

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**



**Linguistics**

**GRADUATE PROGRAM GUIDE**

**2020-21 EDITION**

**(AUGUST 2020)**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Because language-related phenomena are central to many aspects of human life, individuals who possess sophisticated knowledge of language and linguistics work in a wide range of professional and academic fields. Boston University's graduate programs in Linguistics offer a solid foundation in linguistic theory and practice, and offer opportunities for study in a variety of areas.

## 1.1 This Handbook

The *Graduate Student Handbook* is intended to provide a guide to students in the Linguistics graduate programs throughout their course of study. This handbook is intended to augment the information available in the annual online Graduate School (GRS) Bulletin: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/bulletin/>. However, in cases where the information in this document and the GRS bulletin might appear to be in conflict, the GRS bulletin or other official GRS policy documents serve as the final legal authority. It is each student's responsibility to be aware of deadlines established by the Graduate School, which are included in various GRS publications and online. A lot of very useful information can be found here: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/>.

We consider it each student's responsibility to become familiar with the contents of this handbook, as well as the relevant official BU websites. The information in this handbook may help you avoid unnecessary problems. Please don't hesitate to contact the Department Chair, Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), or your advisor if you have questions about anything in this handbook or about the program in general.

## 1.2 Essential Links

- **Department Website** - <http://ling.bu.edu>
- **Department Facebook page** - <https://www.facebook.com/BUlinguistics/> Please "like" us ☺.
- **Department Twitter account:** @BUlinguistics Give us a follow!
- **Department YouTube channel:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar\\_AAkA421XNU7YMLIBbOQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar_AAkA421XNU7YMLIBbOQ)
- **International Students & Scholars Office (ISSO)** - <https://www.bu.edu/isso/>
- **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GRS)** <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/>  
705 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 112, Boston, MA 02215 USA; Phone: (617) 353-2696
- **GRS Bulletin** - <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/>
- **GRS Emergency PhD student Fund** - <http://www.bu.edu/cas/emergency-funding-for-graduate-students/>
- **Mental Health Resources** - <http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/services-we-provide/>
- **Student Central** - <https://www.bu.edu/students/>
- **StudentLink** – <http://www.bu.edu/studentlink/>
- **University Academic Policies** - <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/>

## 1.3 Administration of the Linguistics Department

### *Department and Grants Administrator (DA)*

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Boston, MA 02215

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<p><b>Chair of the Linguistics Department</b></p> <p>Professor <b>Jon Barnes</b>          621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 119          Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:jabarnes@bu.edu">jabarnes@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 353-6222</i></p>	<p><b>Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)</b></p> <p>Professor <b>Paul Hagstrom</b>          621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 105          Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:hagstrom@bu.edu">hagstrom@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 353-6205</i></p>		
<p><b>Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)</b></p> <p>Professor <b>Neil Myler</b>          621 Commonwealth Ave., Room B08          Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 358-4642</i></p>			
<p><b>Note:</b> Email intended for the DGA or DGS should be directed to <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a>, not to their personal email addresses.</p>			
<p><b>Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions (DGA)</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="203 827 812 995"> <p>Professor <b>Elizabeth Coppock</b>            621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 110            Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 353-6221</i></p> </td> <td data-bbox="812 827 1453 995"> <p>Professor <b>Kate Lindsey</b>            621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 113            Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 358-4148</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Professor <b>Elizabeth Coppock</b>            621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 110            Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 353-6221</i></p>	<p>Professor <b>Kate Lindsey</b>            621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 113            Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:linggrad@bu.edu">linggrad@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 358-4148</i></p>
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<p><b>Director of Public Relations (DPS)</b></p> <p>Professor <b>Charles Chang</b>          621 Commonwealth Ave., Room 116          Boston, MA 02215  <i>Email: <a href="mailto:lxpr@bu.edu">lxpr@bu.edu</a></i>  <i>Phone: (617) 353-8718</i></p>			
<p><i>Send your news and updates of conference presentations, awards etc. to the DPS at <a href="mailto:lxpr@bu.edu">lxpr@bu.edu</a> for public dissemination!</i></p>			

A Graduate Programs Committee will have general oversight over the graduate program. This will include review of progress of all graduate students at regular intervals, as described later. Any appeals of academic decisions should be directed to this committee. For 2020-21, Neil Myler (chair), Jonathan Barnes, Paul Hagstrom, and Kate Lindsey will serve on this committee.

## 2 PROGRAM FACULTY

### 2.1 Core Faculty

\* **Jonathan Barnes**, Associate Professor of Linguistics, CAS. **Chair, Linguistics Department.** BA, Columbia U.; MA, PhD, UC Berkeley.

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- *Email:* [jabarnes@bu.edu](mailto:jabarnes@bu.edu)
- *Web:* <http://ling.bu.edu/people/barnes>
- *Lab:* <http://blogs.bu.edu/prosodylab/>

*Linguistics - 621 Commonwealth Ave., room 119*

**Research Interests:** Phonetics; phonology; prosody; speech perception; language change.

\* **Charles Chang**, Associate Professor of Linguistics, CAS. AB/AM, Harvard U.; MPhil, U. of Cambridge (UK); MA, PhD, UC Berkeley.

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- *Web:* <http://cbchang.com>
- *Lab:* <http://sites.bu.edu/pamlab/>

**Research Interests:** Phonetics, phonology, language acquisition, bilingualism, and language attrition

\* **Elizabeth Coppock**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, CAS. **Co-Director of Graduate Admissions.** BA, Northwestern University; PhD, Stanford University.

- *Phone:* (617) 353-6221 *Linguistics - 621 Commonwealth Ave. room 110*
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- *Web:* <http://ling.bu.edu/people/coppock> <http://sites.bu.edu/lislab/>

**Research Interests:** Semantics; pragmatics.

\* **Daniel Erker**, Associate Professor of Linguistics & Spanish, CAS. (On sabbatical 2020-2021) BA, Marquette U.; MA, Graduate Center, CUNY; PhD, NYU.

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**Research Interests:** Language variation, contact, and change; acoustic and articulatory phonetics; Spanish in the United States; the languages of Latin America; and the evolution of human language.

\* **Paul Hagstrom**, Associate Professor of Linguistics, CAS. **Director of Undergraduate Studies.** BA, Carleton College; PhD, MIT.

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- *Web:* <http://ling.bu.edu/people/hagstrom> <http://www.bu.edu/linguistics/UG/hagstrom/>

**Research Interests:** Syntax/semantics interface (questions, negation); language acquisition.

\* **Neil Myler**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, CAS. **Director of Graduate Studies.** BA, MPhil, Corpus Christi College, U. of Cambridge (UK); PhD, NYU.

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**Research Interests:** Morphology, (micro-)comparative syntax, argument structure, the architecture of the grammar, the morphosyntax and semantics of possession, Quechua, English dialect syntax, isiXhosa

\* **Kate Lindsey**, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, CAS. **Co-Director of Graduate Admissions.** BA, The American University; PhD, Stanford U.

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**Research Interests:** Phonological theory, in particular, underspecification and variation in phonological systems, supported primarily by field data from underdocumented/understudied languages. Current research projects include extended fieldwork in the South Fly area of Papua New Guinea to support the first reference grammar of Ende, a typological study of the Pahoturi River language family, and theoretical analyses of vowel harmony and phonological reduplication.

\* **Carol Neidle**, Professor of Linguistics & French, CA. (On Sabbatical 2020-2021)

BA, Yale College; MA, Middlebury College; PhD, MIT.

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**Research Interests:** Syntax and syntactic theories, with a focus on American Sign Language, Russian and French. Collaborative research with computer scientists on developing linguistically annotated video corpora for American Sign Language (ASL)--and software to facilitate that enterprise; sharing these corpora over the Internet through an intuitive interface for browsing, searching, and downloading the data; and using these corpora, along with linguistic modeling, to develop systems for sign language recognition from video.

\* **Alexander Nikolaev**, Associate Professor of Classical Studies & Linguistics, CAS. BA, U. of St. Petersburg, Russia; PhD, Harvard U.

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**Research Interests:** Early Greek literature (epic, lyric, iambic, and elegiac poetry); early contacts between Greece and other cultures of the Near East; historical grammar and etymology; comparative poetics and mythology.

\* **Catherine O'Connor**, Professor of Education and Linguistics, School of Education. BA, Stanford U.; MA, PhD, UC Berkeley.

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**Research Interests:** Language documentation; discourse pragmatics; linguistic typology; sociolinguistics; morphosyntax-pragmatics interface; language in educational settings.

## 2.2 Affiliated Faculty

\* **Catherine Caldwell-Harris**, Associate Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, CAS. AB, Harvard U.; PhD, UC San Diego.

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**Research Interests:** Psycholinguistics, bilingualism, foreign language acquisition, cross-cultural psychology, and acquisition of English via print by deaf persons.

\* **Naomi K. Caselli**, Assistant Professor of Language and Literacy, SED. BA, The Evergreen State College; MA and EdM, Boston U.; PhD, Tufts U.

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**Research Interests:** Relationship between language deprivation and the sign language lexicon.



\* **Juliet Floyd**, Professor of Philosophy, CAS. BA, Wellesley College; AM, PhD, Harvard U. *On sabbatical, 2019-20.*

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<https://sites.google.com/a/bu.edu/jf-homepage/>

**Research Interests:** History and philosophy of logic and mathematics, history and development of analytic philosophy, philosophy of language.

\* **Amy Lieberman**, Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Teaching, SED. BA, Stanford U.; MA, UC Berkeley; PhD, UC Berkeley and San Francisco State U. (Joint Program).

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- Web: <https://www.bu.edu/sed/profile/amy-m-lieberman/>

**Research Interests:** Language acquisition and processing, studied using a range of techniques, including naturalistic observation and experimental studies with a novel eye-tracking paradigm for American Sign Language; early parent-child interactions, peer interactions, and how early experiences shape deaf individuals' language processing abilities.

\* **Michelle Mentis**, Clinical Professor and Director, Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology, SAR. BA, U. of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, MA, PhD, UC Santa Barbara.

- Phone: (617) 353-7480 SAR - 635 Commonwealth Ave., room 351B
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- Web: <http://www.bu.edu/sargent/profile/michelle-mentis-ph-d-ccc-slp/>

**Research Interests:** Assessment and treatment of language disorders in children; development and evaluation of treatment approaches for preschool children with language impairments.

\* **Fallou Ngom**, Professor and Director of the African Language Program, CAS. Maîtrise, Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis (Sénégal); MA, U. of Montana; PhD, U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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- Web: <http://www.bu.edu/anthrop/people/faculty/f-ngom/>

**Research Interests:** Interactions between African languages and non-African languages, the localization of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, Ajami literatures (records of African languages written in Arabic script), and LADO (Language Analysis for the Determination of National Origin), a subfield of Forensic Linguistics.

\* **Tyler Perrachione**, Associate Professor of Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, Peter Paul Career Development Professor, and Director of the Communication Neuroscience Research Laboratory, SAR. BA, MA, Northwestern U.; PhD, MIT.

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- Web: <http://www.bu.edu/sargent/profile/tyler-k-perrachione-ph-d/>
- Lab: <http://sites.bu.edu/cnrlab/>

**Research Interests:** Language and the brain, speech perception, foreign language learning, developmental communication disorders.

- \* **Marnie Reed**, Clinical Professor of Language Education, SED. BA, West Chester U.; EdM, EdD, BU.
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  - *Web:* <https://www.bu.edu/sed/profile/marnie-reed/>

**Research Interests:** Speech perception and production by non-native speakers; TESOL.

- \* **Nancy J. Smith-Hefner**, Associate Professor, CAS. BA, MA, PhD, U. of Michigan.
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**Research Interests:** Youth language and language socialization, language and gender, language and education, language and sociability.

- \* **Helen Tager-Flusberg**, Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences, CAS. BSc. U. College London, UK; PhD, Harvard U. *On sabbatical, 2019-20.*

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- *Web:* <https://www.bu.edu/psych/faculty/htagerf/>
- *Lab:* <http://www.bu.edu/autism/>

**Research Interests:** The nature of language impairments and functioning in autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders including language disorders and other genetic syndrome. We study the developmental origins and course of development including behavioral, experimental, electrophysiological and neuroimaging methods to explore the neurocognitive mechanisms that underlie language disorders.

## 2.3 Visiting Researchers

- \* **Alejna Brugos**, Visiting Researcher in Linguistics, CAS. AB, Brown University; MA and PhD, Boston University.

- *Email:* [abrugos@me.com](mailto:abrugos@me.com)

**Research Interests:** production and perception of prosodic grouping and other aspects of sentence-level prosody; prosodic labeling, disfluencies, and the interface of prosody and other aspects of phonology with syntax, semantics, discourse and pragmatics.

## 2.4 Affiliated Researchers

- \* **Dalia Cahana-Amitay**, Works at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals as a global lead of medical communications and publications in their medical affairs department. Previously, Research Assistant Professor, Neurology, BU School of Medicine and VA Harold Goodglass Aphasia Research Center. BA, Tel-Aviv U., Israel; PhD (Applied Linguistics), BU.

- *Email:* [dcamitay@bu.edu](mailto:dcamitay@bu.edu)
- *Web:* <http://profiles.bu.edu/Dalia.CahanaAmitay>

**Research Interests:** Neurolinguistics, with a focus on interrelated aspects of language, cognition, and brain health in aging and stroke.

\* **Victor Manfredi**, Visiting Researcher in African Studies, CAS. AB, PhD, Harvard U.

- *Email:* manfredi@bu.edu
- *Web:* <http://people.bu.edu/manfredi/>

**Research Interests:** (i) comparative grammar and prosody of the Benue-Kwa languages of the Niger-Congo family; (ii) indigenous verbal, musical and political cultures of southern Nigeria; (iii) African cultural transmission to the Western Hemisphere; (iv) orthography and typography.

