Linguistics (LING)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract
Research on language has proven to be one of the most fruitful means to cast light on the nature of the human mind and general cognitive capacity and has taken on a new momentum in the last 30 years. The Maryland Linguistics (http://ling.umd.edu/) program builds on these recent developments and trains students thoroughly in a research enterprise which tries to develop a detailed answer to these questions: How is a person's linguistic capacity represented in the mind, how does that representation reflect properties which are encoded genetically, how is language acquired by young children, how can language be encoded as a computational, psychological or neurological system, and how can linguistic knowledge be used to improve human language technology?

The Department of Linguistics (http://ling.umd.edu/) at the University of Maryland has an internationally recognized Ph.D. program. The Department combines current theoretical research in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics with state-of-the-art experimental research in psycholinguistics, first language acquisition, language processing, neurolinguistics, and computational linguistics. An interdisciplinary background enables students to evaluate proposals critically and make a lasting contribution to the field. Many students choose to split their major and minor areas between theoretical and experimental linguistics. Many students also choose to concurrently pursue the Certificate Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (https://nacs.umd.edu/students/landingtopic/nacs-certificate). The department also hosts an NSF-supported interdisciplinary training program on "Biological and Computational Foundations of Language Diversity" (see website for more information).

The Department encourages applications from students with an interest in the Department's areas of expertise. Students with a primary interest in Neurolinguistics and Cognitive Science may also want to consider applying to the Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (https://nacs.umd.edu) (NACS) Ph.D. program. See the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Laboratory (http://ling.umd.edu/psycholinguistics) for more details on alternative programs of study for psycholinguistics.

Contact
The Department's website, Maryland Linguistics (http://ling.umd.edu/), contains a good deal of information on the program, but if you have further questions about Graduate Study in the Department, you should contact Dr. Jeffrey Lidz (jlidz@umd.edu). Alternatively, if you have a particular interest in the research of an individual faculty member, you may want to contact that person directly via email.

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Courses: LING

Admissions

General Requirements

• Statement of Purpose
• Transcript(s)
• TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students [https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements])

Program-Specific Requirements

• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• CV/Resume
• Supplementary Application [https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/gradschool.umd.edu/files/uploads/admissionsforms/umdsupplementaryapplicationling.pdf]
• Writing Sample: Up to 3 sample submissions, uploaded to the Upload Requirements section of the application.

All students must hold a Bachelors or Masters degree (or international equivalent) prior to starting the Ph.D. program. Although the student’s previous degrees may be in a field other than linguistics, it is essential that a student have some previous experience in linguistics.

Applicants should check the University’s admission requirements [https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions] and the department’s web site [http://ling.umd.edu/graduate] for the most up-to-date information on graduate applications. Electronic submission of application materials is strongly preferred. Applicants are encouraged to submit the initial on-line application form well before the application deadline, preferably by mid-December, since this form must be processed before an applicant is able to submit other electronic materials. Note that the January 5th target date applies to all applicants, domestic and international.

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website: [www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/admissions)

Application Deadlines

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<th>Type of Applicant</th>
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<td>Domestic Applicants</td>
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<td>US Citizens and Permanent Residents</td>
<td>4 Jan</td>
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<td>International Applicants</td>
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<td>F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants</td>
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Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at http://www.ling.umd.edu

Requirements

• Linguistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/linguistics-ling/linguistics-phd]
• Linguistics, Master of Arts (M.A.) [https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/linguistics-ling/linguistics-ma]

Facilities and Special Resources

In addition to university and departmental library facilities, linguists at Maryland have ample office and meeting spaces. The department has outstanding resources for interdisciplinary research that bridges theoretical, experimental, and computational linguistics. The Cognitive Neuroscience of Language ([http://ling.umd.edu/psycholinguistics](http://ling.umd.edu/psycholinguistics)) (CNL) Laboratory has the specific purpose of bridging the gap between theoretical/computational models of human language and the brain-level mechanisms that support language. The research in the CNL Lab combines the study of linguistics, cognitive neuroscience, language acquisition and psycholinguistics, genetic disorders and computational modeling. The CNL Lab is housed in around 5000 sf. of labs and offices and includes the following:

1. Event-Related Potentials (ERP) Lab: 128-channel Neuroscan ERP facility for recording electrical signals originating in the brain by measuring electrical activity at the scalp.
2. Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Lab: a 160-channel whole-head MEG facility that is used for non-invasive measurements of the magnetic fields associated with neuronal activity in the brain.
3. Head-mounted Eye Tracking Lab: lightweight eye-tracker suitable for use with children and adults.
5. Center for Young Children: state-of-the-art on-campus preschool for 3-6 year olds, with testing rooms suitable for study of language acquisition.
6. Infant Language Lab: for testing infants and young children.

In addition to the facilities available at the CNL Lab itself, Maryland linguists have taken advantage of the many additional research opportunities in closely affiliated departments and institutions, in particular at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), located in nearby Bethesda, Maryland. These include fMRI brain imaging, PET brain imaging and TMS (transcranial magnetic stimulation) at NIH, and aphasia research in collaboration with NIH researchers.