

Programme specification

BA (Hons) English Language and Languages

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| <i>School:</i> | School of Languages & Linguistics |
| <i>Entry from:</i> | 2018 <i>in:</i> September |
| <i>Awarding institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Teaching institution:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Delivery location:</i> | York St John University |
| <i>Programme/s accredited by:</i> | Not applicable |
| <i>Exit awards:</i> | BA (Ord) English Language and Languages Diploma of Higher Education English Language and Languages Certificate of Higher Education English Language and Languages |
| <i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i> | English Language and BSL QQ13 English Language and French Q3R1 English Language and German Q3R2 (suspended from 2018 entry) English Language and Japanese QT32 English Language and Spanish Q3R4 |
| <i>Joint Honours combinations:</i> | choose an item: |
| <i>QAA benchmark group(s):</i> | Linguistics, English, English Language (HEA) Languages, Cultures and Societies: 2015 |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i> | Full-time for 3 years Part-time for 6 years |
| <i>Language of study:</i> | English |
| <i>Study abroad opportunities:</i> | Yes |

Introduction and special features

English Language English language/Linguistics concerns the study of language from a broad range of perspectives, including the way speech is articulated, how language is structured and related to meaning, and how it relates to speakers' intentions and purposes in social interaction. As well as studying how speakers and writers use language, Linguists also study social attitudes to language, and the way language functions to express identities and cultural values. New forms of communication, such as email, texting and instant messaging, have opened up new and interesting fields for the study of Language as a form of social behaviour. The English Language programme at York St John is distinctive in its focus on real-world applications for language study. Taking a workshop approach, we offer you ways to apply theoretical knowledge to real data, and show how Linguistic concepts and issues have vocational relevance in the working world. Graduates of the programme go on to careers in many varied fields where language use is of paramount importance – for example, teaching, speech and language therapy, journalism, marketing and PR, publishing and administration – as well as to do postgraduate research. You will be able to tailor your choices to suit your interests and needs, following pathways that are more scientific and technical, more social and cultural, or more creative and media-oriented.

Languages The joint honours (JH) Languages degree sits within YSJ Languages provision which forms part of the School of Languages and Linguistics in the Business School. The JH Languages degree enables you to pursue your chosen language whilst studying another discipline thus greatly enhancing your employability in an increasingly diverse and international job market. Studying Languages at YSJU offers you a flexible and applied approach to language learning, emphasising

communication, transferable skills and the opportunity to fully acquire knowledge and understanding of different cultures and language communities. British Chamber of Commerce reports and annual Confederation of British Industry (CBI) education and skills surveys regularly show that employers value graduates with the skills that our Languages programme offers, from specific language competence to cultural awareness and adaptability.

Distinctive programme features:

- Flexibility to concentrate just on one language or study two by taking an extra language module at Level 4 or as an extra-curricular course.
- Study Abroad as an integral part of the programme for students of French, Japanese and Spanish at a partner institution in a country where your main language of study is spoken.
- Opportunity to study BSL as part of a Joint Honours degree.
- External BSL Signature national accreditation alongside University credits.
- At Level 4, the Languages Carousel module will give you the opportunity both to try out new languages and to reflect on your own language learning skills and preferences.
- Use of e-Portfolios, including video and multimedia work, as a key feature of language modules, for the purpose of both learning and assessment.
- Opportunity to undertake a work placement in a languages-related context.
- Opportunity to get involved with language initiatives designed to promote languages in schools, outreach and the wider community.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [undergraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- A-level or equivalent in French if you wish to study French as your main language.

