



Language Sciences

a new major in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Communication

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/explore/study-areas/language-sciences/>

Study New Zealand’s first Language Sciences major, at the top-ranked university for Linguistics in the country (QS rankings). Develop a broad understanding of language, how it is used and learned, and its impact on society and culture.

By doing the Language Sciences (LSCI) major, you will gain language expertise relevant to careers in language and communication, language teaching and planning, cognitive science, AI, and more, offering many opportunities to make a global impact. By selecting certain courses within the major, you can gain a Specialisation in Applied Linguistics (ALIN, including TESOL) or Linguistics (LING) to tailor your major to your career goals.

Below is the programme structure. Bold green shows required courses for the major (regardless of specialisation). Bold yellow shows courses that are required for the Applied Linguistics specialisation. Blue shows courses that are part of the Linguistics specialisation, with required courses in bold.

Applied Linguistics	Language Sciences	Linguistics
LSCI 101 Language and Society LSCI 111 Introduction to Language Sciences		
A language paper or language learning experience		
LSCI 201 Vocabulary and Grammar for Language Learners	LSCI 210 Languages in the Life of Aotearoa New Zealand and Asia-Pacific LSCI 220 Introduction to Computational Linguistics and NLP	LSCI 211 The Structure and Design of Languages
LSCI 301 Language Teaching: Principles to Practice	LSCI 310 Understanding Language Learning	LSCI 311 Linguistic Typology: Uniformity and Variation in Language Patterns LSCI 312 Psycholinguistics LSCI 313 Language Variation and Change NZSL 311 Structure and Use of New Zealand Sign Language
		← choose three for LING specialisation →

Language Science major requirements:

- (a) LSCI 101, 111
- (b) LSCI 210; LSCI 201 or 211
- (c) 40 points from LSCI 301-399, NZSL 311
- (d) 20 further points from LSCI 101-399, COMS 201, or in any language other than English in the BA schedule or equivalent language learning experience including learning English as an additional language

Applied Linguistics (ALIN) specialisation. Include: LSCI 201, 301, 310 and 20 points in any language other than English in the BA regulations or equivalent language learning experience including learning English as an additional language

Linguistics (LING) specialisation. Include: LSCI 211, 60 points from LSCI 310-399, NZSL 311

Courses for 2025-2026. Courses for 2026 are provisional, special topics may be offered in some years. In 2025, the following special topic is offered:

LSCI 310: Special Topic – *Introduction to using and evaluating generative AI*

	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
2025	LSCI 101 Language & Society LING 227 Syntax & Morphology LING 228 Phonetics & Phonology LSCI 310 Understanding Language Learning	LSCI 111 Introduction to Language Sciences LSCI 201 Vocabulary and Grammar for Language Learners LSCI 311 Linguistic Typology: Uniformity and Variation in Language Patterns NZSL 311 Structure and Use of New Zealand Sign Language	LSCI 220 Intro to Computational Linguistics & NLP LSCI 130 ST: Intro to using and evaluating generative AI
2026	LSCI 101 Language & Society LSCI 210 Languages in the Life of Aotearoa New Zealand and Asia-Pacific LSCI 211 The Structure and Design of Languages LSCI 301 Language Teaching: Principles to Practice LSCI 310 Understanding Language Learning LSCI 312 Psycholinguistics	LSCI 111 Introduction to Language Sciences LSCI 201 Vocabulary and Grammar for Language Learners LSCI 313 Language Variation and Change NZSL 311 Structure and Use of New Zealand Sign Language	LSCI 220 Intro to Computational Linguistics & NLP