

HONOURS IN LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE: HANDBOOK

This brief handbook is for students taking Honours courses in Linguistics and English Language (LEL) at the University of Edinburgh in the 2019-20 academic year. It doesn't matter whether you are a home student who will graduate from the University of Edinburgh or a visiting student who is here for one semester or one year, whether you are in your third or fourth year of study, or whether you are doing a single Honours degree in our department, or a combined degree with another subject: the information in this handbook is relevant for anyone taking an Honours course with us.

Please read the information carefully, and get in contact if you have any additional questions. We're looking forward to our classes with you this year, and hope you find your studies challenging and rewarding.

Other sources of information and support

The material in this handbook deals primarily with issues relating to specifics of the Honours programme in LEL. Another source of information which you should also familiarise yourself with is the PPLS student handbook, which deals with topics such as degree transfers, requests for extensions, the common marking scheme, and expectations regarding attendance.

You should also feel free to contact the Director of Teaching (see contact information below) with any questions about teaching in the Honours years.

For more general issues concerning your studies, don't forget that you can speak to your personal tutor, or one of our student support officers (SSOs). The student support office can be found on the ground floor of the Dugald Stewart Building.

Contacts

For any questions regarding the Honours programme, please contact one of the following:

Lynne Robertson, Teaching Administrator
PPLS UG Teaching Office, Ground Floor, DSB
lelinfo@ed.ac.uk

Graeme Trousdale, LEL Director of Teaching
3.04 DSB
graeme.trousdale@ed.ac.uk

Overview

Within the Department of Linguistics and English Language there are a number of Honours degree programmes: for example, Single Honours degrees in Linguistics, English Language, and Linguistics and English Language. In addition, we have a number of Combined Honours degrees involving Linguistics or English Language and another subject. Such degrees are always run by the first-named subject area; e.g. 'Honours in French and Linguistics' is run by French (within a different school of the university, in this case Literatures, Languages and Cultures).

The list of Honours courses offered can be roughly divided into English Language courses and Linguistics courses but many courses figure in both sections. Some Honours courses may have the completion of others as prerequisites: such prerequisites are indicated in the detailed course web pages on DRPS.

We do not distinguish between third and fourth year courses: any course can, in principle, be taken by third and fourth year students alike. Note also that the core courses stipulated for individual curricula do not all have to be taken in year 3: you may spread them over the two honours years in any way you like.

All courses are weighted at 20 credits. Students take 120 credits in any one academic year (in fourth year, 40 of these 120 credits are taken up by your dissertation).

How many courses do I take?

The number of courses you take and their permitted combinations depends in part on the degree you are taking, and whether you are spending or have spent your third year abroad.

The information below is grouped into the following sections:

- SINGLE HONOURS DEGREES, for home students taking a degree that involves only Linguistics and English Language courses.
- COMBINED HONOURS DEGREES, for home students taking a degree that combines LEL with another subject
- VISITING STUDENTS, for students who will graduate from another university but are spending a semester or a year studying in Edinburgh

For students who are spending or have spent their third year abroad, specific arrangements apply. You should keep in regular contact with the department's international coordinator, Dr Patrick Honeybone. In discussion with him, with the Director of Teaching and with your personal tutor, you should ensure that you are taking the right number and combination of courses in your fourth year.

Single Honours degrees

Linguistics

Over the two Honours years, you take ten courses (six in year 3 and four in year 4) and write a Dissertation in year 4. Of these ten courses, two must be taken from LINGUISTICS CORE: STRUCTURE and two from LINGUISTICS CORE: OTHER (see page 5). Five more courses may be chosen from anywhere in the Linguistics column, core or options; and one more course may be chosen from anywhere in the Linguistics and English Language columns.

English Language

Over the two Honours years, you take ten courses (six in year 3 and four in year 4) and write a Dissertation in year 4. Of these ten courses, two must be taken from ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: STRUCTURE and two from ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: HISTORY (see page 5). Five more courses may be chosen from anywhere in the English Language column, core or options; and one more course may be chosen from anywhere in the English Language or Linguistics columns.

