

Graduate Student Handbook: Linguistics MA

Brigham Young University, Department of Linguistics 2024-2025

Welcome to the graduate programs in the Linguistics Department of Brigham Young University. We welcome you as friends and colleagues joining us in the development of our professions. We want you to feel accepted and comfortable at the University and in the community. If you have any difficulties that we can help you with, please contact your advisor, chair, the graduate coordinator, or the Linguistics Department secretary.

We are proud of our graduates. You will find them in a variety of work settings around the world. We hope that you will continually feel the stimulation that comes from new learning and experiences. We want you to succeed and will try our best to help you to do so. This graduate handbook is one of our ways of assisting you.

One peak of educational excellence that is highly relevant to the needs of the church is the realm of language. BYU should become the acknowledged language capital of the world in terms of our academic competency. . . . There is no reason why this university could not become the place where, perhaps more than anywhere else, the concern for literacy and the teaching of English as a second language is firmly headquartered in terms of unarguable competency as well as deep concern.

—Spencer W. Kimball, October 10, 1975



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Mission and Aims of Graduate Education in the Department of Linguistics

The mission of the Linguistics graduate program is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of general and applied linguistics. Students will gain competence in contemporary theory and practice with an emphasis on the four aims of a BYU education.



Spirituality Your double heritage and dual concerns with the secular and the spiritual require you to be “bilingual.” As LDS scholars you must speak with authority and excellence to your professional colleagues in the language of scholarship, and you must also be literate in the language of spiritual things. We must be more bilingual, in that sense, to fulfill our promise in the second century of BYU.

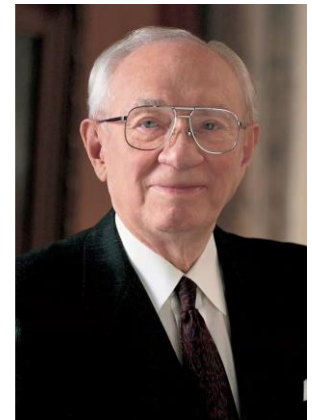
—Spencer W. Kimball, October 10, 1975

Department graduate faculty members will help students recognize the divine nature of the gift of language. They will encourage graduate students to seek the Spirit in their language studies and related academic experiences.

Intellect You represent in your presence on this campus the wisdom of all the world and of all time. Among you there is known most of the knowledge existing in the world today, whether it be of the stars or the universe, of the rocks of the earth, of the history of nations and peoples, of languages they speak, of the operations of governments, of the laws of economics, of the behavior of the atom, of the nature of electricity, of religion and ethics, of love and hate, of the myriad forces and influences controlling our existence.

—Gordon B. Hinckley, September 17, 1963

Department graduate faculty members will strive to foster the intellectual development of all students that they teach and mentor. They will encourage students to hunger and thirst for knowledge and wisdom. They will also help students acquire marketable skills in the field of language studies.



Building of Character Character is the aim of true education.... Character is not the result of chance, but of continuous right thinking and right acting. True education seeks to make men and women not only good mathematicians, proficient linguists, profound scientists, or brilliant literary lights, but also honest men with virtue, temperance, and brotherly love.

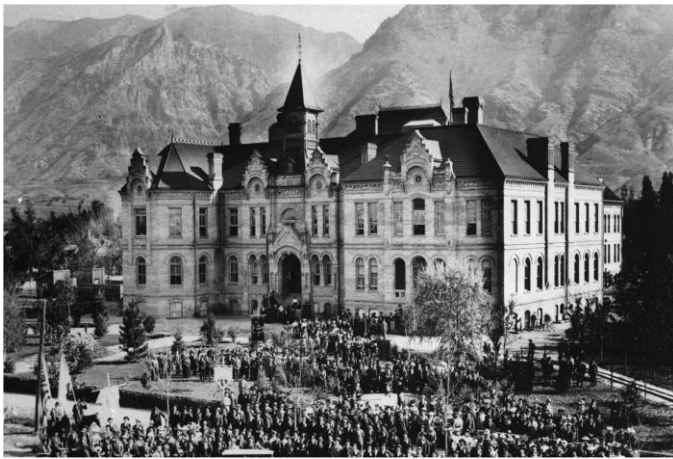
—President David O. McKay, September 1, 1967

Department graduate faculty members will encourage students to reach their potential and stretch their capacities by seeking opportunities to serve others while undergoing rigorous studies.

Lifelong Habits of Learning and Service This university will go forward. Its students are idealists who have integrity, who love to work in good causes. These students will not only have secular training, but will have come to understand what Jesus meant when He said that the key of knowledge, which had been lost by society centuries before, was “the fullness of the scriptures.” We understand, as few people do, that education is a part of being about our Father’s business and that the scriptures contain the master concepts for mankind.

—Spencer W. Kimball, October 10, 1975

Department graduate faculty and staff members will regularly complement their professional duties with family, community, and Church service. Graduate students will magnify their BYU education by working to reach their highest potential, by sharing educational opportunities with others, and by serving as ambassadors of peace and goodwill wherever their careers may lead them throughout the world.



The Context of the University

Brigham Young University is a private institution sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). It originated from the Brigham Young Academy; a teachers college founded in 1875. Although the Church did not directly sponsor the original academy, community and ecclesiastical leaders provided the financial foundation of the institution for many years. In 1903 the academy became a university, and the Church was its direct financial sponsor. Today the Church continues to provide the main financial support for BYU, and selected Church leaders are on the Board of Trustees. Active members of the Church contribute tithing (10% of income), which means that each tithe-paying member makes a significant financial contribution to the Church each year. The University recognizes this contribution by keeping tuition considerably lower than most other private universities, and the tithes of Church members pay about two-thirds of the cost of educating a student here. Students that are not members of the Church pay tuition about one-third higher than members, which is analogous to higher tuition for nonresidents at a state school where residents' taxes provide the main support.

A majority of students at Brigham Young University are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Religion classes provide spiritual education to complement the secular education of students. Many students are fluent in a language other than English. Ethical and moral values are very important to those who attend BYU. As part of the admissions procedure, all who apply have an interview with a Bishop or a clergy person of their choice in order to affirm their commitment to the university's standards. As part of the interview process, the Honor Code and the Dress and Grooming Standards are explained to the potential student. Those who enroll at the University agree to abide by these behavioral standards and must reaffirm this commitment in an annual interview.

