English Language & Communication +

English Language & Communication
Single Honours Q100

English Language & Communication can be combined for Joint Honours with one of the following:
Acting & Screen Performance QW34
English Literature QQ13
History QV11
Philosophy QV15

Or as Combined Honours with two or three of the following:
A Language - see languages insert for full details
Acting & Screen Performance QW34
American Studies QT37
Creative Writing Q1W8
English Language Teaching Q1X1
English Literature QQ13
Film Q1PH
History QV11
Journalism Q1P5
Media Cultures Q1P3
New Media Publishing Q1GK
Philosophy QV15
English Language & Communication combined with any two subjects Q103
English Language & Communication combined with any three subjects QRVO

go.herts.ac.uk/Q100

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English Language & Communication

As a student in the School of Humanities, you will benefit from being part of a diverse and active academic community. This means that whatever your degree subject or subjects, there is a lot more on offer to enrich your studies and support your academic development. Here, student experience, research and community engagement are interdependent. So, you may find yourself working with lecturers on a community research project or collaborating with a student from a different subject on an area of mutual interest. By participating in these projects, you will develop your creative and professional skills and contribute to activities that are inspiring and career enhancing.

You will also have access to the wide range of modules and pathways that the School of Humanities is able to offer. You will take at least two subjects in your first year - and up to four if you want - even if you have applied for a single honours degree. This helps you to broaden your horizons and gain additional skills - both qualities that are highly valued by employers. You follow a common module in the first year, Engaging with the Humanities, which helps you find your feet in the academic environment, establish ways of working confidently, creatively and collaboratively, and explore areas of common interest between the individual subjects you are following.

Then there are the optional extras...

+ Co-curricular activities such as clubs and societies, research seminars, writing for the student papers, working on student radio
+ A year’s study abroad in Europe or America
+ Work placement

These activities will give you that something extra to put on your CV and help you succeed at that graduate interview.

English Language & Communication

As a student of English Language and Communication, you can take the opportunity to get involved in a variety of co-curricular activities from across the University. Not only do these enhance your experience as a student, they also make for a more impressive CV.

Ways in which your study of English Language & Communication at Hertfordshire can give you more include:

+ English Language & Communication Seminar series: this is held twice during the academic year and gives you the opportunity to find out what research members of the English Language & Communication group are involved in as well as attend lectures by specialists from all over the UK.
+ Research Culture: as well as being taught by staff who have good research records in the areas they teach, there are opportunities for students to get involved in research, in some cases even for payment as a student researcher.
+ Other Activities: Students can get involved in writing or editing articles for the internal student newspaper ‘Universe’ or using their communication skills in Crush Radio.

In addition, the field of English Language & Communication is particularly interdisciplinary in orientation. This means that many areas of research and study are relevant to other disciplines such as new media, sociology, education, psychology, business communication, foreign language and cultural studies, English literature, law and even computer science.

Find out more...

Come to an Open Day to meet tutors and students and see the facilities. You will find dates on the website. Do not be shy about emailing staff: they will be happy to help you.
go.herts.ac.uk/opendays

Year one modules

Semester A

Language Analysis
Assessment: 100% coursework
The module presents an introduction to some of the core areas of interest within the study of formal aspects of language.

Talk, Text, and Patwa
Assessment: 100% coursework
The focus of the module is “language in use”, it sets out to maximise the students’ individual awareness of language, to encourage their reflection on their own and others’ use of language, to observe language as used around them, and to produce (with basic categories of analysis). The context of this module is in three parts: first, face-to-face conversation between different speakers: native- and non-native speakers, children, teacher, doctor, patient, etc. The second element is language in the media, looking at the languages of journalism, the new literacies (e-mail, texting), and advertising with a view to distinguishing established and emerging styles, and bias.

Semester B

Talking to Others: Theory and Practice of Communication
Assessment: 50% coursework and 50% examination
The module promotes knowledge of and competence in communication skills. It starts from an analysis by each individual of their communicative range, as measured against an agreed template. It then presents a number of models of communication and assesses each according to purpose.

For the first part, it examines (principally on film) a number of contrasting situations in which people succeed/fail to communicate successfully, concentrating on face-to-face communication but also paying some attention to written language. Factors such as how topics are managed in conversation, how power is articulated in dyads, and in large and small groups, and gender, cultural and ethnic differences will be analysed. The second half of the module is devoted to improving students’ own communicative skills via largely practical exercises, role play, simulation and actual performance.

Language and Mind
Assessment: 50% coursework and 50% examination
The aim of this module is to enable students to gain insights into the relation between language and mind. The module addresses questions such as “Is language human-specific?”, “Does the way we think influence the way we think?”, “What processes take place in the mind that take us from the sounds we hear to the thought that was communicated and vice versa?”. Language and Mind and communication form an excellent basis for postgraduate study in Speech and Language Therapy and teaching.

Career Opportunities

Our graduates have an excellent record of gaining employment in media, publishing, teaching and information management where their skills in analysis, communication and evaluation are highly valued.

They have paid and unpaid work placements at BBC Three Counties Radio, Channel 4, Associated Press and many more. Our degree in English Language & Communication forms an excellent basis for postgraduate study in Speech and Language Therapy and teaching.

What is it like to study English Language & Communication?

English Language & Communication is taught in various ways, ranging from lectures attended by everyone on the module, to smaller seminar groups which allow for in-depth discussion among students, to workshops. Outside classroom hours, in addition to your private study, one-to-one tutorials and group work will further enhance your knowledge of the subject.

Our tuition is excellent, as demonstrated by our high scores in the National Student Survey. Our innovative modules are taught by a diverse group of staff with a range of research interests, encouraging students to explore and interpret different aspects of language, culture and society.

Not all modules are assessed in the same way. Depending on what is most appropriate for the module, your assessment might consist of an essay, a written analysis of a language transcript, a critical review, a group presentation or a poster presentation, or there might be a class test or an exam. In your final year, you have the opportunity to write either a long or a short dissertation on a topic of your choice.

"The way the course is structured, the content involved and the way the lecturers deliver the topic is outstanding." - Melissa Ellis