

HONOURS IN LINGUISTICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE: HANDBOOK 21/22

1 Introduction

This brief handbook is for students taking Honours courses in Linguistics and English Language (LEL) at the University of Edinburgh in the 2021-22 academic year. At least some of 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 appreciate that the public health situation that we are all living through means your learning will still be somewhat different this year, compared to our usual arrangements. But we're looking forward to our classes with you, and hope you find your studies challenging and rewarding.

Given that the public health situation is still evolving, we may update this handbook throughout the coming academic year. For updates, please revisit the website from which you obtained this document: the version available there will always be the most up-to-date (<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/linguistics-and-english-language/current/undergraduate/handbooks>).

1.1 Other sources of information and support

The material in this handbook deals primarily with the 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 Teaching Director (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 first floor of the Dugald Stewart Building, or you can contact them by email: ppls.sso@ed.ac.uk. See <https://uoesharepoint.com/sites/PPLSUGHub/SitePages/UG-Student-Support-Office.aspx?web=1> for more information.

1.2 Contacts

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

PPLS UG Teaching Office
lelinfo@ed.ac.uk

Chris Cummins, LEL Teaching Director
ccummins@staffmail.ed.ac.uk

2 Degree programmes and course credits

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' or 'owned' 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). Our Honours courses can also be taken by students visiting the University, if they have appropriate previous learning.

For those of you entering year 4 in 2021-22: please note you have a free choice of courses this year. In the past, there was a requirement that you take certain courses from particular core and option groups. This requirement has been suspended for your fourth and final year.

For those of you entering year 3 in 2021-22: like the 4th years, you have a free choice of courses this year. We will advise you later in the course of this academic year what the curriculum for your final year will be (which may or may not require you to take courses from particular core and option groups).

We do not distinguish between third and fourth year courses: any course can, in principle, be taken by third and fourth year students alike as long as you meet the required pre-requisites.

Visiting students should discuss their course choices with their Personal Tutor (to ensure that what they select is appropriate given what they have previously studied at their home university, for example). Further information is provided below.

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). 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 students taking a degree that involves only Linguistics and/or English Language courses.
- COMBINED HONOURS DEGREES, for students taking a degree that combines LEL with another subject. This section therefore includes information for students who spend their third year abroad as part of their degree (e.g. French and English Language, or Chinese and Linguistics, students).
- STUDENTS ON OPTIONAL ERASMUS OR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES ABROAD, for students who are (a) in year 3 and hoping to spend time abroad in semester two or (b) in year 4 and who have already been abroad.
- VISITING STUDENTS, for students who will graduate from another university but are spending a semester or a year studying at Edinburgh.

2.1 Single Honours degrees (i.e. MA in Linguistics, English Language, and Linguistics & 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. You are free to take any courses this year (including up to two Guided Research seminars - note that individual seminars have a quota of 12 students).

2.2 Combined Honours degrees

2.2.1 Students on a combined Honours Language + LEL degree

Year 3 students on these degrees

Most students on a Language + LEL degree need to collect 40 Edinburgh credits' worth of Honours courses for the LEL side of their degree during Year 3. This will either be via Year Abroad Work (which will involve you taking courses at a university abroad, and which will require you to consider whether or not you want to write a dissertation in LEL in year 4) or a Third Year Project (in which case you will not be able to write a dissertation in LEL). Different degrees have slightly different regulations, and not all students have both of these options, so we set out some details here, but please check the DRPS entry for your degree for full information. If these regulations are unclear, check with the LEL International Convenor (Linda van Bergen) and the LEL Honours Convenor (Chris Cummins).

JAPANESE and LINGUISTICS; CHINESE and LINGUISTICS; RUSSIAN and LINGUISTICS or ENGLISH LANGUAGE

You will be registered for the 'Third-Year Project in Language Sciences' (LASC10059).

MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES (other than Russian) and LINGUISTICS or ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- You will have three options:
 - I. Collect 40 credits' worth of work from taught courses (studied at a university abroad). You will be registered for 'Year Abroad Work for Degrees in Modern European Languages and Linguistics or English Language' (LASC10073). The mark for this course will be calculated as an average over the courses that you take in Linguistics/English Language at your host university during the year.
 - II. Collect 20 credits' worth of work from taught courses and register for the 'Dissertation Preparation Abroad' course (LASC10060) – this will allow you to write a dissertation for LEL during Year 4 of your degree and thus angle your degree slightly more towards LEL and slightly less towards the language that you are studying (if you study while abroad for only one semester, and take a job for the other semester, you will need to take this option). During your year abroad, you will be registered for 'Year Abroad

Work for Degrees in Modern European Languages and Linguistics or English Language with dissertation' (LASC10099). The mark for this course will be calculated as an average over the courses that you take in Linguistics/English Language at your host university during the year. You will not start working on the dissertation until late in semester 2 of Year 3, and most of the work for the dissertation will be done during Year 4, once you have returned to Edinburgh.

