

Career info session
Nov. 17th, 2015

1 Jobs

2 Graduate schools

3 Applying

- Comprehensive understanding of language and linguistic theory
- Analytical skills in all aspects of language (sounds, words, sentences, meanings)
- Critical/analytical thinking and problem solving skills
- approaching topics and problems from various perspectives
- analyzing multiple dimensions of a problem
- identifying problems and developing solutions
- Capacity to think creatively, logically and quantitatively
- Project management and research skills: observe; interview; collect data; process, synthesize and interpret vast amounts of data

Areas of employment

Educational institutions

- linguistics professor, lecturer
- language instructor
- project director, coordinator or administrator
- research assistant

Language institutions

- language instructor
- language learning and teaching program developer
- curriculum and materials developer
- test developer

Publishing firms

- editor or proofreader
- acquisitions editor

Marketing

- product names

Tech

- Natural language processing
- Machine translation
- Speech recognition
- Speech synthesis

Areas of employment

Healthcare profession

- Speech-language pathologist
- Speech therapist
- Audiologist

Government

- foreign language instructor (military, intelligence)
- translator, interpreter

Law and order

- forensic linguist

Language documentation and revitalization projects

- endangered languages: document, protect, preserve
- language revitalization: compile grammar, teach language

CTESL: David Wood

Where to look?

- Career Centre (Carleton) www1.carleton.ca/career/
- Linguist List linguistlist.org
- LSA (Linguistic Society of America) www.lsadc.org
- CLS (Canadian linguistics association) www.cla-acl.ca

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- Linguistics
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Cognitive Science (Carleton)
- Applied Linguistics & Discourse Studies (ALDS) (SLaLS)
- Education

Core theoretical courses

- Phonology, syntax, semantics
- Subdisciplines
 - Computational linguistics
 - Fieldwork, descriptive linguistics
 - Historical/comparative linguistics
 - psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics

Master's program locations

- Canada (English): BC, Alberta, Western Ontario, Toronto, McGill, Dalhousie
- Canada (French): Montréal, Ottawa, Laval
- United States
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Requirements vary: plan ahead!

- Carleton: MCogSc & PhD
- Five disciplines: linguistics, psychology, philosophy, computer science, neuroscience

- MA, PhD program
- TESL/TEFL, second language acquisition, language education & assessment, academic writing. . .
- MA: coursework, research essay or thesis paths

Outline

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First question: is grad school for me?

- Undergraduate vs. graduate studies
- Degree of specialization
- Importance of research (ideas, initiative)
- Interaction with faculty
- M.A. vs. Ph.D.
- Program length
- Requirements (coursework, generals papers or comprehensive exams, thesis)

- Depth vs. breadth
- Some programs are narrower, more focused, and more coherent than others
- Many programs focus on particular theories or frameworks
- Structured sequence of courses vs. independent program

- Plan ahead
- Inform your professors
- Build a CV (Curriculum Vitae)

Typical requirements

- Application form
- CV
- Statement of interest/research
- Writing sample
- Reference letters
- Transcripts
- GRE

Your CV is a record of all your accomplishments and should include:

- titles of term papers, independent study research papers, theses
- topics of Special Topic courses
- scholarships and awards
- TA and RAships
- volunteer work

Keep your CV to academically relevant topics!

Statement of purpose

- A statement of your concrete professional and research goals
- Needs to show that you have specific interests and accomplishments, but also broader curiosities and openness to learning
- Avoid writing your autobiography. You may mention personal things (e.g. how you got interested in speech pathology), but I wouldn't put it in the first paragraph.
- Example of rhetorical structure:
 - 1 I'm interested in the speech of autistic children.
 - 2 I'd like to do a research project on how music therapy can aid with the development of sentence-level prosody in autistic children.
 - Say here what is known and not known about this topic, and what your project would contribute
 - 3 I'm also interested more broadly in the effectiveness of music therapy, and in other communication issues that autistic children face.
 - Perhaps give brief descriptions of other projects you might do
 - 4 I became interested in these topics because my brother is autistic, and that's where my passion comes from.

Statement of purpose (cont'd)

- Writing well (i.e. clearly) is important—work hard on polishing your statement, give it to others, etc.
- Try to match your interests with university, but don't go overboard (avoid flattery)
- Overworked admissions committees like brevity!

- Demonstrates ability to do research
- Can be work in progress (e.g. honours thesis) or a paper from a previous course (but it may need revision)
- Ask your professors for advice
- Ideally, should be a paper with your own research/ideas rather than lit review

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