## 2.5 Professors *Emeriti* (of the former Program in Applied Linguistics)

\* **Bruce Fraser**, Professor of Linguistics and Education, SED. BEE, Cornell U.; PhD, MIT.

- *Email:* [bfraser@bu.edu](mailto:bfraser@bu.edu)
- *Web:* <http://www.bu.edu/sed/profile/bruce-fraser/>

**Research Interests:** Pragmatics; discourse analysis; forensic linguistics; conflict resolution.

\* **Jean Berko Gleason**, Professor *Emerita* of Psychological and Brain Sciences, CAS. AB, Radcliffe College; AM, PhD, Harvard U.

- *Email:* [gleason@bu.edu](mailto:gleason@bu.edu)
- *Web:* <https://www.bu.edu/psych/profile/jean-gleason-phd/>

**Research Interests:** Lexical development; aphasia; developmental sociolinguistics.

\* **Robert J. Hoffmeister**, Associate Professor *Emeritus* of Education, SED. BS, U. of Connecticut; MEd, U. of Arizona; PhD, U. of Minnesota.

- *Email:* [rhoff@bu.edu](mailto:rhoff@bu.edu)
- *Web:* <https://www.bu.edu/sed/profile/robert-j-hoffmeister-emeritus/>

**Research Interests:** ASL acquisition; Deaf culture; education of the Deaf.

\* **John Hutchison**, Associate Professor *Emeritus* of Modern Foreign Languages, CAS. BA, Pomona College; MA, PhD, Indiana U.

- *Email:* [hutch@bu.edu](mailto:hutch@bu.edu)

**Research Interests:** African languages; creole languages; language typology, language policy; language teaching and curricular development; minority language publishing, literacy.

\* **Paula Menyuk**, Professor *Emerita* of Education, SED. BA, NYU; EdM, EdD, BU.

- *Email:* [menyuk@bu.edu](mailto:menyuk@bu.edu)

**Research Interests:** Language development; literacy; developmental language disorders.

## 3 FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

### 3.1 Linguistics Office

The Linguistics Department Administrative Office, located at 621 Commonwealth Ave., room 120, is staffed by the Department Administrator (DA) with help from undergraduate and graduate student assistants. Office hours are posted on the program website, and contact information is provided in Section 1.3.

### 3.2 Faculty Offices

Information about faculty office locations (also provided in Section 1) and labs is available from the profile pages accessible from the Linguistics Faculty page: <http://ling.bu.edu/people#faculty>.

### 3.3 Student Lounge and Graduate Student Work Space

The graduate student lounge is located at 96 Cummington Mall, Rooms 242-244. Graduate students can request a key for access to this space by contacting the Department Administrator. We hope that additional graduate student space may become available in the not-too-distant future. Also see section 3.6.3 of this handbook regarding study carrels in Mugar library.

### 3.4 Conference Office

The office for the BU Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) is located at 96 Cummington Mall, room 246. Email should be directed to [langconf@bu.edu](mailto:langconf@bu.edu). Please see Section 10.1 for details on participation in the BUCLD. Students may also find information about the conference at their web page: <http://www.bu.edu/buclid/>.

### 3.5 Computational Resources: BU Email Address

All students must have a BU email address. See <http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/comm/email/> for further information. Please note that all information and announcements about the program will be sent to your BU email address, and that you are responsible to check its contents regularly. If you prefer to use a different email account, you can arrange to have your email forwarded to your preferred address.

### 3.6 Library Services (Please consult the library website for information about COVID-related changes to these services)

#### 3.6.1 COMPUTER ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Students can browse the library catalog through the library website <http://www.bu.edu/library/>. Once you have logged in, you also have online access to many types of materials, including the Mugar Course Reserves, which may be used for some of your classes.

#### 3.6.2 INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Students may request material (such as books and journal articles) from other libraries if those materials are not available online or from any of Boston University's own libraries. Interlibrary loan requests may be made either at the Mugar Library Reference Desk or online at: <http://www.bu.edu/library/ill/>.

#### 3.6.3 CARRELS

Graduate students who have completed their course requirements may request a carrel in the library (to be shared with one or more other graduate students). A letter from the DGS is required to certify that course requirements have been completed.

#### 3.6.4 NEW ACQUISITIONS

If you have any suggestions about books or journals that the library should acquire, please make a written request by filling out the forms available at the Mugar Library Reference Desk or at the Mugar website.

### 3.7 Other Electronic Resources

The BU Linguistics Resources page, <http://ling.bu.edu/resources/other>, also lists linguistics resources. Some career-related resources are also available from <http://ling.bu.edu/about/jobs> (see also Section 4.5.9). General BU links are available from: <http://ling.bu.edu/resources/bu-information>.

### 3.8 Resources of the Consortium

Boston University participates in a Consortium of Boston-area colleges and universities. Other member universities of the consortium include Boston College, Brandeis University, Tufts University, and Hebrew College. Consortium membership enables Boston University students to take courses at any of these schools. To do so, submit a petition that you may obtain from the Registrar (881 Commonwealth Avenue), which is signed by your advisor and the Graduate School Records Officer. It is then returned to the Registrar. The tuition is paid to BU. The only restriction is

that the course must be relevant to the student's program. Students who are paying continuing student fees are not eligible. Tuition remission may be used toward courses at the member universities.

Boston University is also a member of the Boston Library Consortium. If you wish to take books out from other Boston-area libraries participating in this consortium, you will need a Consortium library card, which may be obtained without charge at the Circulation desk of Mugar library. A new card must be obtained each semester.

## 4 THE MA IN LINGUISTICS

### 4.1 Introduction

The 8-course (32-credit) MA in Linguistics is designed to provide students with a solid foundational knowledge of the traditional core areas of linguistic analysis, as well as a deeper specialization in a chosen subfield or interface area. Our goal is to help students reach a level of preparation suitable for pursuit of more advanced work in linguistics, or in allied fields with a commitment to the study of language. Many students who complete the MA degree will go on to PhD programs in these areas, while others will instead pursue careers in fields such as speech and language technologies and education, among others. We have particular strength in the areas of theoretical syntax and semantics, experimental phonetics and phonology, and language acquisition. Additional areas of focus include language documentation and field linguistics, language change and variation, pragmatics and information status, prosody, Romance linguistics, and sign language linguistics.

The MA program is designed to be completed in one year, though students wishing to complete a major independent research project, akin to a thesis or capstone project, may wish to consider spending three or four semesters in the program instead. The program is appropriate both for students with a limited background in linguistics, and for those holding an undergraduate degree in the field. Entering students are expected to have already completed introductory classes in:

Phonetics/phonology (e.g., CAS LX 301)

Syntax (e.g., CAS LX 321)

Semantics/pragmatics (e.g., CAS LX 331)

Students who do not have a sufficient background in linguistics must complete additional coursework to fulfill those prerequisites prior to entry or during the first semester. Such coursework will not be counted toward the master's degree requirements.

### 4.2 Learning Goals

Students graduating with an MA in Linguistics are expected to demonstrate:

1. The ability to think critically about fundamental issues in the study of language structure, universals, variation, change, acquisition, and social dimensions of language use.
2. A sophisticated command of several core areas of linguistic analysis (e.g., phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax/semantics).
3. Specialization in a selected subfield of linguistics or interface area.
4. The ability to analyze the empirical patterns found in sets of language data, and to construct well-reasoned linguistic analyses by formulating, testing, and refining hypotheses.
5. The ability to formulate a testable research question, grounded in the prior literature, to carry out the relevant research, analyze the findings, and construct argumentation to support the conclusions.

### 4.3 Advising

Your academic advisor, who will be a member of the core faculty in Linguistics, can help with bureaucratic requirements, such as approving your course selections and providing your advising code at the start of each semester. Before your first semester in the program you will be assigned an academic advisor based on our knowledge

of your interests at the time you entered the program. However, students' interests often are not well-defined when they enter the program and as your interests develop and you take more classes, you may change your focus.

You have a right to change academic advisors at any time. If you want to change advisors, you should discuss this with the DGS. Some students are concerned that their advisors will be offended or hurt if they wish to work with someone else. This should not be a concern. Your academic advisor has a professional relationship with you and understands very well that interests and topics may change. As long as you conduct the transition professionally, there should be no problem. There is no expectation on the part of faculty that you will stay with one advisor throughout your study at Boston University.

## 4.4 Course Requirements

The MA in Linguistics requires 32 credits (8 4-credit courses).

**Note that if you register for a 3-credit course** (e.g., through SAR), you will be short by 1 credit; to get full credit for such a course, you should also arrange with the instructor to register for a 1-credit directed study to do some additional work and earn the full 4 credits.

Students entering the program without the necessary background to take these courses may be required to take prerequisite courses. Prerequisite courses (GRS LX 601, 621, and 631) will not be counted as credit towards the MA.

See <http://ling.bu.edu/grad/courses/descriptions> for descriptions of the courses listed below.

**Course requirements are as follows:**

### 9. Three required core courses

- GRS LX 703 Phonological Analysis
- GRS LX 722 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge
- GRS LX 732 Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning

### 9. Three additional Linguistics courses

- GRS LX 611 Morphology: Introduction to the Structures and Shapes of Words
- GRS LX 617 Having and Being across Languages
- GRS LX 627 Focus
- GRS LX 628 Questions
- GRS LX 642 Language, Race, and Gender
- GRS LX 645 Languages in Contact: The High Stakes of Grammatical Border-Crossing
- GRS LX 646 Language Variation & Change
- GRS LX 649 Bilingualism
- GRS LX 650 Crosslinguistic Approaches to Acquisition
- GRS LX 655 Second Language Acquisition
- GRS LX 659 Interrupted Acquisition & Language Attrition
- GRS LX 660 Historical and Comparative Linguistics
- GRS LX 664 Linguistics of English
- GRS LX 665 Variation in Dialects of English
- GRS LX 668 Structure of African Languages
- GRS LX 669 Structure of Creole Languages
- GRS LX 670 Romance Linguistics
- GRS LX 673 French Phonology (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 674 French Syntax (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 676 Topics in French Linguistics (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 681 Spanish in the US (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 683 Sounds of Spanish (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 684 Structure of Spanish (conducted in Spanish)

- GRS LX 686 Topics in Spanish Linguistics (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 690 Topics in Linguistics
- GRS LX 691 Linguistic Field Methods
- GRS LX 694 Introduction to Programming for Computational Linguistics
- GRS LX 705 Prosody
- GRS LX 706 Advanced Topics in Phonology
- GRS LX 722 Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory
- GRS LX 733 Experimental Pragmatics
- GRS LX 736 Advanced Topics in Semantics & Pragmatics
- GRS LX 738 Discourse Analysis
- GRS LX 753 Acquisition of Phonology
- GRS LX 754 Acquisition of Syntax
- GRS LX 790 Intermediate Topics in Linguistics
- GRS LX 795 Quantitative Methods in Linguistics
- GRS LX 796 Computational Linguistics

**9. Two other graduate courses selected in consultation with an advisor, one of which may be directed research.**

**Directed Research**

For GRS LX 951/952 Directed Research courses, instructor and hours are arranged and credit is variable. Students do not register themselves for these courses on the Link. Rather, they must fill out an application (including a brief summary and outline of the project, plus a list of readings), see the appendix, p.45. See also section 7.3.

**Specialization**

In consultation with their advisor, students select the courses to fulfill the above requirements based on their desired area of specialization. Thus students have the opportunity to develop sophisticated knowledge of the theories and methods of one area of linguistics. Possible areas of specialization include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Experimental phonetics and phonology
- Theoretical syntax and semantics
- Pragmatics and information status
- Prosody
- Language change and variation
- Romance linguistics
- Sign language linguistics
- Language acquisition
- Language documentation and field linguistics

**4.5 Further Information**

Please note that the GRS Bulletin is the official source of information about academic programs and general policies and requirements: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/>.

**4.5.1 LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

All students pursuing an MA in Linguistics are required to demonstrate graduate-level reading proficiency in a non-native language (which may be English, for non-native speakers) prior to completion of the degree. Language proficiency can be demonstrated either through a language examination, successful completion of a non-credit graduate-level foreign language reading course offered by BU, or the equivalent of 2 years of undergraduate study of the language at BU.

Competence in a non-native language can be demonstrated in one of three ways, listed below.

1. The student may present a transcript that indicates that he or she successfully completed two years of a foreign language as an undergraduate.
2. The student may pass a language exam administered by faculty in the appropriate language program, or by a faculty member in the Linguistics Program. (One option is to pass the final exam of a qualifying course.)
3. The student may count English as the examination language if he or she is a native speaker of a language other than English and has passed the TOEFL at a level adequate for admission to the program.

If you are in a position to satisfy the language requirement in one of the above three ways, contact the Department Administrator (DA) to have this requirement officially entered into your records and/or to schedule a language exam. The exam requires you to translate a passage concerning language or linguistics. You are allotted one hour and allowed use of a dictionary. Students are advised to schedule this exam early in their graduate career in case they do not pass the first time. Exams are generally graded and returned to the Linguistics office within two to three weeks after the exam has been taken.

#### 4.5.2 REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS TAKING CLASSES

Please read this section carefully. Additional general information about registration is available in Section 7 and here: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/registration/>.

##### ◆ *Tuition charges based on the number of courses for which you register in a given semester*

Important to note: If you register for 1 or 2 courses, you pay by the course, the rate in some cases depending on when the course is being offered (day or evening). However, if you register for 3 or 4 courses, you will be charged full-time GRS tuition. This means that it is more economical to register for 16 rather than 12 credit hours (4 courses rather than 3), since the cost is the same. Otherwise, you are essentially getting 3 courses for the price of 4.

