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 human cognition. Building on recent developments in the field, the Maryland Linguistics (https://linguistics.umd.edu) program trains students to pursue and answer research questions about language as a component of the mind. How do particular languages reflect general properties of our linguistic capacity? How is this capacity instantiated in the mind, as a computational, psychological or neurological system? How does it reflect properties which are encoded genetically, and how does it support the acquisition of languages by young children? And how can linguistic knowledge be used to improve human language technology?

The Department of Linguistics (https://linguistics.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/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.

Students seeking a Ph.D. in other areas of linguistics may want to consider a range of other strong programs at the University of Maryland. The PhD program in Second Language Acquisition (https://sllc.umd.edu/sla/), based in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, has a strong cognitive science and research focus. Students with a focus on ESL should consider the Applied Linguistics and Language Education Program (https://education.umd.edu/academics/departments/tlpl/llsi/applied-linguistics-and-language-education-phd/), based in the College of Education. Students with a clinical focus should also consider the Hearing and Speech Sciences Program (https://hesp.umd.edu/).

Students interested in human language technology and computational linguistics should also consider the PhD programs in the iSchool (https://ischool.umd.edu/) or the Department of Computer Science (https://acadmiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/computer-science-cmsc/). The Computational Linguistics and Information Processing (https://wiki.umiacs.umd.edu/clip/index.php/Main_Page/) (CLIP) laboratories contain state of the art computing facilities and data resources.

Financial Assistance
Initial offers of admission and financial aid are normally made in February-April. Further offers are sometimes made at a later date, if additional funds become available. In recent years, approximately 6-8 new students have started the Ph.D. program each year.

Financial aid (tuition + stipend) is available on a competitive basis. The department aims to provide graduate students with financial aid (stipend + tuition) during their full course of study (5 years), provided that the student makes satisfactory academic progress. Graduate funding comes from a number of sources. The Department offers Graduate Assistantships (GAs) and Research Assistantships (RAs). GAs typically involve teaching service in undergraduate linguistics courses. RA positions typically involve research associated with a grant-supported faculty research project. Also available are Graduate Fellowships. The University offers a number of these to outstanding applicants, which release the student from GA or RA responsibilities for 1-2 years of study. Other sources of funding are occasionally available through the Department or University. Also, a number of students come to the Department with funding of their own from external fellowships.

Fellowships and GAs generally provide 10 credits of tuition remission respectively per semester. In additions to tuition remission, the Graduate Assistantship comes with Health benefits. The student is responsible for approximately $440.00 in mandatory student fees per semester.

The Department sets aside a portion of its operating budget to support travel by faculty and graduate students to present papers at conferences. Any member of the Department can request support for this purpose. Graduate students may also apply for university travel awards for this purpose.

Contact
The Department’s website, Maryland Linguistics (https://linguistics.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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Website: https://linguistics.umd.edu

Courses: LING (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/ling/)

Admissions

General Requirements

• Statement of Purpose
• Transcript(s)
• TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students)

Program-Specific Requirements

• Letters of Recommendation (3)
• CV/Resume
• Supplementary Application
• 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 and the department’s website 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 online 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 7th 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

Type of Applicant     Fall Deadline

Domestic Applicants
US Citizens and Permanent Residents     8 Jan

International Applicants
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants     8 Jan

Application Deadlines

Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at https://linguistics.umd.edu

Requirements

• Linguistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
• Linguistics, Master of Arts (M.A.)