The Purpose of this Handbook

Brigham Young University publishes a graduate catalog online (<http://saas.byu.edu/catalog>) that describes the university policies and procedures for graduate study. That catalog is the first and most important source of information for earning your graduate degree. This additional Graduate Handbook is provided by the Linguistics Department as a supplement to the BYU Graduate Catalog. This handbook describes policies and procedures that are unique to our department's graduate programs. It also provides, in a single document, useful information for our graduate students that exists in a variety of locations in different handbooks and websites.

Please send your comments, requests, or suggestions for the next edition of this handbook to linguistics@byu.edu.

Introduction to the Faculty

A very important part of your graduate education will come from working closely with faculty advisors and mentors. You need to become acquainted with the faculty so that you can not only choose the right topic for your MA thesis or project but also have the right advisory committee. Below are the names, photos, specialties, and contact information for all the faculty members in the Department of Linguistics. Outside the faculty office doors, you will also find their office hours. Information on the Affiliated Faculty can be found at <https://ling.byu.edu/faculty-staff-directory>. Every year, the Graduate Student Society also sponsors an activity designed to help students and faculty get to know each other better.



Baker, Holly

Editing & Publishing; History of Style & Usage Guides; Editing Pedagogy; Language Prescription

bakerht@byu.edu

4041 JFSB



Baker, Matt

Editing; Professional Writing; Content Analysis; Social Media

mattbaker@byu.edu

4045 JFSB



Brown, Earl

Linguistics MA Coordinator
Language Variation; Spanish;
Quantitative Methods

earl_brown@byu.edu

4052 JFSB



Chapman, Don

Old English Language & Literature;
History of the English Language;
Medieval Literature; Usage; Structure

don_chapman@byu.edu

4064B JFSB



Cox, Troy

Assessment; Language Proficiency;
Objective Measurement; Listening;
Speaking; TESOL

troy_cox@byu.edu

3095 JFSB



Dewey, Dan

Department Chair

Second Language Acquisition;
Psycholinguistics; fNIRS; Neurolinguistics;
Japanese

ddewey@byu.edu

4064C JSB



Eckstein, Grant

Second Language Writing; Writing Program
Administration; Rhetoric & Composition;
Eye Tracking; Writing Center Research;
TESOL

grant_eckstein@byu.edu

4064A JFSB

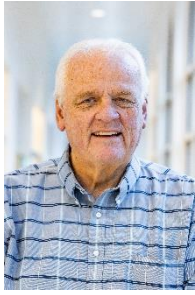


Elzinga, Dirk

Phonological Theory & Analysis; Uto-
Aztecan Languages

dirk_elzinga@byu.edu

4043 JFSB

**Evans, Norm**

TESOL Curriculum Development;
Language Program Administration &
Assessment; Second Language Writing

norman_evans@byu.edu

4048 JFSB

**Green, Jeff**

Neurolinguistics; Syntax;
Psycholinguistics; Sentence Processing;
Second Language Acquisition

jjgreen@byu.edu

4073 JFSB

**Hartshorn, James**

Second Language Acquisitions; TESOL;
Second Language Writing; IEP Program
Administration; Curriculum Development;
Research Methods; Assessment

james_hartshorn@byu.edu

4061 JFSB

**Hashimoto, Brett**

Corpus Linguistics; Forensic & Legal
Linguistics; English Grammar; Applied
Linguistics; Pragmatics; Vocabulary;
Language Assessment; TESOL

brett_hashimoto@byu.edu

4037 JFSB

**Johnson, Lisa**

Sociolinguistics; Language and Identity;
Language in Migration

lisamorganjohnson@byu.edu

4040 JFSB

**Nuckolls, Janis**

Kichwa Language & Grammar; Ideophony &
Sound Symbolism; Cultural Semantics;
Evidentiality; Language & Gesture;
Anthropological Linguistics

janis_nuckolls@byu.edu

4045 JFSB

**Oaks, Dallin**

English Linguistics; Structure of
English; Ambiguity; Old English
Language; Prescriptivism

dallin_oaks@byu.edu

4075 JFSB

**Parker, Jeff**

Morphology; Slavic Languages; Lexical
Processing

jeff_parker@byu.edu

4050 JFSB

**Rawlins, Jacob**

Editing; Linguistics Prescriptivism; History
of Publishing; Rhetoric; Professional &
Technical Communication

jacob_rawlins@byu.edu

4051 JFSB

**Rogers, Chris**

Language Documentation; Typology;
Historical Languages

chris_rogers@byu.edu

4047 JFSB

**Smemoe, Wendy**

Language Acquisition; Psycholinguistics;
Phonetics; Speech Perception & Production;
Sociolinguistics; Utah English

wendy_smemoe@byu.edu

4057 JFSB

**Stanley, Joey**

Sociolinguistics; Dialectology;
(Western) American English; Phonetics;
Quantitative Research Methods

joey_stanley@byu.edu

4059 JFSB

**Tanner, Mark**

Second Language Acquisition; TESOL;
Teacher Education; Sociolinguistics;
Language Learning Technology;
Pronunciation Pedagogy

mark_tanner@byu.edu

4063 JFSB

**Whiting, Miriam**

Language & Identity; Language
Planning; Editing & Publishing;
Discourse Analysis; Russian

miriam_whiting@byu.edu

4069 JFSB

Administration and Staff

Department Chair: Dan Dewey, (801) 422-6005

Graduate Manager: Sherri Hadfield, (801) 422-9010

GSS Faculty Advisor: Joey Stanley, (801) 422-9168

Linguistics Graduate Coordinator: Earl Brown, (801) 422-3970

TESOL Graduate Coordinator: Grant Eckstein, (801) 422-5946

Graduate Advisors and Committees

The department uses a committee system to advise and evaluate students in its graduate programs. Each student is appointed to an advisory committee upon admission. The role of the advisor/advisory committee is to both guide and evaluate students in their coursework, research, professional development, and overall performance. Students who wish to make an adjustment in the composition of their committee may do so with a Change of Program/Committee Form which is available on the department website and with the consent of the proposed committee members.

Advisory committees consist of at least three members: a committee chair (or the first reader) and two other faculty members (or the second reader and the third reader of a thesis). All members of the committee must have graduate faculty status. In those cases where a student declares a minor, a fourth committee member is necessary from the minor department.