##### ◆ *Full-time Status and Certification for MA Students; Continuing Student Status*

Full-time status is generally required for international students, and may be important for students with outstanding student loans. GRS has two ways in which MA students (who are not otherwise employed full-time) can obtain full-time student status:

- **Full-Time by Course Registration:** A Master's student registering for 12 or more credits is considered a full-time student. [Note that, as just mentioned, this means you will be charged for the equivalent of 16 credits (4 courses), even if you only register for 3 courses!]
- **Full-Time by Certification:** Master's students who are registered for less than 12 credits but who are engaged in full-time progress toward their degree must complete the Continuing Study and Certified Full-Time Status Form and forward the pdf document for signatures by their advisor and the DGS, who will email it to the GRS office:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2016/10/Continuing-Study-and-Certified-Full-NEW.pdf>

**If you require full-time certification, please consult with the Director of Graduate Studies.**

**Note:** A certified full-time study form must be submitted **every semester** that you wish to be so certified.

Students who are full-time, or certified full-time, are subject to the Student Services and the Health & Wellness Fees: <https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/cost-of-attendance/>.

#### 4.5.3 REGISTRATION AS A CONTINUING STUDENT — PART-TIME OR CERTIFIED FULL-TIME, BUT WITH 0 CREDITS

Students who are *not* registering for any courses or credits, but are continuing to make progress toward their degree (please discuss this with the DGS), should also fill out the same "Continuing Study and Certified Full-Time Status" form: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2016/10/Continuing-Study-and-Certified-Full-NEW.pdf>. There are two options on the form, as shown below; choose one or the other—depending on whether you wish to be registered as a **full-time** or **part-time** continuing student, without registering for any courses. Although full-time certification may be required or useful for some purposes, students who are full-time, or certified full-time, are subject to the Student Services and the Health & Wellness Fees. This is in addition to the minimum fee that all continuing students pay (when they are not on official leave of absence), which is the equivalent of the tuition cost for 2 credits. See <https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/cost-of-attendance/>



- **FULL-TIME: Continuing Study and Certified Full-Time**  
Engaged in full-time progress towards the degree. Full-time employees of the University and those with other full-time outside employment are not eligible for this status.
- **PART-TIME: Continuing Study**  
Not registering for course credit but are otherwise engaged in part-time progress towards the degree.

#### 4.5.4 TIME LIMITS FOR DEGREE COMPLETION

The Master's Program should be completed within three years after the first registration for study leading to the Master's degree. A 'Petition for Extension of Time to Complete MA Requirements' is available from the Graduate School (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2015/09/MA-Petition-Extension.pdf>) if a student finds that he or she cannot complete the Master's degree in this time frame. Students normally register for no more than four courses per semester, but must register for at least one course each semester until course requirements have been fulfilled (unless a leave of absence has been granted).

#### 4.5.5 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Normally, students must register for each regular semester until completion of all degree requirements. Upon request to the Graduate School (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2011/12/LoA-form-editable.pdf>), a student is allowed up to two semesters of leave of absence. The period of authorized leave of absence is counted as a part of the time allowed for completion of degree requirements for the MA. Students must be registered in the semester in which the degree requirements are completed, as well as in the preceding semester.

#### 4.5.6 TRANSFER OF GRADUATE CREDITS

See <https://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/transfer-of-credits/>. The policy is as follows:

Graduate-level courses in other accredited graduate schools or in other schools or colleges of Boston University not used toward the awarding of any other degree may be transferred on recommendation of the major advisor and the Department Chair with the approval of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Credit for work to be taken concurrently with studies in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences must be approved before registration for such courses; all such courses must have been taken for a letter grade (not Pass/Fail). No transfer of credit for courses taken before the senior year of college or from correspondence or distance learning will be accepted. Petitions for credits for transfer are available on the GRS website.

A maximum of 8 credits may be transferred from other universities towards a Master's Degree at Boston University.

Up to two courses may be *transferred* in from work at another university, as long as (a) the content of those courses can be shown to be equivalent to a core or specialization course, and (b) those courses were not used to satisfy a degree requirement. If the course to be transferred was taken when the student was an undergraduate, it must have been during the senior year. Each transferred course releases the student from both the requirement for taking that course and the credits earned for the course. Students must provide supporting documentation required by the Graduate School to be awarded transfer credit. Note that Boston University does not accept transfer credits from Harvard Extension. See the GRS Bulletin for further details about transfer of credits.

If a student proposes a transfer to take the place of a core course, the student must demonstrate that the content of the class is comparable to the class it is intended to replace; the approval of the BU faculty member who normally teaches the core course is required. If the student proposes a transfer to take the place of an elective, the content need not be duplicated at Boston University, but the course should be advanced enough to be a reasonable elective, and the substitution should be approved by the DGS.

#### 4.5.7 WAIVERS

If a student has already taken a core course as part of requirements for a different degree at Boston University (for example as an undergraduate), then that requirement will be waived, i.e., the student will not have to take that course (see p. 46). However, the student must substitute another course for that core requirement. In other words,

all students must complete a total of 32 graduate credits to receive the MA degree, whether or not they have had any of their core requirements waived.

#### 4.5.8 GRADUATION

##### ◆ *Procedures to Apply for Graduation*

An intent to graduate form must be filled out online by the stated deadline; see: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/grs-masters-forms-policies-procedures/grs-masters-graduation-procedures/>. The anticipated deadlines outlined below are projections based on the 2020 deadlines; students are responsible for verifying the deadlines: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/graduation-information/>

Important note: *If for whatever reason, your graduation plans change, you must fill out a new form with your revised graduation date.*

##### ◆ *Deadlines for the MA in Linguistics*

No thesis is required for the MA in Linguistics. So, the only GRS deadline that applies is the filing of the **intent to graduate form**. Please notify the Department Administrator, once you have submitted this form, of your intended graduation date.

For intended graduation....

	January 25, 2021	May 16, 2021	September 25, 2021
Deadline for filing of the online "Intent to Graduate" form <sup>1</sup>	September 25, 2020	January 25, 2021	May 28, 2021

##### ◆ *Checking that your Requirements have been Fulfilled*

Several weeks before the end of the semester, the Graduate School will send a form to the DGS, asking whether you have finished all of your requirements for the MA degree, including the required courses completed with a grade of B- or better and the language requirement, as well as the MA project for Applied Linguistics students. If you are completing coursework required for the degree during the semester in which you intend to graduate, your graduation will be subject to satisfactory completion of those courses.

##### ◆ *Commencement*

Master's candidates are not required to participate in the commencement ceremonies in May, but those whose official graduation dates are in January or May (as well as those who anticipate completion in time for graduation in September) are welcome to do so. There are commencement ceremonies held specifically for Linguistics. If you wish to participate in the graduation ceremonies in May, please inform the Linguistics Department Administrator by no later than March 31.

#### 4.5.9 CAREER PATHS

There are two principal career tracks that graduates of the MA program might follow. One is to enter a doctoral program, either in linguistics or in an affiliated area. The other career track involves seeking a professional post in

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<sup>1</sup> This form is to be submitted electronically to GRS: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/graduation-information/grs-intent-to-graduate-for-a-masters-degree/>. If your anticipated graduation date changes, you must re-submit the form. Please also make sure that the Department Administrator is aware of your intended graduation date, as well as any changes in your graduation plans.

government, education, industry or health and human services. With the available options for courses and specializations, Master's candidates can prepare themselves for a wide range of professional roles. Some information is available at <http://ling.bu.edu/grad/about/jobs>.

You may also wish to consult the Center for Career Development, <https://www.bu.edu/careers/>, which provides various services, including workshops resume reviews, mock interviews, and career assessment tools. The Center for Career Development is located at 100 Bay State Road, 6<sup>th</sup> floor ((617) 353-3590; future@bu.edu).

#### 4.5.10 APPLICATION TO PHD PROGRAMS

Many Master's students plan to go on to complete a doctorate after receiving their Master's degree. If you think you might be interested in this course of action, it is important to begin to think about it early in your MA studies. You should consult your advisor about what sorts of doctoral programs might be a good match, and about what type of preparation such programs might be likely to want in applicants. Most PhD programs have applications due late in the fall or early in the spring, so people wanting to leap straight from our MA to a PhD program the following fall will need to be consulting their advisors very early in the academic year in which they plan to be applying.

#### 4.5.11 FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION

See <https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/financial-aid/> for general information about loans and funding sources, both internal and external to BU.

##### ◆ *Flexible Payment Plans*

See <http://www.bu.edu/studentaccountingservices/your-bill/payment-plans>.

##### ◆ *Federal Funding: Work-Study*

Work-Study is a federally funded program for US citizens and permanent residents. It is designed to promote part-time (academic year) and full-time (summer) employment to help students who demonstrate financial need. See <http://www.bu.edu/seo/dates/fws-dates/> for information about application deadlines. To apply you must submit the official application and supporting materials to the GRS office (Room 112), as follows:

- the Financial Aid Form (FAFSA), which should be submitted at least 6-8 weeks prior to the application deadline and is available online or at the GRS office
- a current IRS 1040 form

##### ◆ *Funding through BU*

##### Financial Aid through the BU/Linguistics

Each year a very limited amount of financial support in the form of tuition waivers is available for incoming MA students. (Continuing students are not eligible to apply for new or increased financial aid allocations.) Graduate financial aid funds cannot be used for the following:

- Audited Courses
- Courses not taken for credit
- Courses withdrawn with a "W" grade

Financial aid awards cannot be applied to courses that do not satisfy degree program requirements. Furthermore, withdrawal from a course with a "W" grade, or changing a course for credit to an audit, will result in the rescinding of financial aid funds used toward that course. In such cases, **the student will then be responsible for paying for that course.**

##### Teaching Opportunities in other BU programs (some of these opportunities will be unavailable because of BU's current hiring freeze due to the financial impacts of COVID-19)

Many students have successfully obtained teaching positions in other departments in the university, including those listed below. Prospective students should wait until they have been notified of admission into the program before making direct inquiries about teaching positions. It is a good idea to discuss intentions to apply for a teaching position

in one of these programs or departments with the DGS in Linguistics, before making direct contact with them. For any of these positions, you will be expected to have relevant teaching experience at the college level.

#### ❖ *Romance Studies/Modern Languages and Comparative Literature*

Part-time lecturers are hired to teach basic language courses. Students who are native speakers of some language other than English (especially French, Spanish, Italian, German, Russian, African languages, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, Arabic) or who have near native fluency in one of those languages should send a letter of inquiry and current curriculum vitae to the Chair of Romance Studies or WLL with a copy to the DGS.

#### ❖ *The Writing Program*

If you are interested in teaching special sections of English composition, you should contact the director of the College of Arts & Sciences Writing Program. Qualified students in our program have taught these courses in the past. There are Teaching Fellowships and Graduate Writing Fellowships in the Writing Program: [www.bu.edu/writingprogram/about/fellowships-and-employment/](http://www.bu.edu/writingprogram/about/fellowships-and-employment/).

#### ❖ *CELOP*

The Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP) provides intensive English language instruction for foreign students interested in pursuing academic careers in the USA. Occasionally, there is a need for part-time teachers of English to teach courses such as ESL, study skills, research writing, content-based ESL, and general skills development. Applicants should be native English speakers or have a bilingual/bicultural background. Linguistics students may be employed as Junior Lecturers, and will be assigned a mentor from CELOP's senior faculty. If you are interested in a position at CELOP, contact CELOP directly (<https://www.bu.edu/celop/about/>).

#### ❖ *Other Departments*

If you have a specialty in any other field, discuss your teaching interest with the DGS, who will guide you to the appropriate contact person. In any event, please inform the DA or the DGS of your teaching plans as soon as they are definite.

## 5 THE PHD IN LINGUISTICS

### 5.1 Introduction

Human language is a multifaceted phenomenon. It is simultaneously a property of individual minds and of whole speech communities, and thus both internal and external to us. It both shapes and is shaped by our societies over time. It is a combination of sound (or sign), which has physical properties that can be measured, and meaning, which does not. Accordingly, becoming a linguist involves mastering a variety of methods, both quantitative and qualitative. The PhD in Linguistics at Boston University aims to produce scholars who are versatile enough to be experts in both of these aspects of linguistic inquiry, yet skilled enough to do cutting-edge research in a particular subfield of the discipline. We offer a solid grounding in a range of research methods, including field methods, quantitative methods, and computational methods.

Program requirements, which are discussed in this section, include course work, two qualifying papers (to be completed by the end of years 2 and 3), the foreign language requirement (to be completed by the end of year 3), a dissertation prospectus, and then a dissertation. **There is a timeline on page 33 that summarizes the normal path through the program.**

### 5.2 Advising

Your academic advisor, who will be a member of the core faculty in Linguistics, can help with bureaucratic requirements, such as approving your course selections and providing you with an advising code that enables you to register for the upcoming semester. Before your first semester in the program you will be assigned an academic advisor based on our knowledge of your interests at the time you entered the program. However, students' interests

often are not well-defined when they enter the program and as your interests develop and you take more classes, you may change your focus.

You have a right to change academic advisors at any time. If you want to change advisors, you should discuss this with the DGS. Some students are concerned that their advisors will be offended or hurt if they wish to work with someone else. This should not be a concern. Your academic advisor has a professional relationship with you and understands very well that interests and topics may change. As long as you conduct the transition professionally, there should be no problem. There is no expectation on the part of faculty that you will stay with one advisor throughout your study at Boston University.