Linguistics and English Language

Over the two Honours years, you take ten courses (six in year 3 and four in year 4) and write a Dissertation in year 4. Of the ten courses, one each must be from LINGUISTICS CORE: STRUCTURE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: STRUCTURE, LINGUISTICS CORE: OTHER and ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: HISTORY (see page 5). The remaining six courses may be chosen from anywhere in the English Language or Linguistics columns.

Combined Honours degrees

Modern Language and Linguistics

In these degrees, the two Honours years are treated separately. You will be abroad during year 3, and during that year you will be assessed on 40 credits of work for Linguistics which will count towards your final degree classification. In year 4, you must take three courses in Linguistics. They may be chosen from anywhere in the Linguistics column.

If you are studying a Modern European Language (other than Russian) and Linguistics, you can choose to write a dissertation for Linguistics; the regulations for this are explained in your DPT. You will need to make this decision around the Easter break of your second year, as it determines how many credits you need to study while abroad: if you choose to write a dissertation for LEL, you will need to return marks for 10 ECTS worth of courses studied abroad (= 20 Edinburgh credits); if you choose not to write a dissertation for LEL, you will need to return marks for 20 ECTS worth of courses studied abroad (= 40 Edinburgh credits).

If you are studying Japanese, Chinese or Russian Studies and Linguistics, however, it is not possible to write a dissertation for LEL.

Modern Language and English Language

In these degrees, the two Honours years are treated separately. You will be abroad during year 3, and during that year you will be assessed on 40 credits of work for English Language which will count towards your final degree classification. In year 4, you must take three

courses in English Language. They may be chosen from anywhere in the English Language column.

If you are studying a Modern European Language (other than Russian) and English Language, you can choose to write a dissertation for English Language; the regulations for this are explained in your DPT. You will need to make this decision around the Easter break of your second year, as it determines how many credits you need to study while abroad: if you choose to write a dissertation for LEL, you will need to return marks for 10 ECTS worth of courses studied abroad (= 20 Edinburgh credits); if you choose not to write a dissertation for LEL, you will need to return marks for 20 ECTS worth of courses studied abroad (= 40 Edinburgh credits).

If you are studying Russian Studies and English Language, however, it is not possible to write a dissertation for LEL.

Other Combined Honours degrees involving Linguistics

These degrees require that one course is chosen from LINGUISTICS CORE: STRUCTURE, one course from LINGUISTICS CORE: OTHER (see page 5), two further courses from anywhere in the Linguistics column, and typically one further course (although most degrees allow variation here) from anywhere in the Linguistics or English Language columns. The Dissertation is written in year 4. Consult the relevant online regulations and your Personal Tutor for further details.

Other Combined Honours degrees involving English Language

Over the two Honours years, these degrees require that one course is chosen from ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: STRUCTURE, one course from ENGLISH LANGUAGE CORE: HISTORY (see page 5), two further courses from anywhere in the English Language column, and typically one further course (although most degrees allow variation here) from anywhere in the Linguistics or English Language columns. The Dissertation is written in year 4. Consult the relevant online regulations and your Personal Tutor for further details.

Courses available in 2019-20

The table on the next page lists the courses offered at Honours level in Linguistics and English Language in the 2019-20 academic year. A number of our courses are offered in alternate years, and therefore will not be available in 2020-21. Furthermore, members of the academic staff go on sabbatical leave, or may acquire research grants, with the consequence that some courses which would normally run may not run in 2020-21. As a result, not all of the courses listed here will be available in your fourth year.

The number in front of each course refers to the semester it runs in. Courses marked with an asterisk use computer labs and therefore the number of places available will be limited by the number of spaces in the lab. The name in brackets after each course is the name of the course organiser, who you should contact if you have specific questions regarding teaching and learning issues associated with that course, including the type of assessment.

