

## Programme Specification

**BA English Language and Linguistics with Foundation**  
**For students entering Foundation year in September 2027**

**UCAS Code: Q312**  
**UFENLGXLSFY**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

|                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Awarding Institution           | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution           | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme            | 4 years               |
| Accreditation                  | N/A                   |
| QAA Subject Benchmarking Group | Linguistics           |

### Programme information and content

This programme provides students with a thorough understanding of how language works and how people use language in the real world. It also provides them with a range of practical skills (such as analytical skills, written, oral and multimedia communication skills, problem solving skills and skills associated with in groups), which they can apply to a range of different workplaces. The course includes a wealth of opportunities to practice applying the knowledge and skills learned to real world problems in a variety of contexts including education, media, politics, business, digital technology, and everyday life and relationships.

The course aims to produce graduates with sound critical understanding of language, and more importantly, graduates with a global perspective, an understanding of different cultures, an awareness of how language impacts issues of equity and social justice, and a range of analytical and communication skills to underpin their life-long personal development and enhance their employability. The range of optional modules allows students the opportunity to specialise in particular aspects of English Language Studies such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language teaching, language and gender, and language and media. Throughout the course, students are also trained to produce a variety of different genres from written reports to digital videos.

As language forms the basis for nearly everything we do, graduates are well placed to find employment or pursue further study in a wide range of careers such as language teaching, speech and language therapy, communication and media, writing and content creation, public relations and marketing, management, and public service.

This programme begins with a Part 0. This is a Foundation Year that offers modules specifically designed to support students in building the research and study skills needed for undergraduate work. At the end of Part 0, students will have the option to continue their degree in English Language and Applied Linguistics, or you may have the option to move to other programmes available within the School of Literature and Languages.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| <p>Because of the particular focus on employability, throughout the course students are given the chance to use what they have learnt in workplace situations through, for example, a year-long placement module in Part 2, opportunities for mini-placements embedded in many optional modules, and the opportunity to choose a semester-long Professional Communication Project. The final year includes compulsory module in Language and Professional Communication designed to prepare students to find a job.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Foundation year:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Provides a broad, immersive learning experience. In addition to the standard modules, you will be supported by a central skills module and a subject specific skills development module. These modules will provide you with the knowledge, experience and study skills needed to succeed in a BA Programme within the School of Humanities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Part 1:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Provides a basic grounding in the description and analysis of language as well as a broad overview of the scope of English Language and Linguistics and the role of language in social life. It also equips you with various skills necessary for university level work, for instance effective verbal communication and academic writing, analytical and research skills, time management and digital literacies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Part 2:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Provides further grounding in the core subjects in linguistics: Grammar and Syntax, Phonetics and Phonology, Discourse Analysis, and Sociolinguistics. As you are studying these subjects, you also learn and practice different methods for conducting research in linguistics. A variety of optional modules allows you to pursue more specialised areas of enquiry from interdisciplinary perspectives, including language teaching, language development, language and the media, and language in society and culture. Modules also encourage the development of transferable skills such as teamwork, giving oral presentations, critical thinking, negotiating and so on. You are also provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement, as well as the opportunity to study abroad for a semester. Part 2 students also begin the process of identifying their Dissertation topics or identifying companies/organisations with which to pursue their Professional Communication Projects. |
| Placement/Study abroad year:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Students may be permitted to transfer to a programme with Study Abroad / Placement Year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Part 3:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Gives you the opportunity to conduct supervised, independent research on a specialised topic for the Dissertation or a Professional Communication Project, in which they apply what they have learned to conducting a practical project for a company or organisation. In conducting the Dissertation or Professional Communication Project they receive support and advice from their supervisor on a one-to-one basis. There is also an additional suite of optional modules on more specialised topics taught at a more in-depth and advanced level that enable you to enhance your critical, analytical and transferable skills.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Programme Learning Outcomes - BA English Language and Linguistics with Foundation**