Your advisor need not be the supervisor of either of your Qualifying Papers. However, normally once the first reader for your dissertation has been determined, that person would also become your academic advisor for the PhD.

### 5.3 Credit and Course Requirements for PhD Students

Normally, no more than 18 credits may be taken in any semester. Each student must register for at least 2 credits or Continuing Student Status each semester until degree requirements are completed. Registration for Continuing Study each semester provides appropriate access to and use of the libraries, research laboratories, faculty, and other academic facilities of the University for the purpose of completing such requirements as examinations, research, and thesis or dissertation work. Continuing students who are PhD candidates are entitled to officially audit one course each semester without further tuition charge. Language, physical education, and studio courses and courses with laboratories may not be audited.

Students must be registered for every semester until the degree requirement is completed unless an official leave of absence has been granted. Students must be registered during the semesters in which they are fulfilling their service requirements (see Section 5.18). Students who are not registered during the academic year are not entitled to use University facilities. (Students registered during the academic year need not be registered during the intervening summers in order to use those facilities.) When finishing the degree, students must be registered in the semester or summer in which the final degree requirements are completed, as well as in the preceding semester.

Students taking a full load of courses will normally take 4 courses a semester, except if they reduce their course load because of service requirements; see Section 5.18.

### 5.4 Transfer of Credits

Rules for Transfer of Credits are found here: <https://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/transfer-of-credits/>. Up to 32 credits, for courses that are equivalent to course requirements at BU (as determined by the DGS), can be transferred. Students who have completed the MA in Linguistics at Boston University can apply courses taken as part of that program that would otherwise satisfy PhD course requirements towards the PhD degree at BU. Questions about potential transfer credits should be addressed to the DGS.

### 5.5 Time Limit

PhD degrees must be completed within seven years after the first registration for that degree, except for periods of authorized leave of absence. In addition, a full-time or certified full-time PhD student who is in good academic standing and who becomes the primary caregiver of an infant or adopted child will receive a one-year extension of their approved time to degree.

Petitions for extensions of time to complete degree requirements must be submitted prior to the end of the above limit (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2011/12/PhD-extension-of-time-editable1.pdf>). Students exceeding this time limit without an approved petition for an extension of time will not be permitted to register. Note also that PhD stipend awards last only until the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

### 5.6 Leave of Absence

Normally, students must register for each regular semester until completion of all degree requirements. Upon written request to the Graduate School, a student is allowed up to two semesters of leave of absence; they may be taken either separately or consecutively. A LOA is taken by filling out a single-page form available in the Graduate School

(<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2011/12/LoA-form-editable.pdf>). Although the form asks that a reason for the LOA be specified, this request is purely for informational purposes. Leaves of absence are never turned down by the Graduate School.

The period of authorized leave of absence is not counted as a part of the time allowed for completion of degree requirements for the PhD. Students may not complete any degree requirements in a semester for which they have been granted leave of absence. Students must be registered in the semester in which they are fulfilling service requirements, and also in the degree in which requirements are completed, as well as in the preceding semester.

There are potential drawbacks to taking a LOA: (1) you may lose medical coverage; always check with GRS. (2) You may have to start repaying student loans; check the details of your loans. (3) You will have reduced library privileges—borrowing time of 3 weeks; however, students have been able to retain their study carrels. (4) You will not be able officially to fulfill any degree requirement, such as qualifying papers, the language exam, submission of your prospectus, etc. during a LOA. (5) You cannot take a LOA when you are very close to finishing and defending your dissertation, because the Graduate School requires that a student be officially registered in the two consecutive semesters prior to receiving the degree. So, for a May graduation, you must be registered fall and spring of that year.

For policies regarding leaves of absence, withdrawals, and accommodations for the birth or adoption of a child, please see <https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/leave-of-absence-and-withdrawal/>.

Students are urged to notify the DGS at the earliest possible date of any anticipated plans for leave of absence.

## 5.7 Course Requirements for the PhD in Linguistics

The PhD in Linguistics requires successful completion of 64 credits at the graduate level, including:

- **GRS LX 703 Phonological Analysis** [next offered Spring 2021]
- **GRS LX 722 Intermediate Syntax: Modeling Syntactic Knowledge** [next offered Spring 2021]
- **GRS LX 732 Intermediate Semantics: The Grammatical Construction of Meaning** [next offered Fall 2020]
- Six additional courses, two in each of two of the following areas, and one in each of the other two areas:
  - [1] Advanced courses in phonetics, phonology, or the phonology/morphology interface
  - [2] Advanced courses in syntax, the syntax/morphology interface, semantics, or pragmatics
  - [3] Linguistic research methodology
  - [4] Language acquisition or the study of language as a social or a historical phenomenon
- **GRS LX 801 and GRS LX 802 Seminar in Linguistic Research** (2 credits each; next offered Fall & Spring 2020-21)
- Six additional graduate-level courses (including up to 8 credits of directed study) in linguistics or related fields sufficient to define a specialization that will be the area within which the dissertation is written. These courses will be selected in consultation with your advisor, whose prior approval is required. Any courses other than GRS LX courses that are to be applied to the PhD requirements also require the prior approval of the DGS.

For categories [1] through [4] above, 1 or 2 courses from those listed below must be selected from each group to count towards the 6-course breadth requirement.

- [1] Advanced courses in phonetics, phonology, or the phonology/morphology interface
  - **GRS LX 706 Advanced Topics in Phonology** [next offered: Fall 2021] **Required course**  
*prereq: GRS LX 703 or equivalent*
- [2] Advanced courses in syntax, the syntax/morphology interface, semantics, or pragmatics
  - GRS LX 723 Advanced Syntax: Issues in Modern Syntactic Theory [next offered: Fall 2020]  
*prereq: GRS LX 722 or equivalent*
  - GRS LX 736 Advanced Topics in Semantics & Pragmatics [next offered: Fall 2021]  
*prereq: GRS LX 732 or equivalent*

### [3] Linguistic research methodology

- GRS LX 691 Linguistic Field Methods
- GRS LX 694 Introduction to Programming for Computational Linguistics
- GRS LX 795 Quantitative Methods in Linguistics
- GRS LX 796 Computational Linguistics

### [4] Language acquisition or the study of language as a social or a historical phenomenon

- GRS LX 641 Sociolinguistics (also offered as CAS AN 521)
- GRS LX 642 Language, Race, and Gender
- GRS LX 645 Languages in Contact: The High Stakes of Grammatical Border-Crossing
- GRS LX 646 Language Change & Variation
- GRS LX 649 Bilingualism
- GRS LX 650 Crosslinguistic Approaches to Acquisition
- GRS LX 655 Second Language Acquisition
- GRS LX 659 Interrupted Acquisition & Language Attrition
- GRS LX 660 Historical and Comparative Linguistics
- GRS LX 753 Acquisition of Phonology
- GRS LX 754 Acquisition of Syntax

The six additional required courses can be chosen from the courses listed in the 4 groups above, or the following:

- GRS LX 611 Morphology: Introduction to the Structures and Shapes of Words
- GRS LX 617 "Having" and "Being" across Languages
- GRS LX 627 Focus
- GRS LX 628 Questions
- GRS LX 664 Linguistics of English
- GRS LX 665 Variation in Dialects of English
- GRS LX 667 Indigenous Languages of Latin America
- GRS LX 668 Structure of African Languages
- GRS LX 669 Structure of Creole Languages
- GRS LX 670 Romance Linguistics
- GRS LX 673 French Phonology (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 674 French Syntax (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 676 Topics in French Linguistics (conducted in French)
- GRS LX 681 Spanish in the US (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 683 Sounds of Spanish (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 684 Structure of Spanish (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 686 Topics in Spanish Linguistics (conducted in Spanish)
- GRS LX 690 Topics in Linguistics
- GRS LX 705 Prosody
- GRS LX 733 Experimental Pragmatics
- GRS LX 738 Discourse Analysis
- GRS LX 790 Intermediate Topics in Linguistics

Relevant courses offered through other departments may also be included among these six courses, with prior approval of the student's academic advisor.

Please note that the introductory level courses in Phonetics, Syntax, and Semantics, GRS LX 601, 621, and 631, cannot be used to satisfy course requirements for the PhD program.

## 5.8 Language Requirement

All students pursuing a PhD in Linguistics are required to demonstrate graduate-level reading proficiency in two foreign languages (one of which may be English, for non-native speakers) *by the end of the third year of enrollment*. Language proficiency can be demonstrated through a language examination, successful completion of a non-credit graduate-level foreign language reading course offered by Boston University, or the equivalent of two years of undergraduate study of the language at Boston University.

Competence in a non-native language can be demonstrated in one of three ways, listed below.

1. The student may present a transcript that indicates that he or she successfully completed two years of a foreign language as an undergraduate.
2. The student may pass a language exam administered by faculty in the appropriate language program, or by a faculty member in the Linguistics Program. (One option is to pass the final exam of a qualifying course.)
3. The student may count English as the examination language if he or she is a native speaker of a language other than English and has passed the TOEFL at a level adequate for admission to the program.

If you are in a position to satisfy the language requirement in one of the above three ways, contact the Department Administrator (DA) to have this requirement officially entered into your records and/or to schedule a language exam. The exam requires you to translate a passage concerning language or linguistics. You are allotted one hour and allowed use of a dictionary. Students are advised to schedule this exam early in their graduate career in case they do not pass the first time. Exams are generally graded and returned to the Linguistics Department within two to three weeks after the exam has been taken.

## 5.9 Qualifying Papers

A candidate for the doctoral degree must satisfactorily complete two substantial research papers in different areas of the field: the first by the end of the fourth semester, the second no later than the sixth semester of enrollment. Each Qualifying Paper (QP) will be planned and carried out under the supervision of a member of the core Linguistics faculty with expertise appropriate to the relevant project; it will be defended orally and approved by an examining committee, composed of the first and second reader (the first reader must be a core member of the Linguistics faculty; the second may be selected from among the core and affiliated Linguistics faculty members, as appropriate), as well as a third faculty member to be selected by the student in consultation with their Advisor, subject to the approval Graduate Programs Committee.

In order to be sufficiently *different*, the two projects should (a) employ different approaches or methodologies; and (b) target different levels of linguistic structure. The two projects should also be undertaken with two different members of the core Linguistics faculty as supervisors.

**Note:** Given the time costs associated with projects that involve primary data collection/working with human subjects, students interested in projects that require them to collect data are encouraged to plan such research for the second—rather than the first—QP. Students interested in QP projects that involve human subjects should be aware of the additional steps such work requires (see Section 9) and plan accordingly with their advisors.

In each case, once the DGS has approved the general topic and the selection of readers proposed by the student [please submit the **Linguistics PhD QP Topic Approval Form**], and the readers have agreed to the proposed roles, the student should develop a proposal of 2 to 4 pages in length (not counting the reference list) in consultation with the readers. The approved proposal, along with the **Linguistics PhD QP Proposal Approval Form**, signed by the two readers, must be submitted to the Department Administrator no later than October 15 of the academic year in which the QP must be completed. The proposal will be reviewed and approved by the Graduate Programs Committee.

Thus the first proposal must be approved and submitted by October 15 of the second academic year of PhD study, and the **second** proposal by October 15 of the third year of academic study. Given this, students are strongly advised to decide on a general topic and a first reader by the end of the previous academic year, to ensure that the proposal can be reviewed, revised, approved, and submitted by the October 15 deadline. Extensions to these deadlines can only be granted on appeal to the DGS; such appeals should be accompanied by a document laying out the reasons for the delay and a timeline for completion of the proposal.



The final QPs will be defended by April 15 of the second and third years, respectively, of PhD enrollment. The scheduling and supervision of the oral defense must be arranged with the QP supervisor (i.e., first reader) at least two weeks in advance of the defense (i.e., by no later than the end of March in the academic year during which the QP will be defended), via submission to the DGS of the **Schedule Form for Oral Defense of QP**. The final copy of each QP, corrected in accordance with the requirements of the QP committee members, should be submitted in hard copy, along with the **QP Approval Form** signed by all three readers, to the Department Administrator. Electronic copies of the final QP and the **QP Approval Form** should also be emailed to both [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu) and [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu) within 2 weeks of the defense date.

If the student does not pass the defense, the student *may* be given the opportunity to rewrite the QP within a specified but reasonably short period of time (at the discretion of the Qualifying Exam Committee), or the student may be asked to leave the program. The student has the right to appeal this decision to the Graduate Programs Committee.

## 5.10 Time Table

By the end of Year 3 in the PhD program, students should have completed their required course work (and completed any incompletes) and submitted their two QPs. They are then ready to advance to PhD candidacy and embark upon the dissertation prospectus. The candidate should select a general topic area and an appropriate core faculty member to serve as first reader on the dissertation. The subject of the dissertation may be related to the topic of one of the QPs.

## 5.11 PhD Candidacy

Upon successful completion of course work, the Language Requirement, and the two Qualifying Papers, a student is accepted to PhD candidacy. This must occur by the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of enrollment. Under exceptional circumstances, the Director of Graduate Studies *may* grant an extension of this deadline by at most one semester. Students who do not meet this deadline will not be allowed to continue in the PhD program.

## 5.12 Dissertation Prospectus

Candidates shall demonstrate their abilities for independent study in a dissertation representing original research or creative scholarship. After advancement to PhD candidacy, the candidate and the first reader proceed to select a dissertation problem and a framework for the research and discuss appropriate composition of the dissertation committee; see also Section 5.15. The first and second readers must be core faculty members in the Linguistics Department. A third reader is also chosen (normally from among the core and affiliated faculty members in Linguistics, but this may also be an external reader). In some circumstances, an additional reader may be included. The dissertation committee must be approved by the DGS via the **Dissertation Prospectus Committee Approval Form** before work on the prospectus begins, and then all of the readers are consulted as the dissertation prospectus is being written.