- III. If you take a job while abroad, and cannot study at a university, you will be registered for the 'Third-Year Project in Language Sciences' (LASC10059). You will not be able to write a dissertation in LEL.

Year 4 students on these degrees

JAPANESE and LINGUISTICS

You should choose between 3 and 5 LEL Honours courses, to provide between 60 and 100 credits' worth of LEL courses; these may be taken in either semester. In the year 2021-2022 (because you did not have the chance to write a Third-Year Project), you may take the LEL Dissertation as 40 of these credits.

CHINESE and LINGUISTICS

You should choose 3 LEL Honours courses, to provide 60 credits' worth of LEL courses; these may be taken in either semester. In the year 2021-2022 (because you did not have the chance to write a Third-Year Project), you may take the LEL Dissertation as 40 of these credits.

MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES and LINGUISTICS or ENGLISH LANGUAGE

You should choose 3 LEL Honours courses, to provide 60 credits' worth of LEL courses; these may be taken in either semester; those students who took 'Dissertation Preparation Abroad' during Year 3, should also take 'Dissertation Completion following Study Abroad' and write a dissertation with LEL during Year 4.

2.2.2 Other Combined Honours degrees involving Linguistics or English Language

These degrees typically require that you take between 40 and 80 credits of LEL courses in year 3 and 40 credits of LEL courses in year 4. You are free to take any LEL courses this year (including up to two Guided Research seminars). The Dissertation is also written in year 4. Consult the relevant online regulations and your Personal Tutor for further details.

2.3 Students on optional Erasmus or International exchanges abroad

Year 3 students intending to spend semester 2 abroad

During semester 1, you should take the appropriate number of LEL Honours courses (for example, 3 if you are a Single Honours LEL student). If you are able to go abroad during semester 2, you should take the equivalent of 60 Edinburgh-credits in suitable courses at the university that you visit (as agreed on a Learning Agreement with the LEL International Coordinator). If you are able to go abroad during semester 2, your degree will be classified on the basis of 180 credits (60 from semester 1 of Year 3 and 120 from Year 4).

Year 4 students returning from an optional Erasmus or International exchange

If you are studying a Single Honours LEL degree, you should choose 4 LEL Honours courses and the 'Dissertation in Language Sciences'. If you are studying a Combined Honours degree, combining Linguistics or English Language with another subject, you should choose 2 LEL Honours courses and you may choose to take the 'Dissertation in Language Sciences'. Given that there are no 'required' or 'core' courses this year, you can choose freely from the courses available, but you must make sure not to choose a course which repeats material that you studied while abroad. If you are uncertain about this, check with the LEL International Convenor (Linda van Bergen) and the LEL Teaching Director (Chris Cummins).

2.4 Visiting students

Visiting students should discuss course choice with your Personal Tutor and with your home university, and possibly with the Visiting Student Office, too. In principle, all LEL Honours courses are available to visiting students, but you should make sure that you have suitable background knowledge for each course that you take, and you must ensure that your home university is happy with your course choices. Make sure that you know what is expected of you for each course - expectations may be different to what you know from home. Make sure especially that you understand about what is expected in terms of assessed work (and how it needs to be submitted). If you don't know any of these things about a particular course, it is often best to ask the course organiser or course secretary. Visiting students are treated exactly like Edinburgh students on LEL Honours course and must submit the same pieces of assessment in the same way as Edinburgh students.

3 Courses available in 2021-22

The table below lists the courses offered at Honours level in Linguistics and English Language in the 2021-22 academic year.

The name in brackets after each course is the name of the Course Organiser. Typically this is the person who you should contact first if you have specific questions regarding teaching and learning issues associated with that course, including the type of assessment. The exception here is the Guided Research in LEL courses. Here, the first person you should contact is the seminar leader for GR seminar to which you have been assigned, though you are also welcome to contact the course organiser too.