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

| <b>Learning outcomes</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                        | Explain the principles of phonological contrast, the organisation of the sound system of the English, and the principles for the description of English grammar, lexis and discourse                                                                        |
| 2                        | Examine the main areas of applied linguistic enquiry, the role of linguistic knowledge in personal, political and social decision making, and a wide range of specialist areas in which linguistic principles are applied                                   |
| 3                        | Identify ways in which the mind acquires, stores and processes language, drawing on theories from linguistics, psychology, speech science and neuroscience.                                                                                                 |
| 4                        | Apply knowledge and methods from one area of study to others, where appropriate and develop a critical and nuanced appreciation of issues.                                                                                                                  |
| 5                        | Critically assess a) theories of language and society and their application in a variety of social contexts, b) contrasting arguments and claims, and c) primary and secondary applied linguistic sources, in addition to challenging received conclusions. |
| 6                        | Plan, carry out and present an extended independent investigation of a research topic, and develop creative intelligence with? independent interpretation.                                                                                                  |
| 7                        | Write a phonological transcription of an English speech sample, parse English sentences and transcribe stretches of discourse using appropriate discourse analytic conventions.                                                                             |
| 8                        | Examine written and spoken discourse including multimodal texts and interpret linguistic information contained in large electronic corpora.                                                                                                                 |
| 9                        | Incorporate in-text references in writing and develop reference lists.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10                       | Utilize IT (including word processing, internet search and communication and database analysis) and library resources.                                                                                                                                      |
| 11                       | Manage time and work as part of a team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12                       | Critically evaluate language and society in effective communication in a range of career and professional contexts                                                                                                                                          |

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

| <b>Additional Learning outcomes</b> |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| N/A                                 |  |

**Module information**

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

**Foundation modules:**

| Module | Name                                                             | Credits | Level |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| EN0FN  | Film Narrative                                                   | 20      | 0     |
| EN0GID | Global Identities                                                | 20      | 0     |
| EN0LFC | Learning for Change: Academic Skills and Sustainable Development | 40      | 0     |
| LS0ILC | Introducing Language and Communication                           | 20      | 0     |

Students must select an additional 20 credits from a list provided by the School of Humanities.

**Part 1 Modules:**

| Module | Name                                          | Credits | Level |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| LS1ELS | English Language and Society                  | 20      | 4     |
| LS1GL  | Globalization and Language                    | 20      | 4     |
| LS1SG  | Sounds, Grammar and Meaning                   | 20      | 4     |
| LS1TAL | Techniques and Skills for Applied Linguistics | 20      | 4     |

Remaining credits will be made up of modules from an approved list.

**Part 2 Modules:**

| Module | Name                          | Credits | Level |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
| LS2DAN | Discourse Analysis            | 20      | 5     |
| LS2EGP | English Grammar and Phonology | 20      | 5     |
| LS2SLG | Sociolinguistics              | 20      | 5     |

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics or modules from an approved list.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

| Module | Name                                   | Credits | Level |
|--------|----------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| LS3LPC | Language in Professional Communication | 20      | 6     |

Students take either LS3DI Dissertation (40 credits) or LS3PCP Professional Communication Project (20 credits). The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the School of Literature and Languages or modules from an approved list.

### **Placement opportunities**

N/A

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, seminars, tutorials and practical classes depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work and fieldwork.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests) and oral examinations. Additionally, you will be asked to produce mini research projects, designing or evaluating materials, portfolios, reflective journals, blogs, project outputs.

Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

## **Progression**

### *Foundation Year*

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BA English Language and Linguistics, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

## **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including study abroad / Placement Year*

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad / Placement Year: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

## **Additional costs of the programme**

Additional costs on textbooks £121 (approx.)

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant**

**module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the  
University of Reading.**

BA English Language and Linguistics with Foundation for students entering Foundation  
year in session 2027/28

17 July 2026

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