All readers critically review the prospectus drafts. Once the readers have approved the prospectus for defense, a hearing is scheduled. **Please note that all readers are required to attend the Prospectus Hearing. One committee member, who is not the first reader, can attend via audio/video communication during the prospectus hearing. (This rule was suspended for Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, and may be suspended again; please see the GRS Policies and Procedures page for the latest information.)**

### 5.12.1 DEADLINES

The GRS Dissertation Prospectus Approval Form must be submitted to GRS, following a successful Dissertation Prospectus Hearing, no later than 6 months prior to the dissertation defense, which is subject to GRS deadlines: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>. Please check all of the GRS deadlines carefully. The Prospectus Hearing should be scheduled to occur at least one week prior to the GRS deadline for submission of the form.

### **5.12.2 FORMAT OF THE DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS**

The prospectus must not exceed twenty double-spaced pages, not including the title page or the bibliography. The title page should not be numbered. Margins should be 1" on all sides and the font of the entire document, including headers, should not be smaller than 12 point. Appendices should be reserved for non-essential information.

The prospectus should not include an abstract; a 2 to 3-page abstract should be submitted separately.

### **5.12.3 PROCEDURES TO PREPARE FOR THE DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS HEARING**

A date and time should be set for the hearing at least three weeks in advance, in consultation with the readers, the DGS and the Department Administrator. The Department Administrator will need some time in order to be able to reserve a room. The ***Form for Scheduling of Prospectus Hearing*** should be submitted, along with the abstract and the full prospectus (see Section 5.12.2), to [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu) with a copy to [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu) .

As soon as a room has been reserved (normally at least two weeks in advance of the defense), the Department Administrator will forward an invitation to the faculty of the form:

**To: Linguistics Faculty**

**Re: Invitation to attend the Dissertation Prospectus Hearing for [NAME]**

**The hearing for [NAME's] dissertation prospectus will be held on [DATE] at [TIME] in [LOCATION].**

**The dissertation title is "[DISSERTATION TITLE]".**

**The first reader is [NAME]; the second reader is [NAME]; and the third reader is [NAME].**

#### **5.12.4 THE HEARING**

The candidate and the readers, along with any other interested parties, meet for the Prospectus Hearing. After any required revisions are made by the student, the Prospectus must be approved and the GRS Dissertation Prospectus Approval Form must be signed by all of the readers. The official Prospectus readers now become the candidate's permanent Dissertation Committee.

#### **5.12.5 SUBMISSION OF THE PROSPECTUS APPROVAL FORM**

At least 3 business days prior to the GRS deadline for submission of the form, the candidate submits the approval form <http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2015/09/Prospectus1.pdf> (which the readers must have signed) and the final version of the prospectus to the Department Administrator, [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu), and to [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu). Once the Director of Graduate Studies has approved, the form will be submitted to GRS, and candidate will be notified.

#### **5.13 Submission of "Intent to Graduate" Form**

Please see the deadlines for submitting your "Intent to Graduate" form: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/> — which must be submitted 4-8 months prior to your anticipated graduation date (depending on when you plan to graduate). If your anticipated graduation date changes, you must re-submit the form. Please also make sure that the Department Administrator and the DGS are aware of your intended graduation date and your intended Final Oral Examination date (see below), as well as any subsequent changes in your graduation plans.

#### **5.14 Preparing the Thesis**

During the process of dissertation research, the candidate is expected to consult with members of the Dissertation Committee. All readers review the candidate's first thesis draft. It is suggested that the thesis be written in a form that need not be radically altered for publication. Please be sure to follow these guidelines and requirements when preparing your final version: <http://www.bu.edu/library/files/2014/12/guide.pdf>. Samples of the preliminary pages are also provided: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>.

#### **5.15 Dissertation Committee Composition**

Policies concerning the composition of the Dissertation Committee are found on this page, under "Schedule of Final Oral Exam with Abstract": <https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>. A special appointment, approved by the dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, is required for those committee members who are: visiting, adjunct, and emeritus faculty (other than those within two years of retirement who were already serving as a reader or committee member at the time of retirement); Boston University employees not of professorial rank; and examiners from outside Boston University. A majority of the committee must be Boston University professorial faculty members who do not require a special appointment. The Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chair must approve the membership of the committee.

#### **5.16 Dissertation Abstract and Final Oral Examination**

Candidates must undergo a Final Oral Examination in which they defend their dissertation as a valuable contribution to knowledge in their field and demonstrate a mastery of their field of specialization in relation to their dissertation. All aspects of the Dissertation and Final Oral Examination must be carried out as outlined in the GRS General

Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree: <https://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/programs/phd-degree-requirements/>. Please pay very careful attention to the deadlines for the scheduling of the Final Oral Examination and for submission of the final version of the dissertation: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>.

The Oral Examination Committee consists of the three (or more) readers and two additional committee members, one of whom serves as committee chair. Note that these two additional members of the examining committee are not official readers of the dissertation and will not sign the dissertation itself. The additional members are selected by the Graduate Programs Committee in consultation with the first reader and the DGS once the Intent to Graduate Form has been submitted to GRS. The student should notify the DGS when submitting that form. The committee chair must be a core faculty member in the Department of Linguistics.

Once the members of the examining committee have been determined, the student (in consultation with the first reader and the other members of the Oral Examination Committee) should schedule an anticipated defense date and inform the DGS of that date. All committee members are required to attend the Final Oral Examination. The first reader and the chair of the Oral Examination Committee must be physically present. Up to one other committee member can attend via audio/video communication without a proxy during the Final Oral Examination. **A proxy must be in attendance for any additional committee member who attends via audio/video communication. (This rule was suspended for Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis, and may be suspended again; please see the GRS Policies and Procedures page for the latest information.)**

**AT LEAST SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE ORAL EXAMINATION DATE**, students must:

\_\_give the readers and the other members of the examining committee the final draft of the dissertation.

**AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS BEFORE THE ORAL EXAMINATION DATE**, students must:

\_\_obtain a copy of the Ph.D. Schedule of Final Oral Examination with Abstract Approval cover sheet from the GRS web site (<https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>; select Schedule of Final Oral Exam with Abstract) and submit the form and the abstract to the first reader for approval. Provide the form and abstract to both [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu) and [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu). The Department Administrator will obtain approval from the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair. Students may need a longer lead-in time during the summer months because faculty are often away. Please note that the abstract must be written in a clear and concise manner and must strictly follow University guidelines for formatting and word count. These guidelines are spelled out in detail in A Guide for the Writers of Theses and Dissertations, <http://www.bu.edu/library/files/2014/12/guide.pdf>.

**AT LEAST THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE ORAL EXAMINATION DATE**, the department will send the final version of the dissertation abstract, including any modifications that may have been requested, along with the signed Final Oral Examination with Abstract Approval cover sheet to GRS for the Dean's approval. The GRS Dean may request revisions, in which case the student will need to resubmit a revised copy to GRS. In addition, the student must:

\_\_ submit a draft of the dissertation as a pdf to [grsrec@bu.edu](mailto:grsrec@bu.edu) for format review. If the document is too large to send over email, the draft can be shared via dropbox or google docs with [grsrec@bu.edu](mailto:grsrec@bu.edu). Be sure the draft includes all preliminary pages, references, and your CV. You will be notified if the format is approved or if changes are required. It is advised that all formatting issues be resolved before you defend your dissertation. Following your defense, please allow ample time to complete all requirements and content revisions that are required by your committee.

\_\_ submit Special Service Appointment paperwork if needed for any faculty members who will be serving on the examining committee

**AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ORAL EXAMINATION DATE**, students must:

\_\_submit the approved abstract and a copy of the full dissertation to [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu) and [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu) . The Department Administrator will send an invitation to Linguistics faculty and graduate students.

The responsibility of the Oral Examination Committee is to determine whether the candidate has presented an adequate defense of the Dissertation. Only one FAIL vote is permissible for a pass. If it is determined that a re-examination will be permitted, the Examination Committee will make recommendations regarding any necessary changes in the thesis. The Dissertation must be approved and signed by the Readers. Revisions may be requested.

The date of the defense is often the best time to get official signature pages signed for the final copies of your dissertation, when all of your committee members are together in one place. Please print at least three copies of your signature page on nice business-grade paper: one to submit to GRS after your defense, one for our departmental records, and one for your own records.

**UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE ORAL EXAMINATION**, students must:

\_\_ submit a hard copy of the signed Examination Report Form (obtained from the first reader) and signed signature page, signed by the three readers, to the Department Administrator. The final signed copy of the dissertation should be sent electronically to [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu).

\_\_submit the final approved dissertation to the Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) website (<https://www.etdadmin.com/cgi-bin/school?siteid=429>). The submission in the ETD will be reviewed by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GRS) Records Office, then forwarded to the Mugar Library ETD Administrator for the final format review. When that review is complete, the dissertation will be submitted to ProQuest/UMI. If GRS or Mugar Library notifies you of necessary corrections or changes, those edits must be made immediately.

\_\_submit the electronic Contact Information Form online (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/grs-phd-forms-policies-procedures/grs-dissertation-and-graduation-procedures/>, Click on Final Dissertation Submission).

\_\_ submit the Dissertation Processing Fee of \$115, which can be paid online via credit card by clicking on the link provided at the Guide for Writers of Theses and Dissertations (<http://www.bu.edu/library/guide/theses/>, under Library Submission).

The GRS office requires a hard copy of your dissertation approval page (the third page of your dissertation) with original signatures. You can either bring this to the front desk of the GRS office yourself, or the department can send it to GRS along with your dissertation exam reports.

You will receive a link to a BU Doctoral Exit Survey and a Survey of Earned Doctorates (managed by the National Science Foundation) shortly after submitting your dissertation defense scheduling paperwork. Both of these surveys must be completed before your graduation can be processed.

## 5.17 Assessment of Progress

Once per year, at the end of the spring semester, students will be required to hand in a progress report that enables the program faculty to evaluate students' progress in, and plans for: 1) completion of coursework for the PhD requirements; 2) establishment of a committee and progress towards completion of the qualifying requirements, and then for the dissertation; and 3) research (i.e., what research activities have been pursued, what work has been submitted for presentation or publication, etc.). A form will be provided for this purpose.

The Graduate Programs Committee and other core faculty members in the program will meet to review student progress at the end of each academic year. Each student will receive a letter containing faculty feedback about their progress, as well as suggestions for moving forward.

## 5.18 Service Requirements and Fellowships

PhD students receive 5 years of funding (a stipend plus tuition coverage). During this 10-semester period, 4 semesters will normally be service-free, and in the other 6 semesters, students will serve as full-time teaching or research fellows (with service commitments averaging 20 hours per week), as determined by the department. Normally, students will have 2 of the first 6 semesters, plus the final 2 semesters, with no service obligations. During the semesters when students are teaching or conducting research, they may choose to take only 2 courses. This will still enable completion of all course work during the first three years, in parallel with fulfillment of other degree requirements. (Note that on occasion, 2 half-time service semesters, with commitments of 10 hours per week, may substitute for 1 full-time service semester.)

Students should expect to receive a tentative assignment of a teaching or research fellowship by May 1 for the following academic year.

PhD students registering for any number of courses and receiving a full-fellowship are automatically granted full-time status and are not required to submit a form in order to be certified for full-time status.

For details of the fellowship aid, please see Aid for PhD Students on these pages:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/financial-aid/>

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/phd-fellowship-info/>

International students are not permitted to work more than 20 hours a week, because of visa regulations. Domestic students are eligible for paid positions (e.g., serving as a grader or working on the BU Conference for Language Development) under the following conditions:

- The assignment provides the student with an opportunity for professional growth in teaching and/or in expert knowledge of course topics or research;
- The assignment does not exceed five (5) hours/week averaged over the semester;
- The total additional payment for the semester does not exceed \$1,500; and
- The payment is set up as a weekly salary.

In the event that you experience financial hardship, you can apply for limited emergency funding from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The online form for doing this can be found here:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/emergency-funding-for-graduate-students/>

## 5.19 Teaching Fellowships

During semesters in which a student holds a teaching fellowship, the Teaching Fellow (TF) will be required to register for a 2-credit course, GRS LX 699 (the section for which your teaching supervisor will be listed as the instructor). This is in addition to your regular academic course load (i.e., it does not count towards the academic credits required to fulfill PhD requirements).

## 5.20 Satisfactory Academic Progress

Fellowships will continue for the duration of the five-year commitment if the student is making satisfactory academic progress each year, confirmed by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Financial Aid Office.

The GRS minimum standard for satisfactory academic progress is:

- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Have no more than 2 failing grades (lower than B- or an incomplete grade older than 12 months)
- Pass qualifying exams and other milestones on the schedule specified by the program

## 5.21 Privileges

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences provides special privileges to all eligible GRS Fellows/Assistants. To receive the privileges listed below, the student must be officially registered and settled for the current semester, and must also have completed and submitted all supporting documentation for stipend payment (i.e. form I-9, visa updates, Patent Policy agreements, etc.). Please note that until this is done, privileges cannot be granted.

- Barnes & Noble at Boston University: Fellows/Assistants received a 10% discount privilege in accordance with those extended to faculty. Students must go to the Bookstore with their activated Terrier Card to receive a Bookstore discount card.
- Boston University Libraries: 24-hour loan for periodicals and when you are actively writing your PhD dissertation, permission to apply for a study carrel.

## 5.22 Medical Insurance

As part of your fellowship award, the University will cover your individual participation in the Boston University Basic Student Health Insurance Plan. Students who opt to purchase the Boston University Student Plus Plan will be responsible for payment of the additional premium amount. Please refer to **Student Health Services** for more information. Students also have the option to purchase **Dental Care** through the University, which is not included in the fellowship award. The University will not cover any medical or dental insurance costs for dependents. Family coverage is available at an additional cost to the student.

