Human society cannot exist without language. Both the PhD and MA programs in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, housed in the School of Linguistics and Languages Studies (SLaLS) at Carleton University, emphasize the central role that language plays in educational, workplace and other social contexts.

Students can draw on one or both of the fields of applied linguistics and discourse studies to suit their own study and research goals. Our comprehensive graduate programs are unique in North America as these two fields are typically housed in different departments or faculties at other universities.

Both the PhD and MA programs are grounded in research and address practical and theoretical language-related issues relevant to language learners, educators, researchers, policy-makers and communication professionals. Both programs emphasize hands-on research involving close collaboration between students and faculty members.

At the master’s level, we also offer a professional ESL teacher certification option as well as specializations in African Studies and Digital Humanities.

The PhD program focuses on the following areas: second and foreign language teaching and learning, including Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL); the nature, learning and teaching of written discourse and literacies; the analysis of written, oral and multimodal discourse; and sociolinguistics.

DEGREES OFFERED
MA, PhD

CAREER OPTIONS
Many of our graduates have accepted academic positions and/or continued their studies in education, literacy, rhetoric, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics and other fields at distinguished universities in Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Oman, South Korea, the UK, the USA and other countries. They teach in schools, colleges, universities and community programs all over the world. They also work as researchers, learning specialists, policy advisers and ESL instructors, and as writing coaches in government, educational institutions, corporations and non-profit organizations.

“Professors’ support far exceeded what I expected when I entered the program. Whether I needed advice on assignments or direction with my research and my career path, I found the professors exceptionally supportive and understanding.”
— Sebastien Cloutier, MA/14

FALL APPLICATION DEADLINE
MA: March 1, in order to be eligible for funding
PhD: February 1, in order to be eligible for funding

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
MA: A BA honours degree in a discipline involving the analysis of language or the study of language use or learning, or a three-year BA degree in a relevant discipline combined with a BEd or CTESL. A minimum of B+ in related courses and a B overall in academic work are required. Relevant professional experience may also enhance a candidate’s application to the MA program.

PhD: A master’s degree in applied linguistics, composition and rhetoric, discourse studies, teaching English as a second language, writing studies, or an acceptable equivalent field, with at least an A- average. Applicants whose academic preparation has deficiencies in certain areas may be admitted to the PhD program with the requirement that they take additional courses.

carleton.ca/slals