The programme is not suitable if you have already achieved C1 (graduate threshold) level of the Common European Framework for Languages (CEFR) in the language you wish to study, or if this is your first language. For BSL, the programme is not suitable if you already have Signature Level 2 or higher.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aims

English Language

1. To develop an understanding of the theories, trends, philosophies and practical applications of the fields of study related to English Language and Linguistics;
2. To understand how the component topics of your degree subject relate to each other and are underpinned by a set of core linguistic concepts;
3. To enable you to place your chosen area of study into the wider context of academic study;
4. To provide opportunities for you to relate your field of study to your particular needs, interests, circumstances and present or future employment;
5. To foster a lasting interest and enjoyment in the study of English Language and Linguistics;
6. To provide progressive opportunities you to develop as a co-operative and independent learner;

7. To enable you to develop competence in key transferable skills, such as information-gathering, understanding, analysing and evaluating theories and their practical applications;
8. To enable you to develop your skills in communication, team-work, self-management and organisation and problem-solving so that your personal and work-related experiences are significantly enhanced thereby;
9. To provide you with recognised qualifications to undertake further academic study and to compete successfully in a diverse employment market.

Languages

1. To develop your linguistic competence and confidence in a language (or more) other than English;
2. To deepen your knowledge and understanding of the different cultures and language communities of the languages encountered;
3. To provide you with opportunities to engage with other cultures and people of those cultures;
4. To enable you to place your chosen area of study into the wider context of academic study;
5. To enable you to relate your field of study to your particular needs, interests, circumstances and present or future employment;
6. To foster a lasting interest and enjoyment in the study of languages;
7. To develop your ability to work both co-operatively and as an independent learner;
8. To develop key transferable skills, such as information-gathering, understanding, analysing and evaluating theories and their practical applications;
9. To equip you with communication, team-work, self-management, organisation and problem-solving skills, so that students' personal and work-related experiences are significantly enhanced;
10. To provide you with recognised qualifications and language skills to compete successfully in a diverse job market and/or undertake further academic study.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 4

English Language

1. Within the field of Linguistics demonstrate an appreciation of the nature of a theory and of what constitutes an explanation;
2. Specify and illustrate some of the core analytical concepts relevant to areas of linguistic analysis;
3. Recognise the ethical issues involved in the collection of data from informants in the field or from subjects in the experimental laboratory ;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of some of the issues involved in the basic techniques of data analysis;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of argumentation;
6. Cite evidence appropriately;
7. Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills appropriate to the audience and purpose
8. Demonstrate a range of basic key skills including numeracy, ICT and study skills appropriate to both lifelong learning and employment in communication related contexts;
9. Reflect upon past and present experiences and learn from them, with a view to lifelong learning.

Languages

1. Use the target language for purposes of understanding, expression and communication as described on the CEFR at a higher level than the entry point;
2. Demonstrate explicit language knowledge at the appropriate competence level;

3. Understand aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the target language is used;
4. Effectively use language reference materials, such as grammars, dictionaries and on-line resources;
5. Identify and plan individual strategies for language learning;
6. Work autonomously in a structured environment;
7. Work creatively and flexibly with others as part of a team;
8. Communicate effectively using a range of skills appropriate to the audience and purpose;
9. Apply a range of basic key skills and literacies including study skills ICT, digital literacy and information literacy appropriate to both lifelong learning and employment in communication related contexts;
10. Reflect upon past and present experiences and learn from them, with a view to lifelong learning.

Level 5

English Language

1. Demonstrate an understanding of some alternative analyses of a given data set;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of selected issues and problems and the type of data that are relevant to their solution;
3. Identify the technical issues involved in the collection of reliable data;
4. Present and interpret different forms of information, evidence and data appropriately for academic purposes;
5. Communicate effectively using a range of basic skills appropriate for academic audiences and purposes;
6. Demonstrate a range of basic key skills including numeracy, ICT and study skills appropriate to both life-long learning and employment.