English Language	Linguistics
Core: Structure	Core: Structure
1 Cognitive Linguistics (Trousdale) 1 Phonological Theory and English Phonology (Honeybone) 1 Syntax: Theory and Practice (Heycock) 2 Current Issues in Syntax (Heycock)	1 Phonetics and Lab Phonology (Turk) 1 Phonological Theory (Iosad) 1 Syntax: Theory and Practice (Heycock) 2 Current Issues in Syntax (Heycock)
Core: History	Core: Other
1 Language Contact and the History of English (Iosad) 1 Middle English (van Bergen) 1 Reading Old English (van Bergen) 2 English Historical Syntax (van Bergen) 2 Historical Phonology (Honeybone)	1 First Language Acquisition (Ota) 1 Psycholinguistics (Cummins) 1 Sociolinguistics* (Hall-Lew) 2 Historical Linguistics (Los)
Options	Options
1 First Language Acquisition (Ota) 1 Global Englishes (Cowie) 1 Sociolinguistics* (Hall-Lew) 1 Statistics & Experimental Design* (Cummins) 2 Current Issues in Morphology (Ackema) 2 Current Issues in Phonology (Ramsammy) 2 Current Issues in Semantics and Pragmatics (Truswell) 2 Historical Linguistics (Los) 2 Language Variation and Change (Fruehwald) 2 Scots & Scottish English (Maguire) 2 Second Language Acquisition (Chondrogianni) 2 Stylistics (Trousdale)	1 Cognitive Linguistics (Trousdale) 1 Computer Programming for Speech & Language Processing* (Richmond) 1 Origins & Evolution of Language (Spike) 1 Speech Processing* (King) 1 Statistics & Experimental Design* (Cummins) 1 Universals of Language (Culbertson) 2 Child Bilingualism and Cognition (Sorace) 2 Current Issues in Morphology (Ackema) 2 Current Issues in Phonology (Ramsammy) 2 Current Issues in Semantics and Pragmatics (Truswell) 2 Historical Phonology (Honeybone) 2 History of Linguistics (Joseph) 2 Language Pathology (Chondrogianni) 2 Language Variation and Change (Fruehwald) 2 Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Description (Remijsen) 2 Second Language Acquisition (Chondrogianni) 2 Simulating Language* (Smith) 2 Special Topics in Phonetics* (Remijsen) 2 Speech Production & Perception (Turk) 2 Speech Synthesis* (King)

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the correct number of Linguistics and/or English Language courses is taken in each of the Honours years, that the required number of Core courses is taken, and that the prerequisites for any course chosen are met. You should seek your Personal Tutor's or the Director of Teaching's advice if you are not sure.

Students expecting to choose an experimental or survey-based topic for their Dissertation are strongly advised to take Statistics and Experimental Design.

Dissertation in Language Sciences

All Single Honours students in English Language and/or Linguistics (as well as some students on Combined Honours degrees), write a 40-credit Dissertation of 7,000 - 10,000 words within English Language and Linguistics in their fourth year. Not included in the word count are the references section at the end, and any appendices you might want to add.

Possible dissertation topics and allocation of supervisors, etc. are discussed in a meeting towards the end of your third year. You should contact prospective supervisors over the summer and at the latest by the end of Welcome Week in September; your topic and supervisor must be finalised by the 20th September 2019. Throughout the year, your individual supervision sessions will be complemented by a series of lectures and small group meetings on research methods and other skills to help you while you do the research and writing for your dissertation.

For your dissertation research, you may run experiments and/or collect data through other means from human subjects; you are expected to follow the LEL ethics guidelines. The process you must follow will be explained to you in the research methods course. Every dissertation project involving human subjects, or any other pre-existing data which have ethical implications, must be submitted along with evidence of ethical approval. If neither of these applies to your project you do not need to seek ethical approval.

Key dates for 2019-20 dissertations

- 20 Sep 2019 Deadline to confirm dissertation topic and supervisor.
- 11 Oct 2019 Deadline for submissions of experimental design or plan of dissertation to supervisor.
- 31 Oct 2019 Deadline for Ethics submission.
- 17 Jan 2020 Deadline for full draft literature review (or equivalent) to be submitted to supervisor.
- 1 Apr 2020 Deadline for handing in the dissertation is noon.
- Apr 2020 The Dissertation Conference 2020. All day event. Precise date and venue to be confirmed.