## 5.23 Travel Grants

Twice a year, the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Organization (GSO) accepts applications for travel grants. The GSO offers two types of awards:

- Presentation travel grants: For students planning on directly participating in a conference or research forum by presenting a paper or poster, participating in a discussion panel, or chairing a discussion or paper session.
- Research travel grants: For students planning to visit an archive, attend a training workshop, or use a research facility.

For instructions, application, and details, please visit the GSO website:

**<http://www.bu.edu/gso/travelgrants/>**. Any PhD student in GRS from a department represented at 3 or more GSO meetings in Spring 2020 is eligible to apply. MA students are not eligible to receive a travel grant. Preference is given to PhD students in their second year and later.

## 5.24 Commencement

See **<http://www.bu.edu/commencement/>**. All-University Commencement ceremonies are held once each year in May. Graduates will be contacted directly by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GRS) in the Spring semester with information on the GRS PhD Hooding Ceremony. PhD graduates are also invited to attend the Linguistics Department Commencement ceremony. Further information will be provided by the department.

## 5.25 Diplomas

If you will not be participating in the Commencement ceremonies, information on diploma pickup and mailing dates can be found on the Registrar's website: **<http://www.bu.edu/reg/graduation/>**. Certificates of completion, **<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/grs-phd-forms-policies-procedures/grs-phd-request-for-certificate-of-completion/>**, are available if you are in need of an official document stating that you have met all degree requirements before the diploma is issued.

## 5.26 PhD Checklist of Requirements

### For First 3 years

#### Complete Course Requirements

Semester	Course No.	
<b>3 CORE COURSES</b>		
	GRS LX 703	GRS LX 703 Phonological Analysis [offered every year]
	GRS LX 722	GRS LX 722 Intermediate Syntax [offered every year]
	GRS LX 732	GRS LX 732 Intermediate Semantics [offered every year]

6 COURSES total - made up of 1-2 from each of the 4 categories

#### Adv. Phonology

	GRS LX 706	GRS LX 706 Advanced phonology [every other year]
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#### Adv. Syntax/semantics

		GRS LX 723 Advanced syntax [every other year next: Fall 2020]
		GRS LX 736 Advanced semantics & pragmatics [every other year]

#### Research Methodology

		GRS LX 691 Field Methods, GRS LX 694 Intro to Programming for CL
		GRS LX 795 Quantitative Methods, GRS LX 796 Computational Linguistics

#### Lang. Acquisition or Lang. as social or historical phenomenon

		GRS LX 649 Bilingualism, LX 650 Cross-ling. Acq., LX 655 L2A, LX 659 Attrition
		GRS LX 753 Acq. Phonology, 764 Acq. Syntax, 660 Historical, LX 641 Socioling.,
		GRS LX 642 Lang. Race, Gender, 645 Lgs in Contact, 646 Lg. Variation

#### Proseminars (2 cr. each)

	GRS LX 801	GRS LX 801 [next: Fall 2020]
	GRS LX 802	GRS LX 802 [next: Spring 2021]

6 additional graduate level Linguistics courses


## II. Language Requirement

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Language \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

How satisfied: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## III. Two QP's

Subfield: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

First reader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Second reader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposal (by 10/15) Y2 \_\_\_\_\_

Y3 \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing (by 4/15) Y2 \_\_\_\_\_

Y3 \_\_\_\_\_



## After Advancing to PhD Candidacy

- \_\_\_\_\_ Select topic area and dissertation supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Develop topic; select two additional readers: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit **Dissertation Prospectus Committee Approval Form**
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write your prospectus in consultation with readers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Be sure you are aware of all deadlines!
- \_\_\_\_\_ [4-8 months before Graduation date; check deadline] Submit Intent to graduate form.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [one month before Prospectus deadline] Work with readers & Dept. Admin: schedule hearing; submit **Form for Scheduling of Prospectus Hearing**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [at least two weeks before Prospectus deadline] Submit to Department: Prospectus, Abstract (Department Administrator will send out invitation to Linguistics faculty).
- \_\_\_\_\_ [3 days before Prospectus deadline] Submit signed **GRS Prospectus Approval form** and final version of Prospectus to Department Administrator.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Research and write dissertation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine date for Oral Examination, in consultation with readers and following GRS deadlines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [at least 6 weeks before Oral Examination date] Give final copy of dissertation to readers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [at least 5 weeks before Oral Examination date] Provide dissertation advisor with **Abstract and Final Oral Examination with Abstract Approval** cover sheet, for signature, and submit that form, along with the abstract, to the Department.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [at least 3 weeks before Oral Examination date] Department sends final version of abstract and cover form to GRS Dean for approval (revision may be required); submit the draft of your dissertation as a pdf to [grsrec@bu.edu](mailto:grsrec@bu.edu) for format review; submit Special Service Appointment paperwork, if required.
- \_\_\_\_\_ [2 weeks before Oral Examination date] Email to the Department Administrator the final approved abstract and the full dissertation as 2 pdf documents; the Department Administrator will invite Linguistics Faculty and graduate students to attend the dissertation defense.
- \_\_\_\_\_ DEFEND DISSERTATION at the date and time scheduled for the hearing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit to Department your signed examination form, signature page, and final dissertation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submit final version of dissertation electronically to EDT website, submit contact form, pay dissertation processing fee, and complete required online surveys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Come to the Commencement ceremonies 😊

❖ *Sample Timeline*

- Year 1**            Submit language requirement form for any non-native languages in which you already have competence.  
Take 4-8 courses, depending on service or non-service fellowship.  
By the end of the year, choose topic and first reader for first QP.  
Submit year-end progress report.
- Year 2**            Submit language requirement form for any non-native languages in which you have attained competence.  
Take 4-8 courses, depending on service or non-service fellowship.  
By October 15, submit approved QP1 proposal.  
By April 15, QP1 must be defended.  
Within two weeks, carry out any required revisions and submit the final version of the QP, along with the ***QP Approval Form***.  
By the end of the year, choose topic and first reader for second QP.  
Submit year-end progress report.
- Year 3**            Take 4-8 courses, depending on service or non-service fellowship.  
By October 15, submit approved QP2 proposal.  
By April 15, QP2 must be defended.  
Within two weeks, carry out any required revisions and submit the final version of the QP, along with the ***QP Approval Form***.  
Submit language requirement form for any non-native languages in which you have attained competence.  
Submit year-end progress report.
- Year 4**            Advance to PhD candidacy; candidate and first reader select dissertation problem and discuss composition of dissertation committee.  
Submit ***Dissertation Prospectus Committee Approval Form***.  
Submit year-end progress report.
- Year 4 or 5**        Schedule Dissertation Prospectus Hearing by required date, and submit the GRS Prospectus Approval Form after the hearing.  
(<https://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2018/09/Updated-Prospectus.pdf>)
- Year 5**            Submit intent to graduate form to GRS and notify Department Administrator. DGS will inform you of the additional members of the

examining committee. Arrange a tentative date for oral examination with all readers and members of the examining committee.

Defend and submit dissertation, carefully following the detailed set of deadlines laid out earlier in this section.

Submit year-end progress report.

## 6 FOR NEW STUDENTS

### 6.1 Orientation Activities

Incoming students will receive information about orientation activities from the DGS sometime during the summer before their arrival. Early in the school year, a reception is also held for all graduate students and faculty in the Linguistics Department. This gathering offers an excellent informal opportunity for new students to become acquainted with fellow students and faculty members.

### 6.2 Other Information

#### 6.2.1 HOUSING

For information about graduate student housing, see <https://www.bu.edu/housing/living/graduate/> .

#### 6.2.2 STUDENT HEALTH BENEFITS

A packet containing information about student benefits will be sent to you during the summer along with your registration materials. If you do not receive this by August 1, you should contact the Graduate School Admissions Office (phone: (617) 353-2696). A few useful facts are listed below. More detailed information is contained in the packet.

#### 6.2.3 STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

A full physical examination and certain immunizations are required before you come to Boston University. Student Health Services is located at 881 Commonwealth Ave., (617) 353-3575, <http://www.bu.edu/shs/> .

#### 6.2.4 MEDICAL INSURANCE

Medical insurance through the University is available for full-time students. Students who do not want this coverage must provide documentation to show that they have other health insurance, and must fill out a special form to have the charge removed from their bill. International students are normally required to enroll in the BU health insurance plan.

## 7 PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

See <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/> for information about policies and procedures. The essential information is replicated below, but in case of discrepancy, the official GRS website should be considered authoritative.

### 7.1 General Registration Procedures

The registration process is coordinated through the Linguistics Department Office and has been set up so that you can register for most courses yourself. The general guidelines for registration are the following:

1. Make an appointment with your advisor to discuss which courses you should take. A list of current courses is available on the Linguistics website.
2. Once you know what you are going to register for, your advisor will approve your academic program and give you your advising code, which you will need in order to register online through the Student Link (<http://www.bu.edu/studentlink>). Follow the directions provided on the Web and refer to the guidelines for registration that you received in the registration package where necessary.
3. For detailed information about registration, see: <http://www.bu.edu/reg/registration/>. You will need to provide certain information and fulfill certain requirements in order to be eligible to register; see <http://www.bu.edu/reg/registration/requirements/>.

Note: if your advisor is not available during the registration process or you do not have an advisor, please contact the DGS for assistance.

## 7.2 Additional Registration Procedures

For additional information about registration procedures for MA and PhD students, respectively, see <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-and-ms-students/registration/> or <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/registration/>.

## 7.3 Registering for Independent Study

Independent study offers the opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty member on a given topic area of their choice. Independent study courses are sometimes referred to as ‘Directed Study’. MA students can include up to one directed study course in satisfaction of the MA course requirements, subject to the approval of a Linguistics faculty member who will supervise the work.

Students cannot register for directed study courses using the Student Link, so they need assistance in order to register for this type of course:

1. To sign up for a GRS LX directed study course, you should complete the application form on p. 47, obtain the necessary approvals, and submit the form by the indicated deadline. The Department Administrator will need to register you.
2. If the professor you are going to work with is in the Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, you need to fill out a form called ‘Application for Independent Study’. You can obtain this at the department office or at Office of Student Records, Wheelock room 127. Fill out this form and have it signed by the faculty member with whom you will be registered for the independent study. Then, you need to take it to Student Records in Wheelock room 127 and they will register you. You cannot register for this course using the Student Link.

## 8 COMPLIANCE

Each student admitted to the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences is responsible for becoming familiar with the general regulations of the Graduate School as stated in the “Policies” section of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Bulletin and with the more specific requirements stated in the individual section on each department, division, or program which may go beyond, or supplement, the Graduate School standards.

If necessary, the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences staff is available to interpret or clarify any rule or regulation.

Boston University does not permit a student to enroll simultaneously in more than one graduate program either within Boston University or at another institution, unless those programs have been previously approved by the Trustees of Boston University as a combined degree program.

In order to register:

- Boston University requires all students studying on Massachusetts campuses to provide a BU Alert phone number.
- Boston University requires all students to settle their financial obligation each semester.
- Massachusetts law requires that all full-time and many part-time students be immunized against a number of diseases in order to attend a university in the Commonwealth.
- The Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Law requires that all out-of-state students sign an acknowledgement that they have been informed of the law. (Compliance required in the Fall semester only)

The above information needs to be updated each semester. Check the Student Link to ensure you have met these requirements. Students not in compliance will be unable to register for future semesters.

### 8.1 Grades and Coursework

#### 8.1.1 COURSE DROPS AND WITHDRAWALS

Students may drop a course early in the semester without penalty. Students who withdraw from a course after the drop deadline receive a grade of ‘W’ (and no credit) for the course. If the course is required, the student must take the course in a later semester and pay tuition again. See <http://www.bu.edu/reg/calendars/semester/> for specifics

about deadlines for adding and dropping classes in any given semester. The time point at which a student drops or withdraws from a course affects the portion of tuition reimbursement to which the student is entitled. Please contact the Office of the Registrar or consult <http://www.bu.edu/reg/> for information about deadlines for dropping a course and receiving tuition reimbursement.

### **8.1.2 INCOMPLETES, FAILING GRADES, AND GRADE REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING**

A grade of B- or higher is required to pass a graduate-level course; anything lower is considered a failing grade.

If a student does not complete the work required for a course by the end of the semester of registration in that course, the instructor may assign a failing grade. If the student has a good reason for failure to complete the course requirements on time, he or she may negotiate a short-term extension to complete the outstanding requirements with the instructor, in which case a grade of Incomplete will be entered, provisionally, until the course work has been completed, at which time the 'I' will be changed to the grade earned.

Permission to take an Incomplete must be received from the Instructor before final grades for the class are submitted. The Incomplete Form needs to be completed and signed by the student and the instructor, who should each retain a copy. The instructor should also send a copy electronically to the Department Administrator. The form is available from:

<https://www.bu.edu/reg/files/2017/01/Incomplete-Grade-Form.pdf> .

The coursework required for this course must be completed and graded by the instructor within one year from the end of the course in order for the student to receive a letter grade for the course. If the student does not complete the work required within the year limit, the grade will be converted to 'F'. See <https://www.bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/incomplete-coursework/> .

Please note that only the instructor of the course can change a grade from Incomplete to a letter grade. If an instructor leaves the university for any reason, we must contact that person if a grade change is needed. Sometimes this is quite difficult, so students are encouraged to finish their Incompletes promptly.