Languages

1. Further develop the target language for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication as described on the CEFR at a higher standard than the Level 5 entry point;
2. Demonstrate explicit language knowledge at the appropriate competence level;
3. Critically reflect on aspects of intercultural awareness, understanding and competence in situations and locations where the target language is used;
4. Have a critical understanding of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the target language is used;
5. Develop mediating skills, qualities of empathy, self-reliance, initiative, adaptability and flexibility.
6. Identify and plan individual strategies for learning;
7. Work increasingly autonomously, manifesting self-direction, self-discipline and time management;
8. Communicate effectively using a range of skills appropriate for a variety of audiences and
9. purposes;
10. Have a critical understanding of work-based learning;
11. Apply a range of key skills and literacies including ICT, digital literacy and information literacy appropriate to both lifelong learning and employment in communication related contexts.

Level 6**English Language**

1. Demonstrate the ability to acquire and make flexible use of some of the basic concepts, information, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of Linguistics;
2. Proficiently use some of the basic generic and subject specific intellectual qualities ie:
 - be able to communicate the results of your work;
 - present a structured and coherent argument;
 - access and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data.
3. Demonstrate an ability to evaluate the appropriateness of certain approaches to problem solving associated with the discipline;
4. Work autonomously within a structured environment;
5. You will have had the opportunity to acquire as defined in the modules specified for the programme:
 - Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment related to Linguistics
 - Skills necessary for the communication of information
 - Skills necessary for the exercising of personal responsibility and decision making

In addition for the honours degree:

6. Describe and critically evaluate some of the central components of formal models in relation to areas of Linguistics;
7. Apply under guidance selected techniques in data elicitation;
8. Demonstrate a creditable understanding of data and analyses and be able to use them under supervision;
9. Offer some critical assessments of the relationship between data and theory;
10. Critically assess the potential of some particular theoretical areas for offering explanations of language in use.

Languages

1. Display high competence in one language and ability to use it for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication as described on the CEFR at a higher standard than the Level 6 entry point;
2. Demonstrate explicit language knowledge at the appropriate competence level;
3. Critically evaluate aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the language is used and opportunities for using the language(s) in social and work environments;
4. Demonstrate a critical awareness of interdisciplinary connections;
5. Display autonomy and self-management as a learner, identifying plans and achieving individual strategies for learning;
6. Engage in research activity independently;
7. Access electronic resources and use information and communication technologies appropriately;
8. Communicate effectively using a range of skills appropriate for a variety of audiences and purposes;
9. Confidently apply a range of key skills and literacies including academic writing skills, ICT, digital literacy and information literacy appropriate to both lifelong learning and employment in communication related contexts.

Programme Structure**Level 4**

English language modules at level 4 provide a basic 'toolkit' for linguistic study, which will underpin study at level 5. A pass in 1LL210 and 1LL207 is compulsory for progression.

Language modules include two compulsory modules in your chosen language (one in each semester) at the appropriate entry level, based on your existing experience and qualifications in the language. The optional modules include the Languages Carousel, which involves learning

three new languages in 12 weeks, and another language module, which could be a completely new language or one with which you already have some experience. Level 4 therefore gives you the opportunity to expand the knowledge of your main language, and also, if you wish, get a flavour of a new language. It also introduces you to associated cultural differences and language systems.

Level 5 and Study Abroad

It is expected that students of French, Japanese and Spanish will spend a year, or at least semester 1, abroad. This will prove crucial, not only to significantly enhance your competence and fluency in the given language, but also in developing awareness and critical understanding of another culture and society. You will normally take modules at the host institution in both of your JH subject areas. These modules will normally provide you with the equivalent of 60 YSJ credits in semester 1 and 40 YSJ credits in semester 2. Should you be unable to study abroad for a full year, there will be the opportunity to spend the first semester abroad studying the target language and the second semester at YSJU.

The opportunity to study abroad is a privilege and approval for study abroad will be given during level 4 and will be subject to satisfactory progress. In exceptional cases, if a student is not deemed suitable for study abroad, the Subject Director, in consultation with the Head of School, may not approve it. If you are unable to study abroad, you may be able to transfer to the English language and linguistics BA (Hons) programme or the Language Studies exit award.