Advisory committee members share in the responsibility of evaluating students in their progress through the program, and the committee gives final approval of the thesis for MA candidates. All committee members participate in events such as the prospectus meeting, the pre-scheduling meeting, and the thesis defense. Students should arrange an initial meeting with all three committee members as they begin the thesis process. Other meetings with the committee may be held as needed. Students should arrange a pre-scheduling meeting with all three committee members to discuss the completed thesis before scheduling the defense. Faculty members will not sign the defense scheduling form until they have read and discussed the completed thesis with the student and fellow committee members. Graduate students should plan the timing of their defense carefully because of the variability of faculty responsibilities, such as research leaves, administrative assignments, out-of-town conferences, and so forth. This is especially true in the spring and summer terms when faculty members may be unavailable. To facilitate communication, students should send a brief monthly email progress report to all three of their committee members. These emails are a critical criterion that graduate faculty discuss during student evaluations twice a year.

The thesis committee chair, as the first reader, has primary responsibility for mentoring a student in the thesis. The thesis is the student's responsibility; hence, the chair is an advisor, rather than a supervisor. The chair works with students but does not do the work for students. Students should become familiar with graduate school policies rather than expecting the chair to take the initiative. The chair will advise students with regard to the topic, focus, approach, methodology, results, content, organization, expression, format, and originality of the thesis. The chair also helps students to find opportunities for professional development.

The second reader has a secondary responsibility for mentoring a student in the thesis and professional opportunities. Generally, the second reader will review on-going work on the thesis after students have incorporated changes and suggestions from the first reader (chair). Students should consult with the second reader from time to time about the progress of the thesis several times before the scheduling of the defense.

Generally, the third reader will review on-going work on the thesis after students have incorporated changes recommended by the first reader and the second reader. The third reader responds to the thesis more as a finished product. You may have a fourth, non-graduate faculty member, on your committee if needed for specialized input.

Linguistics MA



In the Linguistics MA program, new students work with an advisory committee while they choose a thesis topic. As they narrow down their topic during their first two semesters, they may select (with the help of their committee chair) committee members that best match their chosen topic. These committee members will all accept this assignment on Graduate Progress (GradProg) online, which will finalize the thesis committee. This should be done by February 1. Any subsequent changes to the program or committee must be made on GradProg and approved by the committee and the Graduate Manager, Sherri Hadfield.

Any MA student who fails to create a program of study by the end of the second semester may receive an unsatisfactory rating for their second semester's evaluation. The thesis committee then mentors and evaluates students through the rest of their program.

Linguistics Program Learning Outcomes

The Linguistics MA program is designed to serve those seeking training in linguistic research and applications beyond the undergraduate major. The program serves the values and philosophy of our sponsoring institution (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) by training scholars and professionals who, we hope, will well represent the Church's general mission of truth seeking through first-rate research and service through practical applications of linguistic principles.

Students who complete the Linguistics MA program will have experienced:

- **Analysis Skills Development:** analyze linguistic data using appropriate (linguistic) methodology; be able to understand, interpret, analyze, and assess academic linguistic literature.
- **Professional Preparation:** demonstrate skills useful for employment or for future graduate studies (e.g. doctoral or other programs in computer science, Hispanic linguistics, applied linguistics, law, communication, marketing, etc.). Examples include corpus analysis, computer programming, quantitative and qualitative data analysis (including statistical procedures), editing, teaching second language, natural language processing, and translation.
- **Effective Presentation:** be able to make formal written and oral presentations on a linguistic topic.

Linguistics MA Degree Requirements

Admission and Entry

Apply online at <http://www.graduatestudies.byu.edu>. Application deadline is February 15th (only once a year), with the possibility for semester of entry in the fall (unless students need to take Ling 401 summer term).

Prerequisites

- A minimum TOEFL score of 580 (paper), 237 (computer), or 90 (internet based – iBT with minimum scores of 23 in Speaking and 22 in Listening, Reading, and Writing) is required prior to admission for nonnative English speakers.
- GRE score is *optional* with application.
- Ling 401 - Introduction to Linguistics (Modern) or equivalent. If you believe you have taken an equivalent course at another university, please send that course syllabus to the department secretary for evaluation at linguistics@byu.edu.
- Competency in two languages other than English: one language at the third-year university level (typically 300-level courses, for example GERM 301) or the ACTFL Intermediate-Mid level; and another language at the second year university level (typically 200-level courses,* for example ARAB 201) or the ACTFL Intermediate-Low level. Students who choose to have their proficiency measured in a certified language assessment, such as those offered by the Center for Language Studies, do so at their own expense. Native speakers of languages other than English can count their native languages towards this requirement. This requirement can be completed after starting the program along with regular course work, but it does not count towards the overall 33 credit program requirement. **Note: Despite its number, SPAN 105 at BYU is considered the first semester of second year university-level Spanish.*

Requirements for Degree (total credit hours: 33)

(An additional prerequisite course, LING 401, is required for students without a BA in linguistics.)

REQUIRED (15 HOURS)

LING 601 Linguistics Foundations: Sounds of Language (3 cr.)
LING 602 Linguistics Foundations: Structures of Language (3 cr.)
LING 603 Linguistic Foundations: Meanings in Language (3 cr.)
LING 604 Research Design in Linguistics. (3 cr.)

One from:

LING 651 Advanced Phonology. (3 cr.)
LING 652 Advanced Morphology. (3 cr.)
LING 653 Advanced Syntax. (3 cr.)
LING 654 Advanced Semantics. (3 cr.)

In order to allow some students to start specializing more quickly in our program, students with previous linguistic experience may replace LING 601, LING 602 and/or LING 603 with advanced electives. Students wishing to do so should contact the department for more information on how to make those substitutions.

ELECTIVES* (12 HOURS)

To be selected depending on course availability and in consultation with advisors. (Course cannot double count for foundation and elective)

LING 590R Readings in Linguistics. (1-3 cr.)
LING 615 Analogical Modeling of Language. (3 cr.)
LING 640 Language Acquisition. (3 cr.)
LING 651 Advanced Phonology. (3 cr.)
LING 652 Advanced Morphology. (3 cr.)
LING 653 Advanced Syntax. (3 cr.)
LING 654 Advanced Semantics. (3 cr.)
LING 545 Psycholinguistics. (3 cr.)
LING 550 Sociolinguistics. (3 cr.)
LING 551 Anthropological Linguistics. (3 cr.)
LING 558 Historical-Comparative Linguistics. (3 cr.)
LING 580R Problems in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. (1-3 cr.)
LING 581 Natural Language Processing. (3 cr.)
LING 585 Research in Corpus Linguistics. (3 cr.)