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students whose GPA drops below 3.0 or who receive failing grades (i.e., grades lower than B- or permanent Incompletes) in more than two 4-credit courses are at risk for removal from the program at the discretion of the Graduate School. Students are therefore strongly encouraged to avoid accumulating 'I' grades and to complete coursework within the time limits. (See <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/policies/failing-grades/>.)

## **8.2 Academic Integrity**

Please be sure you are familiar with the GRS Academic Code of Conduct:

<https://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2017/02/GRS-Academic-Conduct-Code-Final.pdf>

Infractions are very serious, and can be career-ending. If you have any questions about how to appropriately cite sources or attribute ideas, or anything else covered by this code, please consult with your advisor, instructor, or the DGS.

## **8.3 Emergencies**

For general information about various types of emergency situations, see <http://www.bu.edu/ehs/procedures/emergency-communications/> .

### **8.3.1 BU POLICE**

Call the Boston University Police at (617) 353-2121 (3-2121 on a campus phone) or 911 if you have a serious or life-threatening emergency.

### **8.3.2 BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

The Building & Grounds emergency number is: (617) 353-2105. See <https://www.bu.edu/facilities/request-services/#emergency> .

### 8.3.3 OTHER PHONE NUMBERS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF EMERGENCIES

- Student Health Services (617) 353-3575
- Sexual Assault (617) 353-SARP (7277)
- Behavioral Medicine (617) 353-3569
- Poison Control Center 617-232-2120
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center 617-492-RAPE (1-800-841-8371)

## 8.4 BU Alert

BU Alert is an emergency notification system that will help ensure rapid and reliable mass communication to students, faculty, and staff. The BU Alert system is designed to communicate with cell phones (text and voice messages), landlines, and email systems during a crisis or time-sensitive situation on the Boston University Charles River and Medical campuses. Students are required to provide an emergency number as part of their registration and can update their contact preferences on the Student Link. Questions concerning enrollment in the BU Alert program may be addressed to the Admissions Office ((617) 353-2300).

## 9 IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CARRYING OUT RESEARCH

### 9.1 Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR)

All students who participate in federally funded research projects are required to undergo Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) training. RCR is offered through the Provost's Office and involves online modules and may also involve a series of afternoon training sessions of lectures and round table discussions covering topics such as proper data acquisition and management, research collaboration ethics, publication dos and don'ts, social responsibility in research, and research that involves human subjects. Different levels of training are offered for undergraduates, MA, and PhD students; see <http://www.bu.edu/researchsupport/training-how-to/responsible-conduct-of-research-training/>. Information about this series will be provided at appropriate times during the academic year.

### 9.2 Human Subject Research

If you conduct research that requires you to have contact of almost any kind with other humans (for example, as participants in an experiment, respondents in a survey, students in a classroom, etc.) you will be responsible for getting approval for this research from the campus Institutional Review Board before you begin collecting any data. Your advisor, and also the DGS, can help with this process, but ultimately, the responsibility is yours. Please note in addition that the consequences for failing to follow these procedures can be quite serious, both for you, and for the department.

The regulations and procedures required by the IRB are quite elaborate, and the approval process can take time, so it is extremely important that you start the approval process as early as possible. Essential information about this process is available here: <http://www.bu.edu/linguistics/UG/docs/research-info.pdf>. Do not submit anything to the IRB without your advisor's prior approval.

## 10 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### 10.1 BU Conference on Language Development

The Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD) was started in 1976 by students and faculty in the Psycholinguistics Program (a historical antecedent of the Linguistics Department). The Conference has become one of the best known conferences on language development in the world and takes place in early November each year. The Conference draws over 500 people from all over the US and around the world, and includes about 70 papers and 120 posters in such areas as theoretical approaches to language acquisition, second language acquisition, language disorders, and other topics related to language development. The Conference is a non-profit organization

and is funded by the money taken in each year at the Conference, currently supplemented by grants provided by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

BUCLD is run each year by students in the Linguistics Department, with the guidance of faculty advisors, currently Profs. Paul Hagstrom, Charles Chang, and Amy Lieberman. Planning for the conference goes on all year. Two or three students serve as organizers of the conference, six to seven as committee chairs, and the rest of the students help in a variety of ways throughout the year and at the conference itself. The organization of the conference is a year-long project that requires the participation of all graduate students in the Linguistics Department in order to run smoothly. All graduate students are expected to contribute to the organization of the conference in one way or another (by, for example, vetting abstracts, proofreading conference materials, staffing the registration desk, or chairing sessions).

Inquiries about how to help with the conference may be made by email ([langconf@bu.edu](mailto:langconf@bu.edu)). The conference website is <http://www.bu.edu/buclid/>.

## 10.2 Colloquia

You should plan to attend the Linguistics Colloquia and other events organized by the department. Colloquia are organized by a Colloquium Committee composed of 2-3 Linguistics graduate students and a faculty chair (currently Prof. Chang). They solicit speaker nominations from graduate students and faculty, decide amongst the nominations (in consideration of several factors such as level of interest in the speaker's research, distribution across subfields, and budget), and make arrangements for the speaker's visit to campus. In addition to giving a talk, an invited speaker is often able to meet with students, who are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity!

The Greater Boston area is also home to a number of other linguistics departments and related programs, many of which host events during the academic year. Be sure to check out the linguistics program websites at Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, Brandeis, UMass Boston, etc., as well as the websites for related programs at BU (such as SAR Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences, WED Deaf Studies, and CAS Psychological & Brain Sciences) for news about events.

## 10.3 Graduate Research Forum

Several meetings are arranged each semester to enable graduate students to discuss the research they are conducting with fellow students in an informal setting, to receive feedback from their peers; some faculty members also attend. Students who are planning to present a paper at a conference, forum, or workshop are strongly encouraged to contact the organizer(s) to schedule a practice talk in front of fellow students and faculty members. You can practice and receive feedback that will be very helpful for the real presentation. The current organizer of the Graduate Research Forum is Alex Kohut ([aekohut@bu.edu](mailto:aekohut@bu.edu)).

# 11 HEALTH RESOURCES

## 11.1 Student Health Services (SHS)

See <https://www.bu.edu/shs/>. Student Health Services (881 Commonwealth Avenue, (617) 353-3575) provides services related to primary health care, behavioral medicine (see below), wellness and prevention, and sexual assault response and prevention. You may use Student Health Services if any of the following criteria applies: you are...

- A full-time BU student, regardless of your insurance choice.
- A student who participates in at least 9 credit hours.
- Any student with the Student Health Insurance Plan.
- A summer student or a participant in one of the high school summer programs.



## 11.2 Behavioral Medicine

Behavioral Medicine (part of SHS, just described) offers a range of mental health services to BU students. They strive to keep the BU community healthy and thriving, so please don't hesitate to call if you need:

- Assessment and diagnosis
- Brief treatment, including therapy and psychiatry for a variety of mental health issues
- 24/7 on-call service for mental health emergencies ((617) 353-3569)
- Referral to community resources for longer-term care
- Phone consultation for students, parents, and BU faculty and staff
- Outreach and prevention programming

See <https://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/> .

## 11.3 The Danielsen Institute

The Danielsen Institute, located at 185 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215 ((617) 353-3047; daninst@bu.edu) is a multidisciplinary mental health clinic. The clinic is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. See <http://www.bu.edu/danielsen/clinic/>. The Danielsen Institute offers a variety of psychological services, including individual, group, family, and couples therapy, as well as psychological testing and assessment for adults, adolescents, and children. Many insurance plans, including Boston University's Aetna Student Health Plan, can be used to cover a portion of applicable fees, and a sliding fee scale is also available.

## 11.4 The Center for Anxiety & Related Disorders (CARD)

See <https://www.bu.edu/card/>. This center is located at 648 Beacon Street, 6th Floor ((617) 353-9610; email Bonnie Brown at [bonnieb@bu.edu](mailto:bonnieb@bu.edu) for more information). CARD is an internationally known Clinic specializing in helping both adults and children address a range of anxiety disorders and related challenges, such as difficulties with mood, sleep, concentration, and pain. The faculty and staff strive to deliver state-of-the-art clinical services to individuals of all backgrounds. They also offer assessment and therapy on a sliding scale fee in order to accommodate individuals with limited income.

## 11.5 Dental Care

Students in need of dental care are referred by Student Health Services to qualified local dentists. Students are responsible for dental charges. Students may enroll in a preventive dental plan available from the Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine by calling 617-638-4700. In addition, Aetna Student Health offers a Dental Discount Program to Boston University students.

## 12 SEXUAL MISCONDUCT/TITLE IX GUIDELINES

The Linguistics Department must be an environment where learning and research can occur free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and misconduct. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Sex-based discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, and sexual coercion. The law covers sex-based discrimination against students, faculty, and staff.

Any University employee, including student employees whose duties include supervision or teaching of other students (e.g. Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows, etc.), who receives a complaint or otherwise learns about a possible incident of sexual misconduct involving a member of the Boston University community as complainant or alleged perpetrator is legally obliged to complete a Sexual Misconduct Report Form with the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Persons seeking to file a complaint should contact:

- Dean of Students Office | (617) 353-4126
- Title IX Coordinator Kim Randall | [krandall@bu.edu](mailto:krandall@bu.edu) | (617) 353-9286
- Boston University Police Department | (617) 353-2121

For details of University policy, see:

<https://www.bu.edu/policies/sexual-misconduct-title-ix-hr/>.

## 13 STUDENT LIFE RESOURCES

### 13.1 Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

The GSO is the official representative body of the graduate students in the Arts and Sciences at Boston University. See <http://www.bu.edu/gso/>.

The purpose of the GSO is:

- To provide a forum for the discussion of matters pertaining to the welfare of BU graduate students.
- To advocate on issues of concern to our graduate student community.
- To serve as a liaison between the graduate student body and the BU administration.
- To recommend graduate students to serve on BU committees for which graduate representation is necessary.
- To assist with the process of integrating new students into graduate student life at BU.
- To sponsor social activities and other events that encourage the development of the graduate student community.
- To foster effective communication and cooperation among undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and other members of the community.

The GSO also offers a limited number of travel grants to PhD students in departments that were represented by graduate students at 3 or more GSO meetings during the prior semester. (The rules allow for someone chosen as a proxy to attend meetings on a department's behalf, but they must be assigned with advance notice.) Preference is given to PhD students in their second year or later. See <https://www.bu.edu/gso/travelgrants/>.

### 13.2 Office of the University Ombuds

The Office of the Ombuds is an independent, impartial, informal problem-solving resource serving faculty, staff, and students on the Charles River and Medical Campus. The Office maintains strict confidentiality, and provides a safe place for you to have off-the-record conversations on issues related to life, work, or study at Boston University. Talking to the Ombuds can be a good first step if you have a concern and you don't know where to turn for help. See <https://www.bu.edu/ombuds/>. The office is located at 930 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 ((617) 358-5960; [ombuds@bu.edu](mailto:ombuds@bu.edu)).

### 13.3 Family Resources

The Family Resources Office, <http://www.bu.edu/family/>, is committed to helping families manage the challenges of work life and family life. That office provides many resources and services to support families of the Boston University community. The office is located at 985 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 ((617) 353-5954; [familyre@bu.edu](mailto:familyre@bu.edu)).

### 13.4 International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO)

The ISSO provides professional expertise on immigration and employment, and helps ensure student, scholar, and institutional compliance with federal regulations. ISSO staff members are available to guide students and scholars through the often complicated requirements for foreign nationals studying and working in the United States. See <https://www.bu.edu/isso/>. The Office is located at 888 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02215 ((617) 353-3565; [isso@bu.edu](mailto:isso@bu.edu)).

### 13.5 The University Service Center (USC)

The USC is an excellent starting point for anyone unsure of where to turn for help. The staff will point you in the right direction, or—if your concern is complex, multilayered, or involves multiple offices—help you figure out the best way to address the situation. The office is located at 881 Commonwealth Avenue ((617) 358-1818, [usc@bu.edu](mailto:usc@bu.edu)). See <https://www.bu.edu/usc/>.

### 13.6 Disability Services

Disability Services, <http://www.bu.edu/disability/>, provides services and support to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in the opportunities available at Boston University. Disability Services also employs students as note-takers, readers, and in other positions assisting disabled students. The office is located at 19 Deerfield Street, 2nd Floor ((617) 353-3658, [access@bu.edu](mailto:access@bu.edu)).

### 13.7 The Howard Thurman Center

The Howard Thurman Center (<http://www.bu.edu/thurman/>) is Boston University's center for cultural learning and collaboration. Through a variety of workshops, programs, and celebrations, the Howard Thurman Center aims to build community by eliminating barriers of divisiveness that separate individuals, groups, races, cultures, religions, and ethnicities. The Center is located at 808 Commonwealth Avenue ((617) 353-4745; [thurman@bu.edu](mailto:thurman@bu.edu)).

### 13.8 Judicial Affairs

The Judicial Affairs office and student safety programs serve as the primary administrators of the Code of Student Responsibilities and also provide information and resources to the University community regarding personal safety on and off campus. The office is located at 19 Deerfield Street, 3rd Floor ((617) 358-0700, [dos@bu.edu](mailto:dos@bu.edu)).

### 13.9 Boston University Police Department

The Police Department is located at 32 Harry Agganis Way ((617) 353-2121). From a campus phone, you would just dial: 3-2121. There is also an Anonymous Tip Line: Text the BUPD at tip411 (847411) and type BU <space> [your message]. The Boston University Police Department is a full-time, professional law enforcement agency that also provides a wide variety of public services, including emergency medical response, Rape Aggression Defense classes, and laptop and bicycle registration. Through the community policing program, officers are assigned to various areas of campus to work closely with the community in addressing crime and crime prevention, as well as social issues, which directly affect the quality of life at Boston University.

