

Carleton graduate programs in linguistics

We launched brand-new graduate programs in linguistics in fall 2020!

- MA in linguistics
- PhD in linguistics, language documentation, and revitalization
- GDip (Graduate diploma) in linguistics

Masters in linguistics

- 2-year MA in linguistics
- Focus on core theoretical linguistics, with exposure to interfaces
- Thesis stream (encouraged), essay stream (also available)
- Courses:
 - 0.5 in sound, 0.5 in structure, 1.5 electives (0.5 in LING, 1 free)
 - 2.5 thesis
 - (Essay has more courses)
- Admissions:
 - BA in linguistics or related field
 - B+ in field, B overall average
 - Accelerated pathway available (1 credit overlap with undergrad degree, two 5000-level courses required)

PhD in linguistics, language documentation and revitalization

- Work with endangered or minority languages
- Flexible, individualized program
- Courses:
 - 1.0 documentation; 0.5 revitalization, 1.5 electives
 - 7.0 thesis
 - Admissions: MA in linguistics, A– minimum

For students in other graduate programs doing work related to language

- ALDS, Anthropology, CogSci, English, French
- Courses:
 - 0.5 in sound, 0.5 in structure, 1.5 electives (0.5 in LING, 1 free)
 - Capstone exam designed to your needs and interests

Two key things we look for in an application:

- 1 Evidence that you are strong academically
- 2 Evidence that you can get things done

What goes into an application:

- Transcripts and CV
- Letters (2 for MA, 3 for PhD, 1 for GDip)
- Statement of intent
- Writing sample
 - Piece of academic writing ideally in linguistics (or related field for MA)

Statement of intent

- research plan, including specific ideas for research projects you could undertake at the graduate level, and general description of research interests in linguistics;
- (for PhD) a description of your interest in language documentation and revitalization, including specific languages, communities, and/or areas you plan to work with;
- names of one or two SLALS faculty members who could serve as supervisors, and an explanation of how your research interests fit with theirs;
- description of relevant background and experience that demonstrates your potential to succeed in graduate school.

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 Carleton is a great place for me to study, because Professor Johnson has done a lot of work on music therapy, and Professor Smith has worked on autism and speech disorders
- 5 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 brief, easy-to-read, well-organized statements!

- Merit-based scholarships (1000–3000k, depending on GPA)
- TAs (was \$10,783 for 2 semesters last year)
- RAships from faculty
- External funding: OGS, SSHRC