial each week.

Recommended texts for this course are:
- *The Study of Language* by George Yule (7th edition, 2020)

English Past and Present

How do we get from Chaucer to Twitter? From Beowulf to Beyoncé? This course will look at the development of English over the last millennium and beyond, examining language changes in sound, structure and meaning, introducing students to the study of historical and current language change by delving into how English has evolved from before the Norman conquest to the present day. Students will also be introduced to present-day sociolinguistic study, and how it can to our understanding of language in the modern world and in the past.

English Past and Present is an 11 week course, with 2 one-hour lectures and 1 one-hour tutorial each week.

Recommended texts for this course are:
- *An Introduction to English Sociolinguistics* by Graeme Trousdale (2010)
Language in Society
This course will develop your understanding of the social nature of language, providing insight into, among other things, the relationship between gender and language, language death and the art of persuasion.

Varieties of English
This course will survey a range of varieties of English, both from across the British Isles and from around the world, and will explore how these varieties differ from each other as well as what unites them.

Language Acquisition
Find out more about the processes involved in acquiring and learning language, whether this is a child beginning to speak or someone trying to master a second language.

Phonetics
Discover how we can use computers to conduct acoustic analysis of speech: the analysis of soundwaves in order to identify different phonetic features. This course includes a weekly hands-on practical to complement the theoretical work.

Stylistics
This course enables students to apply skills of close linguistic analysis to a range of literary texts and genres. Students will explore the ways in which different aspects of linguistic structure shape and contribute to readers’ interpretations of texts.
Fourth Year Options

**Sociophonetics**
Apply your practical skills of phonetic analysis to the investigation of fine-grained language variation in society. Discover how the presence of a soft toy kangaroo can influence people's linguistic perception!

**Grammatical Attitudes**
What is grammar? What is grammatical? Who decides? And how? This course will explore different approaches to grammar, from the layperson's to the linguist's, and how these impact society and the study of language.

**Phonologies of Englishes**
Investigate the ways in which different approaches can be taken to analysing the sound structure of varieties of English. Rule-based phonologies and constraint-based theories are explored.

**Language Contact and Change in Language**
Taking a broad historical, geographical and cultural sweep, this course explores the ways in which contact between groups of people has influenced linguistic change.

**Language and the Professions**
This course focuses on the different ways in which language is used in the workplace. In some years, the students visit Aberdeen Sheriff court in order to gain first hand experience of language use in a formal professional context.

**Adopt A Dialect: Finding Resources And Planning Research**
In this course you will catalogue what knowledge we presently have of a dialect, analyse what is missing and suggest a research project which will help increase our knowledge.

**Dissertation in Language and Linguistics**
This is your chance to plan and carry out an independent research project in any area of linguistics under the supervision of a member of the department.

We have training sessions in various research skills to prepare you for your dissertation work; these are also valuable in encouraging you to develop some widely transferrable skills.

Previous topics have included:
- Meme generation in social media
- A comparison of linguistic features used in children's and adult fiction by the same author.
- An apparent-time study of the ways in which self-proclaimed Doric speakers display the Scottish Vowel Length Rule.
- Faroe Islanders' attitudes towards Danish, English and Faroese: A Sociolinguistic Study
- How is gender represented using language in Disney movies?
- Can teaching enhance our primary motivation to learn vocabulary in a new language?
Lectures are a key part of the student experience. In each of our first year courses there are two lectures every week, in which the subject content is presented and explained. Where appropriate, technology such as Powerpoint presentations and audiovisual resources are used. Most lectures are recorded and are available to watch again on the MyAberdeen learning environment.

You also have weekly smaller tutorials, in which you have the opportunity to discuss material introduced in lectures and work on additional questions arising from the course.

Individual reading and personal study are an important part of your work as a student. The library has a wide range of relevant resources for Language & Linguistics, and you are likely to spend a good deal of time there. You will also be asked to work in small groups in your tutorials, and several of our courses include group presentations as part of the assessment for the course.