If BSL is your main language, you are not required to study abroad; instead, you will be encouraged to actively engage with the BSL users' community in the UK. If you wish, you may apply to spend one semester abroad studying English language.

Students studying abroad will normally take modules at the host institution. Where insufficient modules are available, you will take one or more 'Study Abroad' modules. In semester 2 of level 5, you will normally take a workplace module: either 2LA031 Languages in the Workplace, or 2LL206 Language at Work. Students who are abroad take 2LA031 Languages in the Workplace. There may be some particular circumstances where an exemption is appropriate, for example, if you are retired and no longer in need of careers orientation. In such circumstances it may be possible to take an alternative module. This decision is at the discretion of the programme team, and, in particular, the Subject Director.

Beyond the compulsory modules, students who are not abroad can exercise choice across level 5, opting for those areas in which you see interest value and a fruitful knowledge base for your future development. You may also choose a language in your second year at a level higher than beginners.

Level 6

At Level 6, you will take two compulsory modules. If French/Japanese/Spanish is your main language, you will take a module in your main language in semester 1 and The Professional Linguist module in semester 2. The Professional Linguist module is designed to prepare you for the world of work using languages and has a special focus on the development of translation skills in the workplace. If BSL is your language, you will continue developing your language skills by taking an advanced BSL module in Semester 2.

You may opt to take your dissertation in either of your programme areas, and may choose a 20 or 40 credit dissertation. The dissertation module for language is the Languages Research Project over two semesters, which gives you the opportunity to explore an area of interest related to the target language/culture, as well as to develop the data collection, analysis and presentation skills highly valued by employers. In line with University regulations, failure of the dissertation prevents students from achieving an Honours award, but you may be eligible for an Ordinary degree if you have the required number of credits.

Programme Structure Grid

| Code | Level | Semester | Title | Credits | Status of Module* |
|--------|-------|----------|--|----------|-------------------|
| 1LL210 | 4 | 1 | Introduction to English Language and Linguistics | 20 | CP |
| 1LL201 | 4 | 1 or 2 | Semantics and Pragmatics | 20 | O |
| 1LL202 | 4 | 1 or 2 | Introduction to Language and Society | 20 | O |
| 1LL207 | 4 | 2 | Language Structure: Grammar | 20 | CP |
| 1LL205 | 4 | 1 or 2 | Multilingualism | 20 | O |
| 1LL206 | 4 | 2 | Language Structure: Phonetics | 20 | O |
| 1LXXXX | 4 | 1 | Language module (in main language) | 20 | C |
| 1LXXXX | 4 | 2 | Language module (in main language) | 20 | CP |
| 1LXXXX | 4 | 2 | Language module (other than main language) | 20 | O |
| 1LA011 | 4 | 1 or 2 | Language Carousel | 20 | O |
| 2XXXX | 5 | 1 | Modules offered at partner university | up to 60 | O |
| 2XXXX | 5 | 2 | Modules offered at partner university | up to 40 | O |
| 2LL200 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Language Acquisition | 20 | O |
| 2LL201 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Language and Literacy | 20 | O |
| 2LL202 | 5 | 1 or 2 | World Englishes | 20 | O |
| 2LL203 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Analysing Talk | 20 | O |
| 2LL204 | 5 | 1 | Language, Gender and Sexuality | 20 | O |
| 2LL205 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Analysing Media Texts | 20 | O |
| 2LL206 | 5 | 2 | Language at Work | 20 | C ¹ |
| 2LL208 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Psycholinguistics | 20 | O |
| 2LL209 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Sociolinguistics | 20 | O |
| 2LL210 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Phonetics and Phonology | 20 | O |
| 2LL211 | 5 | 1 or 2 | e-communication | 20 | O |
| 2LXXXX | 5 | 2 | Languages Options | 20 | O |
| 2LL212 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Study Abroad 60-CR | 60 | O |
| 2LL213 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Study Abroad 40-CR | 40 | O |
| 2LL215 | 5 | 1 | Study Abroad A 20-CR | 20 | O |
| 2LL218 | 5 | 2 | Study Abroad B 20-CR | 20 | O |
| 2LL216 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Forensic Linguistics | 20 | O |
| 2LA031 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Languages in the Workplace | 20 | C ¹ |
| 2LA041 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Study Abroad Module (40cr) | 40 | O |
| 2LA061 | 5 | 1 or 2 | Study Abroad Module (60cr) | 60 | O |
| 2LBSXX | 5 | 1 | BSL Language Module | 20 | C |
| 2LBSXX | 5 | 2 | BSL Language Module | 20 | C |
| 2LBS09 | 5 | 1 | Sociolinguistics of British Sign Language | 20 | O |
| 3LL200 | 6 | 1 | Theories and Methodologies in TESOL | 20 | O |
| 3LL201 | 6 | 1 | English Accents and Dialects | 20 | O |
| 3LL202 | 6 | 1 | Attitudes to Language | 20 | O |
| 3LL203 | 6 | 1 | Language and Identities | 20 | O |
| 3LL204 | 6 | 1 | Language in InterAction | 20 | O |
| 3LL206 | 6 | 1 | Speech and Language Pathology | 20 | O |
| 3LL207 | 6 | 2 | Reflections and Connections in Linguistics | 20 | O |
| 3LL210 | 6 | 2 | Dissertation (40 credits) | 40 | O ² |
| 3LL211 | 6 | 2 | Dissertation (20 credits) | 20 | O ² |
| 3LXXXX | 6 | 1 | Language Module (in main language) | 20 | C |
| 3LA021 | 6 | 1 | Languages Research Project Part 1 | 20 | O ² |
| 3LA031 | 6 | 2 | Languages Research Project Part 2 | 20 | O ² |
| 3LA051 | 6 | 2 | The Professional Linguist | 20 | C ³ |
| 2LBSXX | 6 | 2 | BSL Language module | 20 | C ³ |