### 13.10 Office of Environmental Health & Safety

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety provides a full range of environmental, health, and safety services to the University community. These services include, but are not limited to, fire and life safety programs and support of the University's recycling program. It is located at 704 Commonwealth Avenue, 2nd Floor ((617) 353-4094, [oehs@bu.edu](mailto:oehs@bu.edu)).

### 13.11 The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism

Located at 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Lower Level ((617) 358-5575, [cgsa@bu.edu](mailto:cgsa@bu.edu)), the Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism (CGSA) strives to be a safe space for people of all genders and sexualities. Using a social justice framework, the CGSA aims to end gender oppression and violence, and advocates for the full equality and inclusion of women, queer and trans students. This dynamic community fosters challenging and open discourse, promotes student activism, and provides resources and education for the Boston University Community.

### 13.12 Dean of Students

The mission of the Dean of Students office and the Division of Student Affairs (located at 775 Commonwealth Avenue, 3rd Floor, (617) 353-4126, [dos@bu.edu](mailto:dos@bu.edu)) is to enhance the quality, character, and perspectives of our students. Through its many orientation, mentoring, and counseling programs, the division promotes an environment that encourages intellectual exchange and individual expression. The dean of students has an open-door policy and is available to all students by appointment.

### 13.13 Fitness & Recreation Center | Physical Education, Recreation & Dance

All full-time graduate students receive free membership to FitRec, which is good because the way they treat *paying* customers, such as faculty, is an utter disgrace. The Fitness & Recreation Center offers a variety of state-of-the-art facilities, including an 18,000-square-foot weight and cardio room, two swimming pools, racquetball and squash

courts, two multi-use gymnasiums, an elevated jogging track, a 35' climbing wall, a Pro Shop, a truculent and unreasonable membership manager, and the Healthy Blends Café. Physical Education, Recreation & Dance offers for-credit and non-credit classes in everything from fitness to climbing to martial arts. That department also coordinates all intramural and club sports programs. FitRec is located at 915 Commonwealth Avenue ((617) 353-2748, [fitrec@bu.edu](mailto:fitrec@bu.edu)).

### **13.14 Educational Resource Center**

The Educational Resource Center (ERC) provides academic support programs to the University community, including peer tutoring, the Writing Center, Language Link conversation groups, and various workshops. These services are available free of charge. The ERC is located at 100 Bay State Road, 6th Floor ((617) 353-7077, <http://blogs.bu.edu/erc/>).

### **13.15 BU Parking and Transportation Services**

Boston University Parking & Transportation office, located at 1019 Commonwealth Avenue ((617) 353-2160), provides students, staff, and faculty information on various ways to travel in and around Boston. This office provides information on: Parking permits, parking lots and locations, parking regulations and towing, weather related emergencies, the BU Bus, rideshare, bike safety, zip car, and MBTA (the "T") passes and transportation. See <http://www.bu.edu/parking/>.

### **13.16 BU BUS**

The Boston University Shuttle (the BUS), is an inter-campus shuttle service with many stops between the Charles River Campus and the BU Medical Campus. BU ID is needed to board. During the academic year, the BUS operates every 15 minutes (7AM – 10AM & 4PM – 7PM) Mondays – Thursdays, and every 20 minutes on Fridays. The BUS provides 30-minute off-peak service from 7AM until 11PM. During the summer, the BUS runs every 30 minutes between 7AM and 11PM. More information about the BUS service is available online. Evening & Weekend Shuttle provides service 7 days a week during the evening and early morning hours. The shuttle, which runs until 2:00AM Sunday-Wednesday and 4:00AM Thursday-Saturday, is intended to provide the Boston University community with convenient transportation exclusively throughout the Charles River Campus.

### **13.17 The BU Mobile iPhone App**

See <http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/cccs/mobile/bu-mobile/>.

## 14 APPENDIX: FORMS AND PAPERWORK

Forms to be submitted to the Linguistics Program Office, on the following pages are included here. They can also be downloaded from <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/> .

1. LINGUISTICS WAIVER OF COURSE REQUIREMENT FORM
2. LINGUISTICS APPLICATION FOR DIRECTED STUDY (GRS LX 951/952)
3. LINGUISTICS: LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FORM
4. LINGUISTICS PHD: QP TOPIC APPROVAL FORM
5. LINGUISTICS PHD: QP PROPOSAL FORM
6. LINGUISTICS PHD: SCHEDULE FORM FOR ORAL DEFENSE OF QP
7. LINGUISTICS PHD: DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS COMMITTEE APPROVAL FORM
8. LINGUISTICS PHD: FORM FOR SCHEDULING OF PROSPECTUS HEARING
9. LINGUISTICS PHD: FORM FOR SCHEDULING OF PROSPECTUS HEARING

**Forms to be submitted to the Graduate School**, available from the GRS website (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/grs-masters-forms-policies-procedures/>), include the following, among others:

- Add/Drop Class Adjustment Form (if needed; generally this can be done on the Link) <https://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2011/12/Add-Drop-Form-editable.pdf>
- Petition for approval to transfer credits <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/transfer-credits/>
- Leave of Absence/Withdrawal/Childbirth and Adoption Accommodation <http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2011/12/LoA-form-editable.pdf>
- Continuing Study and Certified Full-Time Status Form <http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2018/07/Continuing-Study-and-Certified-Full-NEW.pdf>
- Petition for Extension of Time (PhD) <http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2015/09/PhD-Petition-Extension.pdf>
- Dissertation Prospectus Approval Form : <https://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2018/09/Updated-Prospectus.pdf>

- Intent to Graduate Form (PhD)  
<http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/intent-to-graduate-form-for-phd-students/>
- Schedule of Final Oral Exam with Abstract Approval  
<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2018/07/Schedule-and-Abstract.pdf>
- Special Service Appointment Form  
<http://www.bu.edu/cas/files/2018/09/Updated-SSA.pdf>
- Diploma Application; see <http://www.bu.edu/reg/graduation/>
- Certificate of Completion Form (PhD)  
<http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/certificate-of-completion-request-for-phd-students/>

**Useful information also available online:**

- General Information for Graduate Students:
  - <http://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/ma-ms/graduate-degree-programs/>
  - <http://www.bu.edu/cas/admissions/phd-mfa/>
- Graduate School Bulletin: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/grs/>
- Graduation Calendar:
  - <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>
- Information from the Registrar's Office: <http://www.bu.edu/reg/>

## 1. LINGUISTICS WAIVER OF COURSE REQUIREMENT FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree program \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**BU Core Course Requirement to be waived** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number/Name of the course taken elsewhere:**

**University where course was taken; date taken:**

**Were transfer credits awarded for this course?** \_\_\_\_\_

**If not, what BU course has been approved as a substitution?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of BU faculty member who teaches the required course being waived:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[printed name]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[date]

**BU Elective Course Requirement to be waived:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number/Name of the course for which transfer credits were awarded:**

**University where course was taken; date taken:**

**Signature of DGS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[signature]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[date]

## 2. LINGUISTICS APPLICATION FOR DIRECTED STUDY (GRS LX 951/952)

### Description of a Directed Study

A Directed Study is a course in which a student pursues independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. A student may choose to undertake a Directed Study for the following reasons: 1) to pursue in depth an area covered more generally in a course, 2) to explore a topic not normally covered in the curriculum, or 3) to prepare an independent research project such as a Qualifying Paper (etc.) under faculty guidance. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to identify the topic and to acquire enough information to ensure its worthiness for independent research.

### Creating a Directed Study Proposal: Student and Supervising Faculty Member

**1. Identify key references** (books, journal articles, or other sources) pertinent to the start of the project.

**2. Arrange a meeting between the student and supervising faculty member.** The design of a clear, explicit plan for the completion of the course is the main purpose of this initial conference. Topics to cover should include: supervision, a tentative plan for the research, including a list of references and assignments to be completed, and a schedule for regular meetings throughout the semester. The research project will normally culminate in a major paper or a series of papers.

*It is important to allow yourself ample time to create a thorough and academically rigorous proposal. You should begin thinking about your Directed Study during the semester **prior** to your anticipated registration. It is **not** recommended that you begin creating a proposal once the semester has already begun.*

### Documenting a Directed Study within the Department

**1.** Please fill out the Directed Study application, on the next page; there are sections to be filled out by the student, and signatures confirming approval by the faculty member and the DGS are required.

**2. *The application must be submitted at least 2 days prior to the final day for adding a course.*** Please keep a copy of the application for yourself, and give one to your professor.



## GRADUATE DIRECTED STUDY APPLICATION

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester of Directed Study: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be no later than two days before the last day to add a class for the selected semester)

Number of Credits: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all **previous** Directed Studies taken. (Note: absolute limit of 12 credits)

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### **Please answer the following questions on an attached sheet:**

1. State clearly the objective, research plan, and rationale for this Directed Study course. Include a complete bibliography of readings to be completed. Attach extra pages if needed.
2. State concisely how this Directed Study course fits in with your overall academic program, in relation to both previous work and future goals.
3. Please provide a tentative schedule of meetings, texts to be read and discussed, and work to be completed. Include due dates for written or other work.

### **PART THREE: SIGNATURES**

1. Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Supervising Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. DGS or Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. LINGUISTICS: LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FORM

Please submit one copy of this form for each language used in satisfaction of degree requirements (1 for MA, 2 for PhD). If you plan to satisfy the requirement by taking the reading exam, please contact the Department Administrator to schedule that; this form need not be submitted in that case.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Native language: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-native language used to satisfy this requirement:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### How satisfied?

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a non-native speaker of English using English to satisfy this requirement.

\_\_\_\_\_ I successfully completed a foreign language course at BU at the 4<sup>th</sup> semester  
or higher --- course \_\_\_\_\_ semester \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I successfully completed a non-credit graduate-level foreign language  
reading course offered by BU --- course \_\_\_\_\_ semester \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I successfully completed two years of foreign language study at another  
university: \_\_\_\_\_ [please provide copy of  
transcript]  
course \_\_\_\_\_ semester \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously satisfied this requirement for a different language and either submitted this form or  
passed the reading examination? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, for which language? \_\_\_\_\_

Date form submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. LINGUISTICS PHD: QP TOPIC APPROVAL FORM**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check which QP this is:**

**Topic Area** \_\_\_\_\_

**QP 1**

**Title of the Paper** \_\_\_\_\_

**QP 2**

**First Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**If this is your second QP, please provide information about QP 1:**

**Topic Area** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of the Paper** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Approval of DGS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. LINGUISTICS PHD: QP PROPOSAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Area \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Paper \_\_\_\_\_

*Readers' signatures, indicating approval of the attached proposal.*

First Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your 2-4 page proposal.

---

Approval of Graduate Programs Committee and DGS: \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of DGS)

Third Member of the Examining Committee, assigned by the Graduate Programs Committee:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 6. LINGUISTICS PHD: SCHEDULE FORM FOR ORAL DEFENSE OF QP

To be submitted to the Department Administrator at least 2 weeks prior to the proposed defense date (i.e., no later than end of March in the academic year in which the QP will be defended) after the faculty members listed below have confirmed their availability.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic Area** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of the Paper** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Third Member of the Examining Committee [assigned by the Graduate Programs Committee]**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of first reader, approving scheduling of oral defense:**

**Signature of first reader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of submission of this form:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Room assignment [to be provided by the Department Administrator]** \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. LINGUISTICS PHD: DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS COMMITTEE APPROVAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm completion of:

\_\_\_\_\_ All course requirements (with no remaining Incompletes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Language requirement for 2 non-native languages

\_\_\_\_\_ QP 1 and QP 2

Title of the Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

First Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Second Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Third Reader \_\_\_\_\_

*Proposed Additional Reader (Optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

1-paragraph summary of the topic of the dissertation:

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Approval of DGS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8. LINGUISTICS PHD: FORM FOR SCHEDULING OF PROSPECTUS HEARING

To be submitted to [lxstaff@bu.edu](mailto:lxstaff@bu.edu) and [linggrad@bu.edu](mailto:linggrad@bu.edu) at least **3 weeks** in advance of the proposed hearing date; the hearing date should be at least one week before the GRS deadline for submission of the **GRS Dissertation Prospectus Approval Form** – see <http://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/phd-mfa-students/graduation-information/>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- [1] Date of submission of this form \_\_\_\_\_
- [2] Dissertation Prospectus Hearing – proposed:                      time \_\_\_\_\_                      date \_\_\_\_\_
- [3] Deadline for submission to GRS of Prospectus Approval Form \_\_\_\_\_
- [4] Intended graduation date \_\_\_\_\_
- [5] Deadline for submission of Intent to Graduate Form \_\_\_\_\_
- [6] Approximate anticipated Dissertation Defense date (subject to change) \_\_\_\_\_
- [7] Last date to hold Dissertation Defense \_\_\_\_\_

[1] must be at least 3 weeks before [2] and at least a month before [3]; [3] must be at least 6 months before [6]; [6] must be before [7].

Title of the Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

First Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Third Reader \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional Reader (Optional)* \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach:

- 1) the 2-4 page abstract; and
- 2) the Prospectus (not exceeding 20 double-spaced pages + bibliography)

Signature of first reader (after consultation with the other readers) indicating approval to proceed with scheduling of this hearing:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Approval of DGS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Room – to be assigned by the Department Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. LINGUISTICS PHD: QP APPROVAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

QP # \_\_\_\_\_

Title of the Paper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Defense \_\_\_\_\_

***Readers' signatures, indicating successful defense of QP:***

First Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Third Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Draft Approval \_\_\_\_\_

***Readers' signatures, indicating approval of submitted final draft:***

First Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reader \_\_\_\_\_

Third Reader \_\_\_\_\_