Semester One courses	Semester Two courses
Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing (Richmond)	Discourse Analysis (Zhao)
Dialects of English in Britain and Ireland (Maguire)	Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language B/D (Van Bergen)
First Language Acquisition (Chondrogianni)	Historical Linguistics (Los)
Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language A/C (Van Bergen)	Language Variation and Change (Ramsammy)
Online Experiments for Language Scientists (Smith)	Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Description (Arnold)
Origins and Evolution of Language (Spike)	Phonological Theory (Molineaux)
Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology (Remijsen)	Scots and Scottish English (Maguire)
Pragmatics (Rohde)	Second Language Acquisition (Sorace)
Reading Old English (Van Bergen)	Simulating Language (Kirby)
Semantic Theory (Uegaki)	Speech Production and Perception (Turk)
Speech Processing (Lai)	Speech Synthesis (King)
Statistics and Experimental Design (Cummins)	Syntax: Theory and Practice (Sailor)

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 and that the prerequisites for any course chosen are met. You should seek your Personal Tutor's or the Teaching Director'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.

Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language (A/B/C/D)

A description of the Guided Research seminars running in each semester is available via <https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/linguistics-and-english-language/current/undergraduate/handbooks>. If you opt to take any of the Guided Research courses, you will be asked to rank your preference for which seminars you want to take.

Dissertation in Language Sciences

All Single Honours students (as well as some students on Combined Honours degrees) write a 40-credit Dissertation of 7,000 - 10,000 words within Linguistics and English Language in their fourth year. Remember that students expecting to choose an experimental or survey-based topic for their Dissertation are strongly advised to take the Statistics and Experimental Design course.

Possible dissertation topics and supervisors, etc. are discussed in a meeting towards the end of your third year. You should contact prospective supervisors over the summer and your topic and supervisor must be finalised by 4th October 2021. Throughout the year, your individual supervision sessions will be complemented by a series of activities on research methods and other skills to help you while you do the research and writing for your dissertation, as well as a series of opportunities to discuss your progress with the dissertation convenor and with other students.

For your dissertation research, you are expected to follow the LEL ethics guidelines. The process you must follow will be explained to you in the research methods component of the dissertation course. Every dissertation project involving human subjects, or the use of any other pre-existing data which has ethical implications, will require ethical approval. If neither of these applies to your project you do not need to seek ethical approval.

Key dates for 2020-21 dissertations

4 Oct 2021 (12 noon)	Deadline to confirm dissertation topic and suggested supervisor
4 Nov 2021 (12 noon)	Deadline for ethics submission – through the PPLS ethics system
6 Dec 2021 (12 noon)	Deadline for first written submission: either a plan of the dissertation or, if the dissertation involves an experiment, experimental design – through the dissertation Learn site
21 Jan 2022 (12 noon)	Deadline for submission written submission: either a draft of a literature review or another piece of writing as agreed with your supervisor – through the dissertation Learn site.
30 Mar 2022 (12 noon)	Final deadline for submission of full dissertation through Learn
27 April 2022 (all day)	The Dissertation Conference 2022

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) UK time. We reserve the right to alter deadlines if necessary.

Semester 1 courses

Course organiser

[Computer Programming for Speech and Language Processing](#) [Dr Korin Richmond](#)
(LASC10079)

Assignment 1 due 14th October 2021
Assignment 2 due 2nd November 2021
Assignment 3 due 7th December 2021

[Dialects of English in Britain and Ireland](#) (LASC10085)

[Dr Warren Maguire](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 18th November 2021
Assignment 2 due Thursday 9th December 2021

[First Language Acquisition](#) (LASC10029)

[Dr Vicky Chondrogianni](#)

Assignment 1 (data analysis) due Thursday 4th November 2021
Assignment 2 due Thursday 16th December 2021

[Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language A](#) [Dr Linda Van Bergen](#)
(LASC10111) – Year 3

[Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language C](#)
(LASC10116) - Year 4

Annotated bibliography or short practical assignment due Thursday
11th November 2021
Essay or assignment due Wednesday 15th December 2021

[Online Experiments for Language Scientists](#) (LASC10115)

[Prof Kenny Smith](#)

Annotated bibliography due Thursday 11th November 2021
Project due Thursday 9th December 2021

[Origins and Evolution of Language](#) (LASC10031)

[Dr Matt Spike](#)

Assignment 1 due 25th November 2021
Assignment 2 due Thursday 20th January 2021, 12 noon (UK time)