***C**: Compulsory, **CP**: Compulsory for progression to the next level, **CA**: Compulsory for award, **O**: option or **E**: elective.

¹If studying abroad, 2LA031 Languages in the Workplace is compulsory. If at YSJ, either 2LA031 Languages in the Workplace or 2LL206 Language at Work is taken.

²You must take: (a) 3LL210 Dissertation (40 credits) (b) 3LL210 Dissertation (20 credits), (c) 3LL208 ELT research project or (d) Languages research project part 1 and part 2.

³BSL students take a BSL module; French/Japanese/Spanish students take 3LA051 The professional linguist.

Learning, teaching and assessment

Our over-arching strategy on the programmes is the embedding of a range of skills within all modules. There is no separation of key skills or research skills in the programme, as we have found that students are more engaged when you have the opportunity to apply new skills in context from the outset.

Level 4

From your first weeks at university, you are engaged with information literacy, supported by the programme team and our Academic Liaison Librarian, who contributes to a range of our modules, including the compulsory module 1LL210. The programme team support digital literacy, for example, training students in the use of wikis, blogs and cloud-based document sharing services for academic collaboration. The programme team are very experienced in the use of web-based resources for teaching and learning; all modules are supported by well-populated and creative sites hosted on the University VLE.

At level 4, 1LL210 introduces the University's VLE alongside a wide range of other learning situations, including formal lectures, workshops and seminars, and tutorial support. Particular effort is made to acquaint students with the range of different ways that learning will take place on your degree. Assessment is also varied, including class tests, online tests and postings as well as oral presentations, essays and data analysis tasks. There is an examination at the end of level 4, for 1LL207.

Research skills are embedded in modules as students are introduced to library skills, academic writing, data analysis and using web tools for analysis.

Students are encouraged to use each other as a resource, as well as using the expertise of staff. The programme website supports the culture of a learning community, and you are introduced at the outset to its functionality. Peer and self-assessment both feature in level 4 modules.

