



Australian
National
University

MASTER
DEGREE

Master of General & Applied Linguistics



CRICOS code: 108329M

Intakes: S1 and S2

Duration: 1.5 years FT

Prerequisites: none



1st
in Australia

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia
(and in the top 30 in the world) for
7 disciplines across humanities,
arts and social sciences.

*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

The human capacity for language is at the heart of the study of linguistics. The field encompasses the nature of different languages and the nature of language as a cognitive and social phenomenon. It asks questions such as: How do we communicate? In what ways are languages different and similar? How do we learn language?

You will focus on the nature and structure of language, as well as how to apply this knowledge in areas such as first and second language acquisition, communication within and across cultures, translation, forensic linguistics, language variation, language change, language assessment, language policy and dictionary-making.

The breadth of study areas is greater than typical Master programs in the field, with a range of subjects across applied, theoretical and descriptive linguistics.

You can explore the discipline, match your program to your interests and even incorporate your own language learning.

Career opportunities

Your Masters degree can lead to a PhD or advance your career in speech technology, education, translation and interpreting, language teaching, speech pathology, audiology, editing, language policy or language documentation.

Knowledge of how language works, how languages are learnt and what language does in society is relevant to a wide range of jobs and professions.

Key work-related skills developed in courses in the Master program are: language data collection and linguistic analysis, teaching skills, general research skills, writing skills and proficiency in another language.

Linguistics at ANU

The ANU is home to a team of world-renowned linguists. It offers the greatest variety of language expertise available in Australia. You will be immersed in a strong research culture through studies in research methodology and research project experience, as well as opportunities to

attend staff and student seminars. You will benefit from the expertise of the largest concentration of linguists in the southern hemisphere, including staff from two key research centres: The Institute for Communication in Health Care (ICH) and the Australian National Dictionary Centre.

Graduate students in linguistics and applied linguistics at ANU can pursue interests in:

- meaning, communication and cognition
- language and society
- language acquisition and educational linguistics
- a particular language or language family, including Australian Indigenous languages
- real-world contexts and issues in which language is central.

You have the option of studying one of 20 or more languages, whether you are a beginner or an advanced language user. You can also develop your academic English proficiency through specialised courses.

Learning outcomes

1. critically examine literature, theories, ideologies and applied practices relevant to diverse linguistic and sociocultural phenomena;
2. apply established theoretical frameworks to the identification, description, analysis and explanation of linguistic data and language use;
3. synthesise relevant literature and other information sources to form cogent interpretations and to identify research gaps;
4. apply research principles and methods to language-related questions; and
5. communicate clearly and knowledgeably about language-related topics to academic, professional and general audiences.

Cognate disciplines

Applied Linguistics, Audiology, Communication Studies, International Communication Studies, Languages, Language Teaching, Lexicography, Linguistics, Speech Pathology, TESOL from an Australian tertiary institution or its international equivalent, Translating/Interpreting

Admission requirements

- A Bachelor degree or international equivalent with a minimum GPA of 5/7 for the Master of General and Applied Linguistics
- All applicants must meet the University's English Language Admission Requirements

- Applicants with a Bachelor Degree or Graduate Certificate in a cognate discipline may be eligible for 24 units (one semester) of credit
- Applicants with a Graduate Diploma or Honours in a cognate discipline may be eligible for 48 units (one year) of credit.



Khadijah

Master of General and Applied Linguistics

Khadijah's research aimed to improve speech-language pathology services in multilingual contexts in Malaysia. She developed strategies and policy recommendations for speech-language pathologists to use when clients and therapists do not share a native language. After completing her degree, Khadijah returned to Malaysia and she now works in children's speech-language pathology. "After coming back, I became more critical and confident, especially when I want to make a clinical decision and consult my clients," Khadijah says. "I've learned to be more empathetic and to keep learning from my surroundings."

Further information

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