*Graduate ELING courses (500-600 level) approved by your Linguistics MA committee may be used as electives.

THESIS (6 HOURS)

Ling 699R Master's Thesis. (1-9 cr.)

EXAMINATION: ORAL DEFENSE OF THESIS (CONSULT DEPARTMENT FOR DETAILS)

Areas of Emphasis

Students can choose to focus on one of the following areas of emphasis:

1. Linguistics computing
2. Language acquisition
3. Language and society
4. General linguistics

Statement on Generative AI

The Department of Linguistics supports the [university-level statement](#) on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for academic and professional purposes. The department also expects students, faculty, and staff to follow the [Academic Honesty Policy](#). In addition, the department expects graduate students to follow [the Graduate Studies Statement on Use of AI](#).

The department encourages its instructors to clearly delimit what their expectations are with respect to the use or non-use of generative AI in their classes, and their students are encouraged to follow those expectations. Use of generative AI that is not consistent with the expectations of a given instructor is considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy.

Additional Requirements for Non-Native English-Speaking Students

In addition to the regular application requirements, all non-native English speaking graduate students are required to take the Ling 501 equivalency exam the first semester in the program. To take the test, go to the JFSB Testing Center in B153 JFSB and let them know that you need to take the Ling 501 test. The test will be scored within two weeks. A “pass” will complete this requirement. If a grade of marginal is received, further assessment will be needed. The student will be asked to turn in a previously written academic research paper following APA format. The exam must be taken before Thanksgiving break in November of the first semester, but the paper can be turned in by December 1st of the same semester.

All non-native English speaking graduate students are also required to complete an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) by the end of their first semester. You must receive an Advanced Mid to fulfill this requirement. This interview can be done more than once. Please contact the department office for more details about the OPI and how to set it up.

Evaluation of Graduate Students' Progress

At the end of Fall and Winter semesters, the department provides a progress report to the Office of Graduate Studies, rating each student's progress as one of three categories: Satisfactory, Marginal, or Unsatisfactory. While the evaluation of students' progress is made by their supervisory committee chair/thesis advisor, students who receive a **Satisfactory** progress rating typically do the following:

- they make consistent progress towards completing their coursework and maintain a GPA of at least 3.0;
- they communicate regularly with their thesis advisor about the progress of their prospectus or thesis;
- they are responsive to requests for updates from their thesis advisor.

Students will likely receive a **Marginal** or **Unsatisfactory** progress rating if:

- their GPA falls below 3.0;
- they make little or no progress in their coursework and do not communicate with their supervisory committee chair about the reason for the lack of progress;
- they do not maintain regular communication with their thesis advisor about the progress of their prospectus or thesis;
- they do not respond to requests for progress updates from their thesis advisor.

It is highly important to understand that students who receive a Marginal or Unsatisfactory progress rating two semesters in a row will be dropped from the program, per university policy.

Thesis Expectations

All theses will involve original research that is designed to answer a pertinent question in the field or to solve a relevant problem. A typical thesis might contain the following sections, with possible variation depending on the topic and upon consultation with the thesis chair/advisor:

An introduction to the problem or question

This section includes things such as context of the problem, significance of the question, rationale for the study, etc. It basically shows that there is a problem of some kind that needs a solution, and that the solution would be of value in the field of linguistics. It then states what the research question or purpose of this particular study is and how it will lead or help lead to the solution which is needed.

Review of literature

This section shows what has already been done by others that may relate to or be part of the solution to the problem that was identified in the first section. It should demonstrate clearly that the problem has not been decisively solved, but it should suggest possible solutions or answers as well as possible ways to approach finding solutions or answers. The section should not just be a listing of relevant literature, but it should be well-organized and structured, much as you would expect to find if this section were to stand by itself as a library research paper. The end of the review of literature should include a brief summary of what has been found up to this point and the specific research question(s) that this study intends to answer. Instead of research questions, the end of chapter two may also include hypotheses about what is expected to be found in the current study.

Research design or method

This section tells how the thesis writer conducted the current study in order to find the answer(s) to his or her research questions or the solution(s) to his or her research problem. The writer should tell what people (participants), materials (instruments), procedures, and analyses were used and why they were selected over other possibilities. The reasons why all were selected should show their relevance and similarity to the situations in which the original question or problem has arisen. The description of and rationale for how the research was conducted should be so clear that anyone could set up the same research and run the study again if necessary. If a pilot study is conducted prior to actual data collection, it is important to describe how the pilot was conducted and what changes occurred in the data collection instruments and research design based on this preliminary research.



Findings and discussion

This section may actually be divided into two chapters if necessary for clarity. The findings consist of the facts and figures which were gathered as part of the research. The discussion consists of explanations of those facts particularly as they relate to the research question or problem. It is the thesis writer's best interpretation (based on the data) as to what the answer to the research question or the solution to the research problem is.

Conclusion

This section consists of a brief reiteration of what the findings of the research are with regard to the research question(s) or hypotheses and a summary of how those findings should be applied, refined, and accepted with caution. The thesis should end with a discussion of limitations present in the study and suggestions for future research in this area of Linguistics.

All graduate students are expected to convene a committee meeting shortly after their thesis advisory committee is formed and prior to the start of data collection. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the committee to provide feedback on the review of literature, research questions or hypotheses, and to approve the research design and data collection instruments and procedures. After receiving approval from the thesis advisory committee, students should submit the appropriate documents to BYU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) if the study involves collecting any form of data from human subjects.



Process for Generating a Thesis

With the acceptance letter from the department, you will be informed which faculty members have been assigned as your initial chair and committee.