For languages, you will benefit from a student-centred, blended approach which incorporates 33 contact hours for each module, consisting of tutor-led sessions, seminars, workshops and tutorials. Guided learning is emphasised at Level 4; this will assist you in becoming an independent learner and will help you prepare for assessment.

You will be made familiar with electronic resources and tools right from the start of the programme. The compulsory Languages module in Semester 1 introduces the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), languages resources in the library and the Languages Workshop. You will also learn how to use e-Portfolios, thereby enhancing your IT skills.

The *Languages Carousel* acts as a key skills module and will help you reflect on how languages are learnt, as well as introduce you to academic writing, referencing and reflective practice. At this Level, particular effort is made to acquaint you with the range of different ways that learning and assessment may take place in Higher Education and to equip you with key

research skills. Students are also encouraged to use each other and speakers of the language as a resource, developing peer support.

In terms of assessment strategies, foreign language modules are assessed by means of e-Portfolio and oral assessment, whereas BSL modules are assessed by a signed exam and a portfolio of video work.

You will have timetabled group tutorials with your academic tutors once in each semester; at level 4, focus is typically on academic writing and referencing.

Level 5

Work at level 5 is characterised by more contexts where you determine the direction of your work. This may be, for example, where tutors ask you to find your own data to explore, or set up your own research direction within material. Research skills are embedded within modules, for example, work on ethics, project design and argumentation skills. The presentation of work is expected to be more professional; and oral presentations more accomplished.

If you study abroad, your academic and personal skills will be developed whilst studying in a foreign institution where you will experience different teaching, learning and assessment practices from YSJU. You will learn to rise to the challenges of living and studying abroad and you will return a more confident and mature student enriched by the immersion in another culture. During this time, you may develop your research skills at the host institution or through the *Study Abroad Module* whose portfolio of assessment includes a small scale research project.

Level 6

Skills and subject knowledge introduced at level 4 and enhanced at level 5 are consolidated at level 6. You are expected to be maximally self-reliant and to learn how to use your tutors as one resource among many. In terms of subject knowledge, you are expected to be able to see some of the limitations of theoretical approaches, while also using knowledge gained over the previous two years to problem-solve and critically evaluate different linguistic phenomena. Research skills are increasingly present in modules, corresponding to project work concerning both written and spoken data undertaken at level 6, for example in 3LL201, English Accents and Dialects, 3LL204 Language in InterAction, and 3LL200 Theories and Methodologies in TESOL. You are supported in your dissertation by your supervisor, including in research skills where appropriate. You also carry out the independent reflective essay, drawing on tutorial support to enable you to make connections between aspects of your undergraduate programme. Group academic tutorials support research skills for dissertations and project work. Level 6 offers more career orientation through modules that have a direct application to a number of working contexts, for example, Theories and Methodologies in TESOL and Attitudes to Language.

In terms of language-learning, you are expected to be able to identify your own goals and progression pathway, to reflect on the language-learning process and transfer this knowledge to wider aspects of language use in a potentially global context. If you opt to take the two *Languages Research Project* modules which correspond to a 40-credit dissertation, you will receive input and training in research methods in the first part of Semester 1 as well as further support from your supervisor.

Level 6 offers more career orientation for foreign language students via the *Professional Linguist* module, which, although focused on translation, has direct application to a number of working contexts. This module is not aimed at BSL students, who will be working towards completing the nationally recognised Signature qualifications in BSL.

Assessment strategies at Level 6 are more varied. The *Languages Research Project* is assessed by means of a presentation in the target language and a research report in English

for students of BSL and Japanese, but in the target language for French and Spanish – albeit with a lower word count. For the *Professional Linguist* module you will undertake a translation project and an essay on current working practices in language-related contexts.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) choose an item: [awards](#) apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission Statement](#)
- [Strategic Plan 2015-20](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statement](#)
- [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [Common European Framework for Languages](#)

Date written / revised: 20/11/17

English Language and German suspended from 2018 entry)