



Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

This MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics is unique in its range and flexibility. We offer students a combination of theoretical and applied linguistics, and a range that spans philosophy of language and the history of linguistics, through areas such as grammar and semantics to the psychology of language and the production of speech. Whatever your interest, you will be part of vibrant, international community of experts and peers.

We offer two routes to an MPhil – a combined route of essays and dissertation, and, for a minority of students, a recently introduced dissertation-only option. Our combined route is for students wanting a broader and deeper knowledge of language sciences and their application. You will be assessed through a mix of shorter pieces of work and a 20,000 word dissertation.

The dissertation-only option caters for students with a substantial knowledge of linguistics and a firm idea of their topic. By taking this pathway, you will follow some elements of the combined MPhil programme. Formal assessment is by a 30,000 word dissertation.

The MPhil enables you to explore theoretical and descriptive linguistics, such as the syntax of different languages; to learn how linguistics and phonetics can be applied to language processing or forensics, for example; and to look at linguistics from the point of view of a specific language or language family.

At Cambridge, you will be part of a community that is culturally diverse. The range of languages studied is enormous, the teaching is outstanding, and the opportunities for peer-to-peer learning are vast.

“My research interest is in discourse particles – where do they appear in sentences, and what is their purpose? The research for my dissertation required me to synthesise theories from disparate areas and then apply them to a completely new context. I was really able to work on something cutting edge – I was reading proofs of book chapters that weren’t even published yet, and I was able to contribute to a previously understudied area of linguistics!”

Yingjie Lan

Secondary School Teacher with the Ministry of Education, Singapore

The MPhil is an excellent bridge between undergraduate study and doctoral research. Around half of our graduates go on to a PhD. In the internet age, linguistics is of relevance to the burgeoning speech and language technology industry. So as well as higher education teaching, our graduates go on to work in world-leading technology companies such as Amazon, Google and Microsoft.



www.mml.cam.ac.uk/dtal