1. During the first semester, you should begin to actively read and document professional research articles and books in the range of subject areas that you might later choose for a thesis topic. You should also consider the interests of faculty members in this process and determine whom you will ask to serve as your permanent chair. During the second semester, you should narrow your potential topics by considering gaps in the research literature (thesis). In consultation with the Ling 604 instructor and permanent chair (if determined), you should narrow your list of potential research questions to one and utilize appropriate bibliographic references to generate a thesis prospectus of approximately 20 pages outlining the background of the question, the proposed methodology for answering the question, and what you expect to find.
2. After completing Ling 604, you should continue working with your thesis chair to complete a draft of the first three chapters of the thesis, including the data collection instruments and procedures to be used in the study. This material should then be distributed to the other committee members, and you should organize a meeting at which the entire committee is able to approve your research design. During this same time, you should also begin to format your thesis for future written and electronic (ETD) submissions. For specific information concerning ETD formatting, you should work closely with your chair and the department secretary. ETD information is also available in GradProg under "resources." There is an ETD class offered at the library that we highly recommend you take. The graduate office will email the dates to you at the beginning of each semester. The department secretary will also schedule a one-hour workshop on setting up styles in Microsoft Word which will help you pre-set the correct formatting styles as you begin writing your thesis.
3. If you are using human subjects as part of your research study, you must complete the appropriate forms to receive permission from BYU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) to proceed with the study. This material is available online from: <http://orca.byu.edu/irb/>.
4. You should work closely with your thesis chair to successfully complete your thesis. The chair is responsible for reviewing each chapter and providing feedback to you. The thesis should be submitted chapter by chapter to the thesis chair. It should never simply be submitted as a whole, since this does not allow for revisions along the way that could affect subsequent portions of the work. Of course, you can also obtain feedback from other committee members during the drafting and review process.
5. Two or three weeks before you are allowed to schedule your oral exam, you must submit the thesis to all members of your committee for defense approval. They should have at least two weeks to read it before certifying in GradProg that you are ready to defend, allowing you to schedule the defense. Be advised that finding a day and time when all your committee members are available can be a complicated and time-consuming process.
6. You should carefully proofread this preliminary draft for content, spelling, grammar, syntax, word choice, style, and other writing conventions. The primary responsibility of the thesis committee is to review the content of your thesis. They should not be required to address basic writing issues. You are therefore encouraged to utilize the university writing center, experienced proofreaders, and other such resources to improve the presentation and mechanics of your thesis prior to submitting it to the committee.

Graduate Student Society



Graduate student societies (GSS) at both the university and department levels provide students with opportunities to associate with each other and the faculty. The stereotypical image you might have of the individual genius scholar toiling away in some isolated attic apartment is pure myth. Successful graduate students get work done in groups. Be part of the group! Information on the university-wide graduate student society (the GSS website) is available at <http://www.byu.edu/gss/>.

At the department level, the GSS advisor is Dr. Joey Stanley (801-422-9168; joey_stanley@byu.edu). From time to time the GSS will circulate flyers and email messages about activities of the department-level society. Officers are nominated and elected once a year: two from TESOL, and two from Linguistics.

We strongly advise students to become familiar with and get involved with the activities of the GSS. As graduate students, you have committed yourself to professional-level work in the field of linguistic studies. Professionals make it a point to form societies and to interact with each other. Effective research and real-world applications of research never happen without collaboration of some kind with other professionals. You should begin this process of collaboration/interaction with your peers, your fellow students.

By talking together, working together, and socializing together, you and your fellow graduate students will find it easier to think like professionals, to gain insights on how you should proceed with your coursework, your own classroom teaching experience and/or with the research that will generate your thesis.



Program of Study Form

Program of Study

The Program of Study is the plan students make in order to complete all the courses needed to fulfill degree requirements. The Program of Study constitutes a contract between students and the University. It is a necessary step on the path towards graduation.

How to fill out a Program of Study

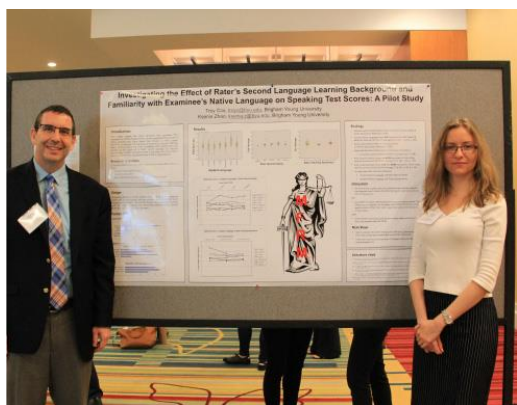
After you decide on your classes, review them with your advisor prior to inputting them in GradProg. You will also determine your thesis/project committee at this time and input that as well.

Due date for Program of Study

You will input your program of study by February 1.

How to change the Program of Study

You can make changes in your program if they are authorized by your advisor or committee. After clearing the change with your committee, email Sherri Hadfield with the change. Include the course(s) to be deleted as well as the course(s) to be added. If you delete a class that you have already taken and for which you received scholarship, you will not receive scholarship funds for the new class you are adding.



Relationship between your Program of Study and your Progress Report

Your progress report compares your individual study list with the courses you have actually taken. It summarizes your progress in your program: classes completed, current registration, classes still needed, and current grade point average. In addition, the progress report alerts you and your advisors to possible problems with academic status, GPA, prerequisites needed, minimum registration requirements, time limits, and so forth. Your progress report is available on AIM through myBYU.

Classes that can be funded by department scholarships

Any department scholarship funding you receive will cover tuition only for program pre-requisites and classes on your approved Program of Study form. Tuition for any additional courses (not on your approved Program of Study) must be funded from other sources.

Credit-hour requirements

You are required to take two credits during the semester you graduate (defend your thesis). You are required to complete a minimum of six credits per academic year (Fall semester through the next Summer term); otherwise, you will be dropped from the graduate program by the university.

Financial Assistance

Everyone who is accepted into the Linguistics Department's graduate programs is eligible for a partial tuition scholarship. The amount of the scholarship for each student is based on the number of credits that student is taking during the semester/term. It also depends on the total amount of money available and the number of students in the program. The scholarship amount varies between 30% and 70% of graduate tuition. Near the beginning of each semester, you will receive an e-mail from the department graduate secretary informing you how to apply for a department scholarship.

The courses applicable to your scholarship must be on your Program of Study. Please be aware that the total amount of loan, grant, and scholarship money received by a graduate student each year cannot exceed the estimated cost of education at BYU (which for this academic year is \$29,468 LDS and \$37,072 non-LDS. Any financial aid received by a student who has borrowed money through federal student loan programs this academic year in excess of the cost of education will be used to pay down student loans. For more information about scholarships available to graduate students, please visit <http://graduatestudies.byu.edu/content/funding>.

Deadlines

Fall Scholarships: end of June

Winter Scholarships: end of November

Spring/Summer Scholarships: end of February

The Graduate Research Fellowship

The Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) is a university award sponsored by Graduate Studies and is designed to support innovative research and creative works conducted by graduate students under the guidance of faculty advisors. Twenty-five to thirty GRF awards will be offered each year. The level of support is \$5,000, \$10,000, or \$15,000 for one year. This flexibility allows you to choose an appropriate level of support after consultation with your faculty advisor.