Phonetics and Laboratory Phonology (LASC10090)

Dr Bert Remijsen

Weekly reading reports due weekly on Thursday weeks 1,3,5,6,7 and 9

Lab Reports due weekly on Thursday weeks 2, 4 and 8

Project due Thursday 2nd December 2021

Pragmatics (LASC10067)

Dr Hannah Rohde

Homework 1 due Thursday 21st October 2021

Homework 2 due Thursday 11th November 2021

Final Assignment due Thursday 9th December 2021

Reading Old English (LASC10049)

Dr Linda Van Bergen

Assignment 1 due Tuesday 23rd November 2021

Assignment 2 due Monday 13th December 2021

Course exercises (Learn tests) due 5pm Monday weeks 4, 5 and 6

Group exercise due Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Semantic Theory (LASC10110)

Dr Wataru Uegaki

Assignment 1 due Thursday 28th October 2021

Assignment 2 due Thursday 9th December 2021

Speech Processing (LASC10061)

Dr Catherine Lai

Assessment 1 (Report) due Tuesday 9th November 2021

Assessment 2 (Report) due Monday 13th December 2021

Class test due Friday 17th December 2021 (to complete in 24 hour period)

Statistics and Experimental Design (LASC10033)

Dr Christopher Cummins

Assignment 1 (group project/interview) due Thursday 11 November 2021

Assignment 2 (individual assessment) due Thursday 9 December 2021

Semester 2 courses

Course organiser

[Discourse Analysis \(LASC10114\)](#)

[Dr Sumin Zhao](#)

Data Analysis due Wednesday 2 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Project due Wednesday 27 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

[Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language B \(LASC10112\) – Year 3](#)

[Dr Linda Van Bergen](#)

[Guided Research in Linguistics and English Language D \(LASC10117\) – Year 4](#)

Annotated bibliography or short practical assignment due Tuesday 22 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Essay or assignment due Thursday 28 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

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

[Professor Bettelou Los](#)

Assignment 1 (Learn test) due Thursday 24 February 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Assignment 2 due Thursday 21 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Course exercises – due weekly throughout course

[Language Variation and Change \(LASC10102\)](#)

[Dr Michael Ramsammy](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 3 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Assignment 2 due Tuesday 26 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

[Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Description \(LASC10050\)](#)

[Dr Laura Arnold](#)

Participation in elicitation sessions due in-class throughout course
Assignment 1 due Thursday 24 February 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Assignment 2 due Wednesday 27 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

[Phonological Theory \(LASC10088\)](#)

[Dr Ben Molineaux Ress](#)

Assignment 1 due Monday 28 February 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Assignment 2 due Monday 25 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Learn questions – due weekly

[Scots and Scottish English \(LASC10072\)](#)

[Dr Warren Maguire](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 24 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)
Assignment 2 due Thursday 28 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

[Second Language Acquisition \(LASC10030\)](#)

[Prof Antonella Sorace](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 10 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 2 due Thursday 28 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

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

[Professor Simon Kirby](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 10 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 2 due Thursday 7 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

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

[Prof Alice Turk](#)

Reading Reports due weekly in-class

Assignment 1 due Thursday 3 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 2 due Thursday 14 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Final assignment (time-limited test) provisionally due Thursday 5 May 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

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

[Dr Simon King](#)

Assignment 1 due Thursday 14 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 2 (time-limited test) due Friday 20 May 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

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

[Dr Craig Sailor](#)

Homework assignments due weekly each Tuesday, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 1 due Wednesday 23 March 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Assignment 2 due Wednesday 27 April 2022, 12 noon (UK time)

Labs

If you are taking courses with labs or tutorials, you will be automatically allocated a place in a tutorial/lab group by the end of Week 1 of the relevant semester. Some allocations may take place in Welcome Week for semester 1 courses.

Moderation of marking

Each assessment or exam is subject to a moderation process, involving a second member of the academic staff. This is designed to ensure that the marks are fair and consistent and that they conform to the University's Common Marking Scheme. Occasionally, systematic issues arise in which the marks for an assessment fail to conform to the Common Marking Scheme. In such a case, the examiner and moderator will review the evidence and recommend appropriate action such as rescaling the marks or re-marking. The Board of Examiners and the

External Examiners ultimately have oversight in ensuring that the resulting marks conform with the University's requirements and to national standards.

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. His 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](#).