GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN

Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies

Our graduate programs are unique in North America.

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.

My graduate studies in SLaLS gave me a solid, multidisciplinary foundation in theory, research, and academic writing, and the wonderful faculty, staff, and students gave me the confidence to put them to good use in my career as an educator.

- Christina Doré, MA 2014, PhD 2021



Fall Application Deadline

MA: February 1 PhD: January 20

Domestic applications will be considered after the deadline depending on space and 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.

Contact Info

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