For eligibility requirements and application guidelines, please visit:

<http://graduatestudies.byu.edu/content/graduateresearch-fellowship>

Note: Students who receive stipend money should contact their department to make sure this award will not affect the amount received from the department.

Internships

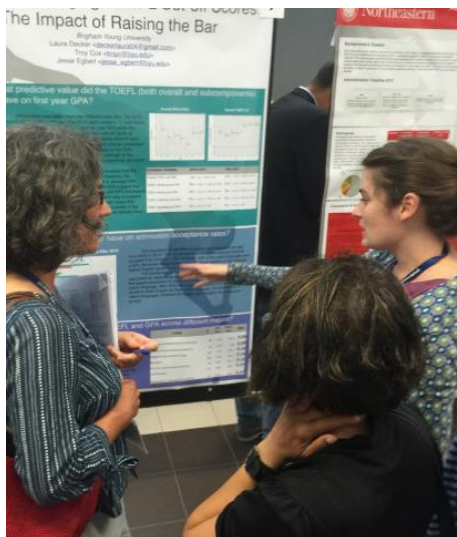
Although our graduate programs do not require them, on rare occasions, a qualifying internship can be very valuable educational experience. Internships allow students to make connections between the academic content they learn in their courses and the practicalities and constraints of the real world. In addition, internships often lead to post-graduation employment opportunities.

If you wish to do an internship (Ling 599R as one of your elective courses, check the information available online at <http://linguistics.byu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/MA-Internship-Prospectus-1.1-2.pdf> and then discuss your intentions with Dr. Brown (801-422-3970, earl_brown@byu.edu).

Research Funding

Research is an integral part of graduate student studies, so the department seeks to support that research with funding where needed. Graduate students can apply for funding for research that is related to their thesis. All research requests must be explained in detail on the Research Funds Application and endorsed by a faculty member. Funding requests will be reviewed by the research funding committee with priority given to projects that will be publicly presented at regional, national, or international academic conferences or written up for publication in peer-reviewed academic journals. Application forms are available in the department office, 4064 JFSB.

Travel Funding for Conferences and Research



Department funds (up to \$700 per graduate student per academic year) are available to partially fund graduate students for trips to professional conferences at which they are presenting. In order to receive the full \$700 support, students must present a paper or poster that has been accepted in a conference with the highest professorial or professional peer review standards accepted by the discipline. Students presenting at conferences, symposia or forums designed for graduate students will receive \$500. Students presenting posters at these same venues will receive \$300. To apply for this funding, you must first fill out a travel request form, which you can get from the department office. You should submit this form (along with a copy of your presentation acceptance letter or e-mail) well in advance of your conference trip so that funds can be apportioned and reserved appropriately. Please contact the department secretary for further information.

The College of Humanities also offers funding for graduate students (up to \$500) to travel to conferences when they are presenting. The college funding request forms are included in the department travel request form. BYU's Office of Graduate Studies also has funds to help graduate students attend and participate in professional, academic conferences. Graduate students presenting original research at conferences are eligible to receive a Professional Presentation Award (PPA) averaging \$500. PPAs are intended to enable graduate students to travel to important conferences within their discipline in order to present their scholarly and creative work. PPAs are awarded two times each year and are distributed within two months after the application deadline. The application deadline is in the middle of an award period which allows students to apply who have either already presented their research or who are planning to within the specified time period. Approximately one-third of the applicants receive an award. For more detailed information, go to gradstudies.byu.edu.

Work Restrictions

Students in their fourth year will need approval from their thesis chair to work for any professor in the department. This policy encourages our graduate students to focus on their thesis. If you have questions about this policy, please visit with your thesis chair. You can also come speak with the department office staff, though this should be as a secondary source.

Final Oral Defense

Scheduling Your Final Oral Defense

1. Apply for graduation. The graduation application and other information can be accessed from Grad Progress under Tools.
2. After satisfactorily completing the development of your thesis, you must schedule an oral defense. This can be done only after applying for graduation. **You must be enrolled in at least two thesis credits the semester of the defense (with the exception of spring term when you only need one).** When your chair agrees that your thesis is ready to defend and at three or four weeks before scheduling the oral defense, your thesis must be submitted to all members of the committee for defense approval. Email the formatted defense draft of the thesis to each committee member; some may prefer a paper copy so check to see which they prefer. They should have two weeks to read it before agreeing **you are ready to defend** on GradProg, allowing you to schedule the defense. You must schedule the oral exam or defense at least two days before the actual exam. Be advised that finding a day and time when all your committee members are available can be a complicated and time-consuming process.
3. Once you have an agreeable date and time, email Sherri and she will schedule your defense and find a room in which it will be held.

Note: When choosing professors to be on your committee and deciding your timeline, be mindful of faculty member availability when deciding a defense date. As long as none of the faculty on your committee are on professional leave, you are always able to defend during Fall and Winter semesters. Defending Spring and Summer terms may not be an option if a faculty member is on contract only Fall and Winter or is not contracted to teach during the semester you plan to defend. Furthermore, faculty member may have planned time away for personal time off, study abroad commitments, etc. that may also make them unavailable. The student should communicate early on with all committee members to ensure the time they plan on scheduling the defense is agreeable to all committee members. For Spring and Summer defenses, defense dates should be scheduled after discussion with faculty members during Winter semester.

Final Oral Defense

In the oral examination, you present a brief overview of the rationale, design, results, and conclusions of your study, after which members of the graduate committee take turns asking questions to evaluate the quality of the work. The defense and examination will take approximately two hours. Possible results of the oral exam are Pass, Pass with Qualifications, Recess, or Fail. University and Graduate Studies guidelines state that this exam should be “demanding and fair.” You are expected to show “currency in the field, thorough analysis of the questions or problems posed and synthesis of knowledge in the discipline,” all at a level appropriate for a master’s degree. You are expected to be able to demonstrate, for instance, how your work relates to the discipline as a whole, the rationale behind your thesis, the questions or issues the work was designed to address, the way you addressed those questions, and the implications of your work for future research or practice. If you worked on a research or development team, you should also provide an explanation of your role and contributions.

