Career info session
Nov. 17th, 2015
Outline

1. Jobs

2. Graduate schools

3. Applying
Your skills

- 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
Areas of employment

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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Graduate schools

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

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!
Cognitive science

- 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
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Applying

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)
Graduate school

- 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
Applying

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

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.
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!
Writing sample

- 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
Eva Kartchava