

# LINGUISTICS

SFU.CA/LINGUISTICS

Bachelor of Arts  
Major  
Extended minor  
Honours  
Certificates

# LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION SOUNDS SPEECH PATTERNS MEANING CONTEXT SCIENCE

# LINGUISTICS

## CONTACT

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## Is Linguistics for you?

Linguistics is the scientific study of language—an important part of what makes us human. Have you ever wondered why language learning is so easy for infants, why it's much harder for adults, or how automatic translation and voice recognition work? Or what makes a joke work, or how to tell a story, or how we create meaning from sounds?

To answer these questions, linguists study the formal properties of language, how it evolves, and how it is used in social situations and other contextual considerations.

Linguistics covers a wide range of inquiry that includes how speech sounds are produced in our vocal tracts, the history of languages, and a deep look at the diversity of the world's languages and their surprising similarities. Linguists study linguistic shifts, changes, strategies, and rules.

Linguists can assist in the documentation of languages where very small communities of fluent speakers remain and assist in education design so that new learners can acquire that language and re-establish a vibrant community of language speakers.

## Where will you go from here?

The study of linguistics prepares you for a variety of career choices:

- Speech language pathologist/assistant
- Computational linguist
- Audiologist
- Forensic linguist
- Immigration officer

- Language specialist in the tech industry
- Communication specialist
- Librarian
- Translator/Interpreter
- ESL teacher/Language educator

Continue your study of linguistics in a graduate program to become a professional linguist, professor and researcher. Linguistics thoroughly prepares students for professional exams: linguists have the second highest LSAT scores among majors in business, arts and humanities, and the social and health sciences.

## Want to know more?

SFU has one of the largest and most diverse linguistics programs in Canada, including major and extended minor programs, graduate degrees, certificate programs in Speech Science and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), and the Indigenous Languages Program.

We offer courses focused on:

- Language learning and teaching
- Computational linguistics
- Neurolinguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Speech science
- Indigenous languages

Explore linguistics through our many introductory courses that require no prerequisites, and connect with our advisor to chart a course for your academic options studying linguistics.

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