Attendance at the Final Oral Exam

The final thesis defense is an announced public event. You are encouraged to attend at least one oral examination before defending your own thesis. Watch your email for announcements of scheduled defenses for the following

week and plan to attend one. Any faculty member may also attend the final exam of any student. However, non-committee members cannot vote. Students and all guests must be prompt at the oral defense.

Finalize Thesis and Upload ETD

Typically, you will be required to make additional revisions following the oral exam and prior to final manuscript submission. Allow time in your schedule to make these revisions. A final revised manuscript must be submitted to the chair for approval. After all your committee members have approved the final draft of your thesis and signed off on GradProg, you need to upload your thesis in ETD format to the ETD system accessed in GradProg. Your ETD will go through three separate approvals for format, first with Graduate Studies, next from the department Graduate Manager, and last by the college. You will receive emails as each approval is completed or if you need to make any corrections and re-upload your corrected ETD. All these are now submitted as ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations). The library does not require paper copies, but you or your committee may want a bound paper copy in addition to the electronic copy. Theses in electronic format receive broader exposure and make you part of a worldwide learning community as your thesis and the results of your research are made available to scholars throughout the world. The Learning Research Center (LRC) in the library can help you upload your PDF as an ETD. ETDs have some special formatting guidelines. Visit the Resources page in Grad Progress for these guidelines. As you upload and submit your ETD, it is first approved by Graduate Studies and then sent to the department and the college for final approvals. You will receive emails as to the progress of the ETD in this process. If there are any problems with the ETD, it will not be approved, and you will receive an email indicating what problems you need to fix. Once you have corrected any problem, you need to upload and resubmit the ETD again. Once the ETD has been approved by Graduate Studies, the department and then the college, you are then finished.

Thesis Format and Style

Students may obtain copies of university format guidelines for theses from <http://gradstudies.byu.edu>. General style guidelines are available online, in the library, at the bookstore, in the JKB writing center. All thesis drafts should be typed. For specific formatting guidelines, see the Resources tab on your Grad Progress page.

Linguistics MA theses follow LSA (Linguistic Society of America style; any deviations from this style must be approved by your committee. (See <http://www.linguisticsociety.org/sites/default/files/style-sheet.pdf> for details)

Although your committee will give feedback on format and style, do not place the responsibility for editing, spelling, and proofreading on the shoulders of your committee members. It is your responsibility to produce standard academic prose in English. Bring clean and accurate drafts of your work to consultations and meetings. You are, therefore, advised to utilize the university writing center, experienced editors or proofreaders, and other such resources to improve the presentation and mechanics of your thesis prior to submitting it to your committee.

ETDs (Electronic Theses and Dissertations) require special formatting. Please visit the ETD information page in GradProg under "resources." You should work carefully with both your advisory committee chair and the graduate manager to review all thesis formatting.

Graduate Progress Program

GradProg is the online system used by students to plan and monitor progress throughout your graduate program.

1. From My BYU, go to <https://gradprogress.sim.byu.edu/> The shortcut URL is gradprog if you are already logged in to MyBYU.
2. Click the “Sign In” link at the top right of the screen and enter your BYU Net ID and password.

Follow the directions on the website to enter committee, program of study etc

Completion of Degree

Receiving the Master’s Degree

After all qualifications have been met (course work is completed, and your thesis is successfully defended), your degree will be awarded. Students who miss the graduation deadlines for any given semester must register for at least 2 hours (preferably thesis, dissertation, or internship credit) or pay the equivalent minimum registration fee and will graduate the following semester.

Continuing Our Relationship

We hope that as a program graduate you will keep in touch with the department faculty in mutually beneficial relationships. Many former students continue their friendships with other students and with faculty members. Some continue to publish or to work in collaboration with faculty. Some receive assistance to obtain initial job placements or admission to doctoral programs. Graduates may also contribute in various ways to strengthening the graduate program and its reputation. Our network of former graduates continues to grow nationally and internationally, and we will be happy to include you in that network.



Important Deadlines for Graduation

The following deadline timelines are set by our Dean’s Office at the College of Humanities. You may see other timelines published as university deadlines for graduation, but our department will be holding to the dates listed as the “College of Humanities Deadlines” as the dates you must meet in order to graduate on schedule. Students submitting materials after these deadlines will not be considered for graduation until the following semester. We have included the deadlines for all four semesters/terms. Please see the following pages for this years' deadlines.

December 2024 Graduation Deadlines

What you must do:	When it must be done:	Each step must be completed before its associated deadline!
1. Apply for graduation	13-Sep-24	This is the last day for graduate students to apply for graduation online. Go to Graduate Progress under tools Apply for Graduation.
2. Confirm approval	27-Sep-24	This is the last day for departments to accept a student's graduation application in AIM.
3. Schedule your thesis defense	At least two days before your defense Ideally by 20-Nov-24	Contact your committee to determine a date and time all can attend. Email this information to Sherri at linguistics@byu.edu to schedule. Scheduling the defense earlier leaves more time to make corrections.
4. Pass your oral defense	Ideally by 22-Nov-24 No later than 1-Dec-24	After your oral defense, your committee will go online to GradProg to mark result of defense.
5. Make Revisions and upload ETD	Ideally by 9-Dec-24 No later than 12-Dec-24	Committee approves thesis as passed in GradProg. Upload ETD in GradProg. *This is the last day for the College to approve your ETD. Warning! Students rushing to meet these "Not after" dates make mistakes. Historically, more than 70% of the ETD submissions uploaded during the 2 days preceding these "Not after" dates have been rejected, and some students have had to delay their graduation.
6. All approvals must be done.	Not after* 19-Dec-24	This is the last day for Grad Studies to approve your ETD. This is a hard, fast deadline, so all three prior approvals must be done before this date.
7. Attend Graduation	April 24-25, 2025	Graduation: Commencement/Convocation