Assessment information for Honours courses

Course names below link to full course information on DRPS (Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study, a central University website). All deadlines for assessment are at 12pm (midday/noon). We reserve the right to alter deadlines if necessary.

Semester 1 courses

Course organiser

[Cognitive Linguistics \(LASC10107\)](#)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 21st November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Dr Graeme
Trousdale](#)

[Computer Programming for Speech & Language Processing \(LASC10079\)](#)

Practical programming assignment (50%) due Monday 11th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Dr Korin Richmond](#)

[First Language Acquisition \(LASC10029\)](#)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 7th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Dr Mits Ota](#)

[Global Englishes \(LASC10056\)](#)

Assignment 1 (40%) due Thursday 17th October 2019
Assignment 2 (30%) due Tuesday 19th November 2019
Assignment 3 (30%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Claire Cowie](#)

[Language Contact and the History of English \(LASC10105\)](#)

Assignment (40%) due Thursday 21st November 2019
Final Essay (60%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Pavel Iosad](#)

[Middle English \(LASC10009\)](#)

Assignment 1 (50%) due Thursday 31st October 2019
Assignment 2 (50%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Linda Van
Bergen](#)

Origins and Evolution of Language (LASC10031)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 28th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Matt Spike](#)

Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology (LASC10090)

Weekly reading reports (5%) to be handed in in class on Monday of each week
Lab reports [Best 2 of 3] (30%) due Thursday 17th October, 31st October & 14th November 2019. All due at noon (midday)
Final assignment: 3500 word project (65%) due Thursday 28th November 2019, due noon (midday)
No exam

[Professor Alice Turk](#)

Phonological Theory (LASC10088)

Assignment (40%) due Monday 4th November 2019 at noon
Exam: 3 hours closed book exam (60%) - December exam diet

[Dr Pavel Iosad](#)

Phonological Theory and English Phonology (LASC10083)

Assignment (40%) due Thursday 31st October 2019
Final essay (60%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Patrick
Honeybone](#)

Psycholinguistics (LASC10035)

Assignment 1 - Experimental proposal (25%) due Thursday 14th November 2019
Assignment 2 - Group Reading Report (25%) due Thursday 5th December 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Dr Chris Cummins](#)

[Reading Old English \(LASC10049\)](#)

Assignment (40%) due Monday 2nd December 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (60%) - December exam diet

[Dr Linda Van Bergen](#)

[Sociolinguistics \(LASC10002\)](#)

Take-home exam (40%) due Thursday 17th October 2019
Final Project (60%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Lauren Hall-Lew](#)

[Speech Processing \(LASC10061\)](#)

Assignment 1 (20%) due Thursday 31st October 2019
Assignment 2 (30%) due Thursday 28th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Professor Simon King](#)

[Statistics and Experimental Design \(LASC10033\)](#)

Assignment 1 - Part A of Project, independent submission (5%) due Thursday 7th November 2019
Assignment 2 - Part B of Project, group submission (45%) due Thursday 28th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - December exam diet

[Dr Chris Cummins](#)

[Syntax: Theory and Practice \(LASC10084\)](#)

Assignment (30%) due Thursday 14th November 2019
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (70%) - December exam diet

[Professor Caroline Heycock](#)

[Universals of Language \(LASC10100\)](#)

Assignment 1 (33%) due Thursday 7th November 2019
Assignment 2 (67%) due Thursday 12th December 2019
No exam

[Dr Jennifer Culbertson](#)

Semester 2 courses

Course organiser

[Child Bilingualism: Language and Cognition \(LASC10077\)](#)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Professor
Antonella Sorace](#)

[Current Issues in Morphology \(LASC10070\)](#)

Take Home Essay (30%) due Thursday 27th February 2020
Essay (70%) due Monday 20th April 2020
No exam

[Dr Peter Ackema](#)

[Current Issues in Phonology \(LASC10089\)](#)

Assignment (40%) due Thursday 27th February 2020
Exam: 3 hour closed book exam (60%) - May exam diet

[Dr Michael
Ramsammy](#)

[Current Issues in Syntax \(LASC10071\)](#)

Project (100%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
No exam

[Dr Rob Truswell](#)

