Get ready for BA(Hons) English Language and Linguistics

We're delighted to learn that you'll be joining us here at UWE Bristol. On behalf of the programme team, I warmly welcome you onto our BA(Hons) English Language and Linguistics course.

To help you get prepared for starting with us, I have put together some key information below. We look forward to meeting you in September!

Kate Steel
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website with more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the enrolment process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about enrolment, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Enrolment
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can enrol. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Enrolment for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Enrolment website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning
The beauty of studying language is that you can explore the varied and fascinating things that people say and write while going about your normal everyday life. Here are some suggestions to consider between now and September. Choose a few that appeal to your interests and give them a go:

- How polite can you be to Alexa or Siri (etc.) and still get the answer that you were looking for? (Ask for instance, "would you mind awfully if it's not too much trouble just telling me what the weather might be like tomorrow, if you get a chance?") Can the AI cope with the different human speech patterns that you throw at it? Are there ways of making requests of humans which an AI assistant simply can't understand?
- Compare some dating reality TV shows from the UK with those overseas. What are some differences in the ways that people offer and respond to compliments? Where do these differences stem from?
- Browse through some TED Talks on the topic of Language. At various points in the course, we will look at ideas brought up in some of these – and you'll see that while they might be persuasive, they aren't always right!
- Go through the archives of Word of Mouth (Radio 4) on the BBC Sounds website. You might like to start with episodes featuring our very own Prof. Richard Coates on names and naming.
- Notice the power dynamics involved when people of different status interact with each other. Shows like 24 Hours in Police Custody, The Traitors, or Mr Bates vs the Post Office are full of power imbalances which influence who can speak, when they speak, what they say and how they say it.
- Keep your eyes peeled for examples of prescriptive thinking about language in the press and/or on social media (including comments sections). Consider why the author wants to tell people what is right and wrong in language use.
- If you have any babies or toddlers in your life, can you detect any patterns in how they pick up and use different words and phrases? Are there certain word classes (verb, noun, etc) that they use more? How do they use language (both verbal and non-verbal) to get what they need from their caregivers?
- Read for enjoyment! Anything you like – non-fiction, historical fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, romance, etc. Get into the habit of reading regularly.

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you

to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the Library web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

In your first year, you will study four modules. The following list shows some of the books you may be asked to read. Please note that this is not a full list of next year's reading, but simply some suggestions to pique your interest. Be assured that there is *no obligation* to buy these books or to read them cover-to-cover before you start your studies.

- Sakel, Jeanette (2015) ***Study Skills for Linguistics***. Routledge
- Jones, Rodney (2024) ***Discourse Analysis: A Resource Book for Students*****.** Routledge.
- Bauer, Laurie, Holmes, Janet, and Warren, Paul (2006) ***Language Matters***. Palgrave.
- Yule, George (2022) ***The Study of Language.*** Cambridge University Press.
- Friedrich, Patricia (2019) ***Applied Linguistics in the Real World*****.** Routledge.
- Coulthard, Malcolm, Johnson, Alison, and Wright, David (2016) ***An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence***. Routledge.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

Specialist applications used on the course include: **Adobe Creative Cloud** (e.g., InDesign; license provided by the university); **EUDICO** Linguistic Annotator (freeware); **PRAAT** (freeware). These applications work on **Windows and Mac** devices but not on tablets or Chromebooks.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme Leader:

Kate Steel via email at kate3.steel@uwe.ac.uk

You can also follow us:

Instagram: @uwelinguistics
Linktree: https://linktr.ee/uweling

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026