April 2025 Graduation Deadlines

What you must do:	When it must be done:	Each step must be completed before its associated deadline!
1. Apply for graduation	24-Jan-25	This is the last day for graduate students to apply for graduation online. Go to Graduate Progress under tools Apply for Graduation.
2. Confirm approval	7-Feb-25	This is the last day for departments to accept a student's graduation application in AIM.
3. Schedule your thesis defense	At least two days before your defense Ideally by 7-Apr-25 No later than 18-Apr-25	Contact your committee to determine a date and time all can attend. Email this information to Sherri at linguistics@byu.edu to schedule. Scheduling the defense earlier leaves more time to make corrections.
4. Pass your oral defense	Ideally by 9-Apr-25 No later than 16-Apr-25	After your oral defense, your committee will go online to GradProg to mark result of defense.
5. Make revisions and upload ETD	Ideally by 16-Apr-25 No later than 23-Apr-25*	Committee approves thesis as passed in GradProg. Upload ETD in GradProg. *This is the last day for the College to approve your ETD. Warning! Students rushing to meet these "Not after" dates make mistakes. Historically, more than 70% of the ETD submissions uploaded during the 2 days preceding these "Not after" dates have been rejected, and some students have had to delay their graduation.
6. All approvals must be done.	Not after* 25-Apr-25	This is the last day for Grad Studies to approve your ETD. This is a hard, fast deadline, so all three prior approvals must be done before this date.
7. Attend Graduation	April 24-25, 2025	Graduation: Commencement/Convocation

June 2025 Graduation Deadlines

What you must do:	When it must be done:	Each step must be completed before its associated deadline!
1. Apply for graduation	5-May-25 (If you want to walk in April, must apply by 10-Mar-25)	This is the last day for graduate students to apply for graduation online. Go to Graduate Progress under tools Apply for Graduation.
2. Confirm approval	16-May-25	This is the last day for departments to accept a student's graduation application in AIM.
3. Schedule your thesis defense	At least two days before your defense Ideally by 4-Jun-25 No later than 11-Jun-25	Contact your committee to determine a date and time all can attend. Email this information to Sherri at linguistics@byu.edu to schedule. Scheduling the defense earlier leaves more time to make corrections.
4. Pass your oral defense	Ideally by 6-Jun-25 No later than 13-Jun-25	After your oral defense, your committee will go online to GradProg to mark result of defense.
5. Make revisions and upload ETD	Ideally by 13-Jun-25 No later than 19-Jun-25*	Committee approves thesis as passed in GradProg. Upload ETD in GradProg. *This is the last day for the College to approve your ETD. Warning! Students rushing to meet these "Not after" dates make mistakes. Historically, more than 70% of the ETD submissions uploaded during the 2 days preceding these "Not after" dates have been rejected, and some students have had to delay their graduation.
6. All approvals must be done.	Not after 20-Jun-25	This is the last day for Grad Studies to approve your ETD. This is a hard, fast deadline, so all three prior approvals must be done before this date.
7. Attend Graduation	April 24-25, 2025	Graduation: Commencement/Convocation

August 2025 Graduation Deadlines

What you must do:	When it must be done:	Each step must be completed before its associated deadline!
1. Apply for graduation	20-Jun-25 (If you want to walk in April, must apply by 10-Mar-25)	This is the last day for graduate students to apply for graduation online. Go to Graduate Progress under tools Apply for Graduation.
2. Confirm approval	3-Jul-25	This is the last day for departments to accept a student's graduation application in AIM.
3. Schedule your thesis defense	At least two days before your defense Ideally by 30-Jul-25 No later than 11-Aug-25	Contact your committee to determine a date and time all can attend. Email this information to Sherri at linguistics@byu.edu to schedule. Scheduling the defense earlier leaves more time to make corrections.
4. Pass your oral defense	Ideally by 1-Aug-25 No later than 12-Aug-25	After your oral defense, your committee will go online to GradProg to mark result of defense.
5. Make revisions and upload ETD	Ideally by 8-Aug-25 No later than 14-Aug-25*	Committee approves thesis as passed in GradProg. Upload ETD in GradProg. *This is the last day for the College to approve your ETD. Warning! Students rushing to meet these "Not after" dates make mistakes. Historically, more than 70% of the ETD submissions uploaded during the 2 days preceding these "Not after" dates have been rejected, and some students have had to delay their graduation.
6. All approvals must be done.	Not after* 15-Aug-25	This is the last day for Grad Studies to approve your ETD. This is a hard, fast deadline, so all three prior approvals must be done before this date.
7. Attend Graduation	April 24-25, 2025	Graduation: Commencement/Convocation

What do our faculty wish they had known in graduate school?

"Write every day, even if it's not much."

"Take advantage of conferences and speakers that occur on campus, even if they aren't about linguistics."

"Start networking now."

"Write your thesis about a topic that really interests you."

"Start working seriously on your thesis as early as you possibly can. Something with your thesis will almost inevitably go wrong, and you'll be grateful when that happens that you are ahead of where you should have been."

"Read the book Surviving Linguistics: A Guide for Graduate Students. We have two copies in the linguistics conference room. Just ask a secretary for a key."

"Join a research group."

"Make connections with those in the field."

"Attend conferences"

"Get involved with faculty: research groups, RA"

"Get involved with your peers: study groups, clubs/associations, leadership in clubs and associations."

"Update your CV and résumé each time you complete a semester, attend a conference, publish an article, etc."

"Join professional organizations"

"Go all in. You're in grad school. Dedicate your time. Don't put half effort into anything. (But at the same time, make time for hobbies.)"

"That I can push my advisor"

"That students have access to university funds"

"That my advisor can help me alter program requirements"

"That BYU has a great cellphone office with rates I can take with me after graduation"

"Writing doesn't need to be perfect; it needs to be finished."

"Everyone is trying to figure things out. Even if it looks like they've got everything together, people are all working on it."

"Love yourself & take the time to do things to make yourself and others happy! ♥"

"You belong. Trust me."

Professional Preparation

Some other ways you can prepare for future employment and/or PhD study:

- Develop a daily writing habit—even fifteen minutes a day can be powerful. Or you can start or join a weekly writing group
- Attend our department's monthly teaching brownbag
- Sign up for LINGUIST List (<https://linguistlist.org/subscribe/>) or other mailing lists and newsletters that relate to the areas that most interest you
- Talk to your advisor about joining a professional organization related to your area of interest
- Attend conferences
- Look at articles to choose two journals you might want to submit to. Once you do, look at a few articles from each journal to get an idea of what they are looking for
 - Once you identify some journals, Adam Griggs, the European Studies and Linguistics Librarian at the HBLL, is great at finding them. If you'd like to meet with him to learn more about what resources are available, you can set up an appointment [using this link](#)
- Try to attend a Humanities Center event every month
- Attend career fairs and talks
- Try to meet all the faculty in the department and learn a little about what each of them does
- Create and maintain a LinkedIn profile
- Keep a list of success stories that you can turn into material for applications and interviews