[Current Issues in Syntax \(LASC10071\)](#)

Project (100%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
No exam

[Professor
Caroline
Heycock](#)

[English Historical Syntax \(LASC10017\)](#)

Essay (100%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
No exam

[Dr Linda Van
Bergen](#)

[Historical Linguistics \(LASC10021\)](#)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 19th March 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Professor
Bettelou Los](#)

Historical Phonology (LASC10046)

Take-home assignment (40%) - due Thursday 27th February 2020
Essay (60%) – due Thursday 23rd April 2020
No exam

[Dr Patrick Honeybone](#)

History of Linguistics (LASC10096)

Project (50%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Prof John Joseph](#)

Language Pathology (LASC10095)

1500 word data analysis (30%) due Thursday 5th March 2020
2000 word essay (70%) due Thursday 9th April 2020
No exam

[Dr Vicky Chondrogianni](#)

Language Variation and Change (LASC10102)

Completion of weekly 'R' practical materials (10%)
In-class Test (30%) - to take place in week 5
Project (60%) Date due TBC
No exam

[Dr Josef Fruehwald](#)

Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Description (LASC10050)

Elicitation sessions (20%)
Short paper (20%) Date due TBC
Project (60%) Date due TBC
No exam

[Dr Bert Remijsen](#)

Scots and Scottish English (LASC10072)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 23rd April 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Dr Warren Maguire](#)

Second Language Acquisition (LASC10030)

Essay (50%) Date due Thursday 12th March 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Professor Antonella Sorace](#)

[Simulating Language \(LASC10018\)](#)

Programming task (50%) due Thursday 5th March 2020
Programming task (50%) due Thursday 9th April 2020
No exam

[Professor Kenny Smith](#)

[Special Topics in Phonetics \(LASC10101\)](#)

Reading Reports (10%) 1 page weekly reading reports on assigned readings
Project Paper 1 (40%) date due TBC
Project Paper 2 (50%) Date due TBC
No exam

[Dr Bert Remijsen](#)

[Speech Production and Perception \(LASC10104\)](#)

Weekly reading reports (5%)
Essay (25%) due Thursday 27th February 2020
Essay (25%) due Thursday 9th April 2020
[You have a choice of either submitting a Project or sitting an Exam]
Project (45%) due Thursday 16th April 2020 **OR** 2 hour closed book exam (45%) - May exam diet

[Professor Alice Turk](#)

[Speech Synthesis \(LASC10062\)](#)

Report based on laboratory work (50%) due Thursday 9th April 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Professor Simon King](#)

[Stylistics \(LASC10108\)](#)

Assignment (50%) due Thursday 2nd April 2020
Exam: 2 hour closed book exam (50%) - May exam diet

[Dr Graeme Trousdale](#)

Labs

If you are taking courses with labs or tutorials you will be automatically allocated a place in a tutorial/lab group at the end of Welcome Week. If you wish to change group then you should use the Change Request form on the timetabling website.

Prizes

The Angus McIntosh Prize

The Angus McIntosh Prize is awarded annually for the best first-class honours dissertation in Linguistics and/or English Language and is worth £100.

Angus McIntosh (1914-2005) was the first Forbes Professor of English Language and General Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. Appointed to the Chair in 1948 after war-time work at Bletchley Park, he spent the remaining 31 years of his academic career in that post. He founded both Linguistics and English Language at Edinburgh and for many years led what was probably the strongest department of English Language found anywhere in the world. Angus's life-long pioneering work in linguistics and English language is also commemorated in the McIntosh-Patterson PhD Studentship.

The Patterson Prize

The Patterson Prize is awarded annually for the best course mark or honours dissertation on Old English. The prize, worth £100, can be awarded to a third-year, fourth-year or visiting student.

The Patterson Prize was first awarded in 1880. Its benefactor, the Reverend John Patterson, was a Classics and English master at George Watson's Ladies College in 7 George Square (now the home of PPLS's Psychology subject area). The Patterson legacy has additionally helped make possible the McIntosh-Patterson PhD Studentship.

For more information about our Prizes, Scholarships and Awards please visit the Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics