HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Master of Arts in
Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics
(MALFL)**

**Graduate Student Handbook
& Program FAQ
Academic Year: 2023-2024**

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A. Quick Links
- **Program** website: https://www.hofstra.edu/forensic-linguistics-master/
- For information and **application**, contact the Associate Dean of Graduate Admissions, MALFL at (516) 463-6707 or graduateadmission@hofstra.edu
- To sign up for an upcoming graduate student **open house**, register at https://admission.hofstra.edu/portal/gradadmission
- To learn more about graduate student **life at Hofstra** and in the greater New York metropolitan area, visit: https://www.hofstra.edu/graduate/student-life.html

B. FL in the Media

For those interested in recent media about forensic linguistics featuring Hofstra faculty and graduate students, see:

Television Shows
- *A Tight Leash*, an episode of *Forensic Files/Medical Detectives* about the Hummert murder case tried in 2006. Full episode: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozRSg2VLOH0&t=7s
- "Facebook Murders" case: *Too Pretty to Live: The Catfishing Murders of East Tennessee* on Investigation Discovery in 2016. Dr. Leonard demonstrated that the defendants authored language attributed to "CIA Agent Chris". A brief description of the case can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weROEU67dls

Podcasts
- Vanderbilt Law School's "Evidence and Proof" podcast *Excited Utterance*: https://www.excitedutterancepodcast.com/listen/2018/2/19/46-robert-leonard
- Behavioral science podcast *Behavioral Grooves*: From Holding the Mic to Theory of Mind: Rob Leonard's Love of Language

Forensic Linguistics Presentation
- "The Groundbreaking Science of Forensic Linguistics: Solving Crimes by Analyzing Language" (2015): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-01uO3uTrgk&t=1225s

Forensic Linguistics Clips
- MTV's 2016 Exoneration Series *Unlocking the Truth*, where Dr. Leonard and Hofstra MALFL interns reanalyzed evidence and revealed that the murder case against Mr. Case was seriously flawed: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1771560176438099
- Investigation Discovery Channel's discussion of forensic linguistics: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acHg0L5ky30

2. Program Description & Study Options

Our program offers broad scientific linguistic training and actual case experience.

A. Program Description

Welcome from Director Dr. Robert Leonard,

Linguistics is the systematic, scientific study of language. "Forensic linguistics" refers to linguistics applied to any use of language with legal relevance. The Hofstra Master of Arts in Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics (MALFL) is designed to meet a growing demand for advanced training in scientific language analysis. Our program launched in 2010 – the first of its kind in the Americas. To this day it is still the only forensic linguistics program in the Americas – or, to our knowledge, anywhere in the world – that combines broad-based linguistic scientific training with **an emphasis on providing *real-world practical experience*. Our students work on important, live cases** as part of integrated teams of faculty and students. Our graduates can demonstrate to a potential workplace that they have skills and case experience in the analysis of language in legal and other real-world settings.

    In addition to our fully on-campus track, **we now also offer a fully online synchronous track**. Students from all over the world are now able to participate and receive a Hofstra MA in Forensic Linguistics without on-campus attendance. Now remote students are also able to work on live, ongoing forensic linguistics cases.

    At Hofstra, a student trains first and foremost to become a linguist and learn the scientific base of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, and sociolinguistics. Throughout this training, at Hofstra, unlike many other linguistics programs, coursework illustrations and teaching examples are, wherever possible, **drawn from real-world forensic applications – most often from the extensive array of criminal, intelligence, counterterrorism, and civil cases worked on by the Hofstra faculty themselves.**

    Advanced courses explore the specific application of linguistic science to cases involving criminal and intelligence activities of all kinds, including extortion, bribery, murder, and espionage, as well as to civil cases of trademark protection, the meaning of contracts and statutes, and defamation. Students learn how to perform analyses that investigate the authorship of different sets of documents and also learn to critique common interrogation procedures from a linguistic standpoint. In short, while they master the science of linguistics, they also practice applying it to a multiplicity of issues in the real world – in this case, the legal arena.

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A prime feature of this program is real-world experience through internships.
Our graduates learn how to apply theory to the real world.

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Many of our students take advantage of internship opportunities with the **Hofstra Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project**, through which graduate linguists, law students, and professional analysts revisit language evidence that was used to put people on death row. Other pro bono serious crime cases are analyzed by graduate linguists through the **Hofstra Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis**. Recently, Hofstra interns and their faculty spent eight months helping investigators in the South as they tracked a suspected serial killer who staged her victims' suicides to cover the murders. The interns' analysis revealed that the purported suicide note of one of the victims was far more likely to have been authored by the suspected killer than the victim.

To be a forensic linguist, you must be a linguist first. Thus, first and foremost, our degree is specifically designed to train you as a linguist. Once you have the skills to scientifically analyze language, you will learn how to apply those skills to real world cases and problems. What differentiates our forensic linguistics program from a general linguistics MA program is that our degree has additional **practical, real-life *applied* knowledge of a type that may be even more attractive to a variety of potential employers**. The cases Dr. Leonard, Dr. Gales, and their colleagues have recently participated in are both numerous and quite varied in type – e.g., criminal cases of fraud, solicitation to murder, and espionage; legal trademark cases; death penalty appeals; reversals of wrongful convictions; and cases of homicide, sometimes being retained by the prosecution and sometimes by the defense. We also regularly train counterterrorism experts and threat assessment professionals.

Our MA program prepares students:
- for public or private sector employment in the United States and international arenas in careers relating to or associated with law, law enforcement, intelligence, the forensic sciences, or any language-related field; or,
- to pursue a Ph.D. in theoretical or applied linguistics or a related field.

Graduates of the program have been successful in pursuing employment in organizations that seek professionals with research and linguistic skills or in any field in which people work with language, including government and academic institutions, business, industry, and communications.

B. On-campus and Online Study Options

As of fall 2022, we offer two tracks to the MA. You can pursue the degree either as 1) a primarily on-campus student, or 2) an online student. Like the on-campus courses, the majority of online courses meet synchronously, that is, in real time with the students and professors face-to-face together online, so that students can benefit the most from their course experiences and interactions with professors and other students.

3. Professional Opportunities & Future Planning

At Hofstra, we train our students to succeed in a variety of professional capacities:

A. Internships

There are two types of internships: those **internal** to Hofstra and those **external** to Hofstra. (Only registered students may participate in our internships.)

Internal Internships

Working under the supervision of Hofstra faculty, students may participate in a variety of internal internships in the fall, spring, and/or summer terms. Most students opt for at least one of the following. (Not all internships are available each term.)

> a. Students work on pro bono cases, typically ongoing serious crime cases, that Dr. Leonard has accepted through the **Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis**. Working individually and in groups, students conduct forensic linguistic analyses of case evidence under the supervision of Dr. Leonard and other faculty. For example, in 2016, Dr. Leonard and the Hofstra MALFL pro bono interns were recruited by the Midwest Innocence Project and MTV to review evidence that had resulted in the convictions of two men about whom MTV was producing a show. (See the related video linked on page 3.)

> b. Under the aegis of the **Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project**, run by Dr. Leonard and Siggi B. Wilzig Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Rights Eric Freedman, forensic linguistic interns work side-by-side with Hofstra Law School interns in an Innocence Project specializing in death penalty and other serious crime cases in which language evidence was crucial.

> c. Through the **research arm of the Institute** for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis, students work on current research projects under the supervision of Dr. Gales. Projects are exploratory in nature and address a current societal issue. The culmination of these projects are professional presentations to various public service communities. Previous projects have included analyses of language in sexual assault witness statements – presented to witness advocates and the NYPD – and analyses of parole board hearings in which certain populations have been disproportionately denied parole – presented to the ACLU.

External Internships

There is no set list of internships; students are encouraged to find and/or create their own. Virtually any professional situation in which students interact with language data can be a potential internship. In the past, our students have successfully interned with, for example, the U.S. Department of State, the Office of Emergency Management, New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board, the New York State District Attorney's Office, the Forensic Panel, law firms, and a range of law enforcement agencies. Be aware that deadlines for external internships can close very early, so plan ahead.

Students are required to take 3 semester hours of internship and may take up to two internships for a total of 6 semester hours toward their MALFL degree requirements. All internship opportunities help prepare students for future careers and/or Ph.D. research.

B. Linguistics Club

Graduate students are encouraged to gain additional professional leadership skills by participating in the Hofstra Linguistics Club (HLC). The HLC provides a collaborative environment for members of the Hofstra linguistics community that is designed to foster skills in the analysis of language and embodied practices in the form of brainstorming sessions, guest lectures, and technology/data workshops throughout the fall and spring semesters. All members participating in HLC events will gain valuable knowledge of how to apply their linguistic expertise to addressing issues in the private and public sphere, while HLC members who volunteer for leadership positions in the club will develop additional skills through organizing events, managing budgets, and interacting with professionals in the field. Questions about events and leadership can be directed to Dr. Mark Visonà, the faculty advisor for the HLC.

C. Career Preparation

One of the things we always tell our students when searching for employment is that *no one knows they need a linguist, but everyone NEEDS a linguist.* With this in mind, our MALFL graduates have been very creative, and many have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of industries, making opportunities for employment quite open-ended. For example, former graduates have found positions with intelligence and counterintelligence agencies such as the FBI, CIA, NCIS, and the Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence Division, and with other special law enforcement agencies like Washington D.C.'s Capitol Police. Others have secured positions with large financial firms as intelligence analysts, at law firms as research specialists, at translation and transcription companies, and with non-profit agencies that advocate for the fair treatment of asylum seekers and victims of sexual assault. Another recent career trend for our graduates has been with private firms that specialize in cybersecurity, threat management,

and big data analysis. All report that their forensic linguistics training at Hofstra was instrumental in obtaining their positions.

For those specifically interested in careers in law enforcement, another benefit of Hofstra's MALFL program is the frequent opportunity for students to interact with active agents during our one-week intensive courses. Over the past few years, we have trained special agents from NCIS, the U.S. Army, Department of Commerce, FBI, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and from Europe and South America. Such experiences can be invaluable networking experiences for students.

One question frequently asked by students interested in forensic linguistics is "Will my MALFL degree prepare me to pursue a career as a professional forensic linguist?" To be accepted to testify as an expert in court in the United States, one typically needs a terminal degree (i.e., the highest degree in a field – for us, it is the Ph.D.) or have a combination of graduate degrees and extensive experience (like retired Supervisory Special Agent James R. Fitzgerald's thousands of cases worked while in the FBI). So with the MALFL degree, students can pursue some of the exciting careers previously mentioned to aid in experiential training, seek opportunities to work with existing forensic linguists as data analysts on ongoing cases, or gain experience in case work or data collection to facilitate the pursuit of their own terminal Ph.D. degree. As the need for forensic linguistic experts continues to grow, Hofstra graduates will be first in line, as no other institution in the Americas offers this training that combines scientific linguistic principles with hands-on case experience.

D. Ph.D. Programs

For students wishing to pursue a Ph.D. upon completion of their MALFL, Hofstra's training prepares students for programs that focus on a variety of areas of expertise, such as forensic linguistics, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, and criminology. Previous students have attended excellent U.S. and international universities including American University in Washington D.C., York University in Toronto, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, North Carolina State University, and, in the U.K., the University of York, the University of Birmingham, and Aston University.

E. Scholarly Organizations

There are several scholarly organizations affiliated with our field. Many students find these to be excellent networking opportunities and sources of professional development.

- **FL-listserv**
  To subscribe, go to www.jiscmail.ac.uk/forensic-linguistics. You will receive a confirmation email which you will need to respond to.
- **International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics (IAFLL)**

https://iafll.org/
They offer student membership rates and competitive bursaries for students who are accepted to present their research at the biennial conferences.
- **International Language and Law Association (ILLA)**
https://illa.online/
You can sign up for their free newsletter to learn more about global language and law events, news, and conferences.
- **Linguistic Society of America (LSA)**
https://www.linguisticsociety.org/
A large organization with annual conferences related to all things linguistics!
- **American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL)**
https://www.aaal.org/
A large organization that focuses on linguistic topics related to education, medicine, and technology, with annual conferences that include a strand on language and law.

4. Faculty Information

Program Contact Information

Faculty	Adjunct Faculty
Dr. Robert Leonard Professor 309 Calkins Hall Robert.A.Leonard@Hofstra.edu	Dr. Gregory Kershner Adjunct Professor 322 Calkins Hall Gregory.D.Kershner@Hofstra.edu
Dr. Tammy Gales Associate Professor 313 Calkins Hall Tammy.A.Gales@Hofstra.edu	Josef Fioretta Adjunct Instructor 322 Calkins Hall Josef.V.Fioretta@Hofstra.edu
Dr. Mark W. Visonà Assistant Professor 311 Calkins Hall Mark.W.Visona@Hofstra.edu	Dr. Juliane Ford Adjunct Instructor 322 Calkins Hall Juliane.Ford@Hofstra.edu
Additional Contact Information	
Ms. Mary Milana Department Administrator 322 Calkins Hall (516) 463-5434 Mary.K.Milana@Hofstra.edu	MALFL Graduate Fellow of Outreach ForensicLinguistics@Hofstra.edu

Faculty Bios

Dr. Robert A. Leonard, the Program Director and Co-Director of the Hofstra Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis, is internationally recognized as a foremost expert in this field of study. He has worked as a consultant for the FBI and police, counterterrorism, and intelligence agencies throughout the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Europe, training agents in the use of forensic linguistics in law enforcement, threat assessment, and counterterrorism. Other clients have included Apple, Inc., Facebook, the Prime Minister of Canada, the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force, and the U.S. Dept. of Justice. Dr. Leonard has testified in both state and Federal District courts around the U.S. His testimony has been pivotal in investigating and prosecuting several high-profile cases, including the JonBenét Ramsey case, death threats to U.S. Congress members, and the Coleman family triple homicide in Illinois. He has also consulted numerous defense teams and heads the Forensic Linguistics Capital Case Innocence Project.

In addition to being a leading expert in forensic linguistics, Dr. Leonard has also received much attention for being a rock star in the 60s and 70s as the founding leader of the group Sha Na Na (who would later cameo in the movie *Grease*). As vocalist, he and his group opened for Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock. Rock 'n' roll ignited his interest in forensic linguistics – analyzing the group's recording contract, he proved they were not receiving money due them. Dr. Leonard left the music business for his Fulbright Fellowship, where he spent years doing field research in Africa and Southeast Asia, and a Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Dr. Tammy Gales, Director of Research at the Hofstra Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis, has a reputation as an expert in threat and stalking cases and teaches a variety of innovative courses that incorporate forensic linguistic data and social science methods, including corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, and sociolinguistics. Since earning her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Davis, Dr. Gales has specialized in research on various linguistic aspects of assault cases, false confessions, and threatening communications. She has collaborated on projects with faculty at Brooklyn Law School and, as a Washington D.C. Graduate Fellow, conducted research with The Academy Group, the world's largest privately-owned behavioral analysis firm, comprised of former FBI Supervisory Special Agents and Agents of the Secret Service. She has presented her findings to international audiences of linguists, psychologists, lawyers, and law enforcement agents at language and law conferences and at universities such as Georgetown, Princeton, and Yale. She has published in leading international peer-reviewed journals such as *Discourse and Society*, *Discourse Studies*, *Corpora*, and *Language and Law.* Dr. Gales has also conducted forensic linguistic training of federal and regional law enforcement agents within the U.S. and Canada, and is a trained lexicographer with companies such as Addison Wesley Longman and Bloomsbury Publishing.

Dr. Mark W. Visonà is an interactional sociolinguist who received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from Georgetown University in December 2020. His dissertation research examined digital deception detection by comparing truthful and deceptive online hotel reviews and the linguistic backgrounds of their authors, and his recent research projects have examined the language of "real" vs. fake news curated by political institutions, a multimodal analysis of "Antifa" headlines from cable news websites, and the ways that swatting callers use contextualization cues to create convincing yet fabricated emergencies resulting in an armed police response. Dr. Visonà has published articles in *The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, and *The International Journal of Bilingualism* on both forensic linguistic and applied linguistic topics. He has also performed extensive sociolinguistic research (ethnographic investigations of folk linguistic knowledge in Cairo, Egypt and in Blantyre, Malawi and dialect documentation projects in Smith Island, Maryland and Washington, D.C) focusing on the intersections of language use and identity. He additionally holds an MA in Journalism and Mass Communication from the American University of Cairo.

Guest Faculty

James R. Fitzgerald, retired FBI Chief of Forensic Linguistics and Supervisory Special Agent in the Behavioral Analysis Unit-1: Counterterrorism and Threat Assessment, pioneered and developed Forensic Linguistics for the Critical Incident Response Group of the FBI. He is the only fully credentialed profiler *and* forensic linguist in the history of the FBI. Among his many notable cases, Mr. Fitzgerald worked on the Washington D.C. Sniper, Anthrax letters, 9/11 attack, and the Unabomber case. (See the scripted multipart Discovery series centering on his work, *Manhunt: Unabomber.*) He holds an M.S. from Georgetown University in Linguistics. He and Dr. Leonard have worked together on cases and have conducted training workshops in forensic linguistics for the FBI and other law enforcement and counterintelligence professionals in both the U.S. and internationally. He co-directs the Hofstra Institute for Forensic Linguistics, Threat Assessment, and Strategic Analysis with Dr. Leonard, and they co-teach an intensive week-long online synchronous course (i.e., in real time) each summer.

Dr. Tanya Karoli Christensen, Professor at the University of Copenhagen, currently leads a major international research project on threatening messages, manifestos, and international right-wing violent extremism. She recently helped the Danish National Police them secure convictions in an antiterror case and a witness tampering case. Dr. Christensen initiated the establishment of forensic linguistic networks between universities and law schools in the U.S. as well as in Europe, among academics and police, judges, lawyers, and prison correction services. She has presented extensively in the U.S., Spain, Italy, Germany, and Scandinavia, to law enforcement professionals, scholarly audiences, and the public. Dr. Christensen also works with the Danish National Forensic Center in constructing a database of threats and other criminally oriented communications. Dr. Christensen has worked on many cases with Dr. Leonard both in the U.S.

and Europe, teaches forensic linguistics at her university, trains police and other investigators, and co-teaches an intensive week-long on campus course in New York each fall with Dr. Leonard.

5. Application Requirements and Procedures

A. Application Requirements

1. Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) with, typically, a GPA of 3.0 or better.
2. Two letters of recommendation, at least one from a former professor.
3. If requested by us, an interview with the program director (in person, by phone, or via video-conference).
4. Written statement of professional interests and goals or an academic essay from a past college-level class.

Note, the GRE is not required.

Applicants to the MALFL will ideally have completed their B.A. with a specialization in linguistics or a related field that contained a strong language analysis component, but applications are also invited from students with a background in other disciplines allied to forensic linguistics.

Accepted students who do not have a recent or sufficient level of linguistic training are required to take a single, additional introductory course in linguistics. Students can satisfy this requirement by taking an undergraduate Introduction to Linguistics course 1) at an accredited institution other than Hofstra prior to the MALFL program start date, 2) online at Hofstra during a summer session prior to the MALFL program start date, if offered, or 3) on campus at Hofstra during the first semester of the MALFL program in addition to the student's regular MALFL courses. **Options (1) and (2) are strongly recommended over (3).** The Introduction to Linguistics course is preparation and does not count as part of the student's 36 required credit hours for the MALFL program. A minimum grade of B+ is required to satisfy this prerequisite. Please contact the Linguistics Adviser for more information about this requirement.

International students should additionally see: https://www.hofstra.edu/graduate/international-students.html

B. Application Links and Deadline

To apply, go to http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/grad/grad_apply.html (or visit the link on our website under "Apply Now" at https://www.hofstra.edu/forensic-linguistics-master/). Once an

application and all supporting credentials are received, the application is reviewed in the next round of meetings by our Admissions Committee.

Candidates for the Master of Arts in Linguistics: Forensic Linguistics are considered on a **rolling basis**. Therefore there is no strict cut-off date for applications. While this may put less pressure on the timing of your application, it also means that once there are no spaces left, applications will only be considered for the subsequent academic year. Therefore, as soon as a student is accepted, they should register and enroll to secure their spot in the required first-year courses. When those courses are full, they are full.

Further, be aware that **we strongly recommend that all students enter in the fall** (as opposed to the spring). The course schedule is designed to enable full-time students to take the courses in a logical sequence and move through the program as a cohort. (However, if special circumstances exist, highly qualified students may be allowed to begin in the spring.)

C. Next Steps upon Acceptance

Students who have been accepted can register for courses after talking to our Associate Dean of Admissions. Direct inquiries to (516) 463-6707, graduateadmission@hofstra.edu (include "MALFL Course Registration" in the subject line). Students are encouraged to enroll as early as possible in order to secure their place.

Also, check out this webpage aimed at new graduate students:
- http://www.hofstra.edu/Academics/grad/grad_newgrads.html

Incoming students should **check their Hofstra email** on a regular basis as this will be the main mode of communication about upcoming orientations, program news, and course announcements.

There are generally two orientations held in the fall for incoming graduate students.
- Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (HCLAS): This on-campus orientation takes place approximately a week before classes begin. Incoming students can take a tour of the campus, get their photo IDs, and learn about important campus resources. This is not required for MALFL students.
- MALFL: We hold an online program-specific orientation the week prior to the start of fall classes so that students can get to know each other and learn more information about upcoming opportunities such as conferences, online talks, and the internal internships.

6. Program Cost and Financial Opportunities

A. Program Cost

For the most up-to-date program cost, see "Graduate, 200-level and above courses" at https://www.hofstra.edu/bursar/tuition-fees.html#graduate. The cost is listed at the per credit rate. Full-time students generally take 9 credits per term; a total of 36 credits are required for the program.

B. Linguistics Fellowships

We have a very limited amount of scholarship aid available, which are allocated to **second year** MALFL students on a competitive basis. These students are able to compete for two different kinds of graduate fellowships: graduate linguistics fellowships and graduate research fellowships. **(**Unfortunately, there are no opportunities for Teaching or Research Assistantship positions in our department.)

Graduate Linguistics Fellowships

Each year (pending university approval of funding), we award two graduate linguistics fellowships. Recipients receive a $10,000 award that is applied directly to their tuition ($5,000 is applied in the fall and $5,000 is applied in the spring). Awardees work approximately 15-20 hours per week assisting faculty with outreach, the archives, program administration, minor course-related duties, and other program-related tasks, as needed.

Eligible students must be available for the full academic year, are required to successfully complete at least 6-9 credit hours and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each term toward the degree, and perform all duties satisfactorily each term. The appointment of a Linguistics Fellow may be terminated at any time due to unsatisfactory academic performance or evaluation by the program director of the Fellow's service.

Graduate Research Fellowships

In previous years, we have also been able to award several smaller graduate research fellowships ranging from $1000 - $5000 for the academic year. Funds are applied directly to the awardee's tuition each semester. For these fellowships, students work on assigned projects supervised by linguistics faculty, as needed.

Eligible students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 during their appointment, and must perform all duties satisfactorily. Students applying for the Research Fellowship may be full- or part-time, on-campus or remote, and matriculated during one or both terms. The appointment of a Fellow may be terminated at any time due to unsatisfactory academic performance or evaluation by the program director of the Fellow's service. Specific projects will be assigned based on student location, availability, and faculty research needs.

Application Deadline

The call for graduate fellowship applications is made in mid-spring with fellowships beginning the subsequent fall. Application materials are due (in a single email) by April 1. Late applications cannot be considered for funding.

To apply for a Graduate Linguistics Fellowship or Graduate Research Fellowship, a first-year student submits the following to the Linguistics Adviser no later than April 1:

- the linguistics program's Graduate Fellowship application form,
- a list of the courses you plan to take during the term/year of the Fellowship, and
- two sample course assignments (from two separate courses) that demonstrate your attention to detail, your ability to think creatively, and your level of professionalism.

These competitive fellowships are awarded by an external review committee and are announced in late spring for the subsequent year.

C. Additional Financial Opportunities

Students may also explore other financial opportunities outside of the linguistics program. These include on-campus employment, educational loans, and off-campus employment.

On-campus employment and educational loans

While we do not have assistantship positions in our department, a number of our students have competed for and obtained graduate student assistantships in other departments or campus services (e.g., the Registrar, Audio-Visual services) and have therefore not had to pay tuition. Other students find hourly work on campus, which can be beneficial in terms of flexibility around class schedules. Once applicants have been admitted and enrolled, they may check the Hofstra Handshake page (accessible through your portal) for on campus openings.

For more information about educational loans and on-campus employment opportunities, see Student Financial Services and the Office of Student Employment:

- https://www.hofstra.edu/graduate/tuition-aid.html
- https://www.hofstra.edu/financial-aid/
- https://www.hofstra.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.html
- https://www.hofstra.edu/student-employment/
- https://www.hofstra.edu/student-affairs/graduate-assistantships.html

To contact your financial aid counsellor, see: https://www.hofstra.edu/financial-aid/find-my-counselor.html

Off-campus employment

Many students work part- or full-time off campus. Hofstra is located in Nassau County, which has a higher population than Atlanta and Boston combined, and in an area of intense economic activity, surrounded by shopping malls, big box stores, bars, and restaurants. The next town over, Mineola, is the county seat and law firms, accountants, and other professional opportunities abound.

International students should contact the International Student Affairs office for visa regulations regarding any kind of employment opportunities: https://www.hofstra.edu/international-student/

7. Program Length, Requirements, and Schedules

A. Program Length

One normally takes three classes (i.e., nine credits) per semester, which is officially considered full time. (While three classes in an undergraduate program is a light load, it is indeed a full load in a graduate program.)

Full-time students will typically complete the program in two years: 9 credits x 4 semesters = 36 credits. Based on course availability, it may be possible for students wishing to accelerate their studies to complete the program in 1.5 years by taking four classes per term and/or summer courses. Note that students are not allowed to take more than four courses per term.

It is also possible to attend part-time. Speak with a linguistics adviser for the most up-to-date information about scheduling.

Graduate classes meet once or twice a week for approximately two to three hours. Class times generally meet late afternoon to early evening. This helps students who need to schedule full- or part-time work and other obligations.

B. Program Requirements

The program requires 36 semester hours of graduate-level credits. The program is comprised of 3 components: the core curriculum, electives, and capstone requirements.

Core Curriculum Courses – Semester Hours: 24

- LING 202 – Phonetics and Phonology*
- LING 203 – Morphology and Syntax*
- LING 205 – Semantics and Pragmatics
- LING 206 – Sociolinguistics
- LING 221 – Linguistic Field Methods

- LING 231 – Discourse Analysis
- LING 239 – Language and the Law
- LING 250 – Corpus Linguistics

For those entering with a background in Linguistics, place-out tests may be taken for LING 202 and LING 203. Students who receive a B+ or better may substitute an elective from the list below (36 semester hours are still required). Consult the linguistics adviser for availability.

Elective Courses – Semester Hours: 6

Two courses from the following or, with the adviser's permission, one course in another relevant discipline:
- LING 204 – Historical Linguistics
- LING 207 – Dialectology
- LING 219 – International Forensic Linguistics (intensive one-week course)
- LING 220 – Forensic Linguistics for Criminal Justice (intensive one-week course)
- LING 258 – Foundations of Forensic Linguistics
- LING 281 A-Z – Special Topics in Linguistics (varies)
- LING 290 – Internship (a second internship in addition to the one required)
- CSC 219 – Cybersecurity for Everyone

Capstone Requirements - Semester Hours: 6

- LING 290 - Internship in Forensic Linguistics (3 hours)
    - *(LING 290 may be repeated once for elective credit.)*
- LING 303 - Capstone Project* (3 hours)
    - (NOTE: Students who do not complete the Capstone Project within the semester they first registered for it must re-register for an additional 1-credit of LING 303 in each subsequent semester until they satisfactorily complete the project. The additional semester hours do not count toward any degree requirements.)

*In certain circumstances, students may apply to write a thesis and substitute LING 301 Thesis for LING 303 Capstone. Please consult a linguistics adviser.

Good Standing Requirements

Students must maintain at least a B average with no more than one C per semester. No more than two Cs may be counted toward the MA. Students who do not maintain at least a B average, or who receive a D or an F in any course, will be dismissed from the program.

C. Suggested Schedules

Course scheduling subject to change. All tracks require 36 semester hours for completion
OC = on campus, OS = online synchronous, OA = online asynchronous

	2 year (full-time OC)	1.5 year (accelerated OC)	2 year (full-time OS/OA) *OS unless noted*
Summer	LING 101 OA (if needed)	LING 101 OA (if needed)	LING 101 OA (if needed)
Fall 1	LING 202[1] LING 206 LING 239	LING 202[1] LING 206 LING 239 LING Elective	LING 206 LING 239 LING 258
Spring 1	LING 203[1] LING 205 LING 221	LING 205 LING 221 LING 250	LING 205 LING 221 LING 250
Summer	*(OS/OA classes may be taken, if desired)*	LING 203 (OA)[1] LING 290 (OS)[2] *(these may also be taken as a 4th course in fall & spring)*	LING 202 (OA)[1] LING 203 (OA)[1]
Fall 2	LING 231 LING Elective LING Elective	LING 231 LING 303 LING Elective	LING 231 LING 290[2]
Spring 2	LING 250 LING 290[2] or Elective LING 303		LING Elective LING 303

NOTES:

1. Test out options available. If successful, an elective may be substituted. 12 classes (36 s.h.) are still required.
2. One (3 s.h.) LING 290 internship is required; however, students may take up to two (6 s.h.) LING 290 internships for credit. *(Only registered students may participate in our internships.)*

3. LING 290 internship and LING 303 capstone may be taken any term: fall, spring, or summer. They meet OS = online synchronously.

D. Academic Calendar

For exact dates and fee deadlines, see Hofstra's Academic Calendar, the most recent of which is here: https://www.hofstra.edu/academic-records/fall-2023-calendar.html

8. Additional Hofstra Policies & Resources

Hofstra University Guide to Pride
https://www.hofstra.edu/community-standards/guide-pride.html

Graduate Student Academic Policies and Procedures
https://www.hofstra.edu/academics/academic-policies-procedures-graduate.html

All graduate students are governed by the regulations and requirements specified in the *Graduate Studies Bulletin* in effect at the time of first graduate program matriculation at Hofstra. Refer to the major area for specific requirements. Some frequently referenced policies are included below. Refer to the bulletin links above and in this section for more policy information.

- ***Academic Integrity***
  Hofstra University places high value upon educating students about academic integrity. At the same time, the University will not tolerate dishonesty, and it will not offer the privileges of the community to the repeat offender. The academic community assumes that work of any kind – whether a research paper, a critical essay, a homework assignment, a test or quiz, a computer program, or a creative assignment in any medium – is done, entirely and without unauthorized assistance, by the individual(s) whose name(s) it bears. Use of generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g., Chat GPT) must be consistent with the instructor's stated course policy. Unless indicated otherwise in the instructions for a specific assignment, the use of Chat GPT or similar artificial intelligence tools for work submitted in this course constitutes the receiving of "unauthorized assistance for academic work", and is a violation of the Hofstra University Honor Code. Students bear the ultimate responsibility for implementing the principles of academic integrity. See https://www.hofstra.edu/provost/course-syllabi-information.html for more information.

- ***Minimal GPA Requirements***
  (See *Good Standing Requirements* in the previous section)

- *Academic Leaves/Withdrawals, and Maintaining Matriculation*
  Hofstra University requires that graduate students in the fall and spring semesters register for courses, maintain matriculation, or take a leave of absence. Students who fail to take one of these steps will be automatically withdrawn from the University. Hofstra University requires graduate students to submit an official notification of intent to take an academic leave or withdrawal from the University. Academic leave is an official notification to the University, by a student who has completed at least one semester, that the student is temporarily stopping attendance at Hofstra for a minimum of one full fall or spring semester. A withdrawal indicates that the student has permanently stopped attending the University. When a student withdraws, registration for future semesters will be contingent upon reapplication to the University under admission standards at that time. This request may be made in writing or by completing the online form in Hofstra Online. To access the form, log in to the portal at My.Hofstra.edu, click on the primary navigation icon in the upper-left screen and select "Student Services." If submitted in writing, the request must be signed and dated. An academic leave typically may not exceed *two* consecutive fall and spring semesters.

  After submitting this request, graduate students must contact the Office of Graduate Admission in order to process and finalize their request. International students must contact the Office of International Student Affairs for further guidance on immigration policy and regulations. **Please note that academic leave and withdrawal requests are not final until students are approved by the appropriate office**.

  Students who withdraw officially or unofficially from one or more courses after the first week of the term, or equivalent for courses shorter than 15 weeks, will be liable for all or part of the tuition and fees associated with those courses.

  Students are said to maintain matriculation when engaged in academic pursuits that do not include registration for classes. Students maintaining matriculation are considered "registered" at the University for the term in which they are maintained. Examples of academic pursuits include, but are not limited to, work on a thesis and completion of course work where a grade of incomplete was received. Students who are candidates for graduation or who are enrolled solely in non-credit-bearing course work will be registered as Maintaining Matriculation by the Registrar and will be charged the published Maintaining Matriculation fee. In order to maintain matriculation, or if you have any questions, contact the Office of Academic Records and Registrar.

- *Application for Graduation*

Candidates for graduation must file an application for graduation in the Office of Academic Records no later than October 1 for December graduates and March 1 for May graduates. August candidates must file by June 15 for Summer Session I, July 15 for Summer Session II, and August 15 for Summer Session III. There is a fee for late filing. See Tuition and Fees.

All requirements applicable toward a degree, certificate, or diploma must be completed and on record in the Office of Academic Records by the end of the first week of June for May degrees, the end of the first week of January for December degrees, and the end of the first week of September for August degrees.

A degree can only be awarded to a student who has maintained a satisfactory record of conduct and has paid all University fees.

- ***Classroom Code of Conduct for Students***
As written in our Statement of Mission and Goals, "Hofstra University is a private institution whose primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning through the free and open exchange of ideas, for the betterment of humankind." Environments favorable to learning require civility and consideration of students and faculty. In all their conduct, members of the University community are expected to follow the Pride Principles stated in the *Guide to Pride*, the *Faculty Policy Series*, and other documents establishing standards of behavior.

    Class sessions, and class-related activities such as Canvas discussions, field trips, and programs abroad, create specific requirements for responsible and mature behavior. Students are expected to come to class prepared. Prior to coming to class, students should check their Hofstra email accounts for course-related announcements, complete all assignments, and bring course-relevant materials to class. Once in the classroom, students should avoid disruptive and disrespectful conduct. Certain activities can disrupt a class session and impede learning. Other activities unrelated to the class also work against learning environments. Both types of behaviors implicitly communicate that the course and other students' contributions are of little value.

    Behaviors that may be disruptive or disrespectful include but are not limited to: shouting at the instructor or at students, physically menacing or verbally threatening the instructor or students, entering late or leaving the room during a class session, allowing one's cell phone to ring, sending or reading text messages, side-conversations, sleeping, listening to music unrelated to the class, surfing the web, playing video games, and reading material unrelated to the class.

    Importantly, intellectual disagreements that arise normally in academic discussion are not in themselves disruptive or disrespectful. Intellectual disagreements can be valuable, and class participants should respect and value them. Yet, expressions of disagreement can become disruptive. Course participants must recognize, then, that when

instructors judge that a class must move on to address other important subjects, they are not thereby stifling opinion.

Accordingly, this policy explicitly forbids disruptive or disrespectful behaviors as prohibited by the Pride Principles stated in the *Guide to Pride*, the *Faculty Policy Series*, and other documents establishing standards of behavior and as communicated by faculty in their syllabi or orally.

Faculty may reasonably insist during class that students stop behaving in ways that faculty judge to be disrespectful or to interfere with others' learning. Faculty are encouraged to consult materials on how to prevent and effectively respond to disruptive classroom conduct. When faculty deem disruptive or disrespectful behaviors to be serious or repeated, they may reasonably elect to remove students from the classroom for the class period, or for the most serious cases, to remove students permanently from the course and assign a grade. If necessary, they may summon a Public Safety Officer for assistance. Instances of permanently removing students from the classroom must always be reported by faculty within 24 hours through email to the Department Chair, Dean of the School, the Provost, and the Center for University Advisement. The Provost through both email and telephone will officially notify students of their right to appeal. If students choose to appeal, they must begin the process by sending an email to Provost@Hofstra.edu as soon as possible, but no later than 5 business days after being officially notified by the Provost of the appeal process.

- ***Dismissal & Appeal of Dismissal Policies***
  The director of a graduate program shall notify a student of his/her dismissal from that program in writing (certified return receipt requested) within 7 days following the decision to dismiss. The notification shall state the reasons for the dismissal and shall be as explicit as possible. The letter shall indicate the appeal procedures specified below. A copy of the letter shall be sent to the chairperson, the appropriate dean, the provost, and the Office of Academic Records. If the student is an international student, a copy of the letter shall be sent to the director of the Office of International Student Affairs.

  The student is given 15 days after receiving notification of dismissal to decide whether or not to appeal the dismissal. During that time, the student is permitted to continue course work in progress. If a student chooses not to appeal, 15 days after receiving notification of dismissal the student will no longer be permitted to continue course work in progress, to sit in on classes, or to register for additional classes.

  If dismissal occurs during the semester and the student appeals the decision, the student shall be permitted to continue course work already in progress unless extenuating circumstances have been determined. Grades shall be withheld until the appeal process has been completed. Unless the appeal is successful, no grade or credit will be awarded.

  However, if a student is registered for a course that involves an outside internship (including but not limited to field experience, practicum, and student teaching), the

student may not continue the course during the appeal process unless extenuating circumstances have been determined.

If dismissal occurs at the completion of a semester and the student appeals the decision, the student may not register for or sit in on any courses unless extenuating circumstances have been determined.

For further information on the appeal steps, see **Appeals of Dismissal** at https://www.hofstra.edu/academics/academic-policies-procedures-graduate.html.

- *Additional Policies*
  Information about Academic Dishonesty; Disability Accommodations; Resources for Students who are Pregnant; Temporary Adjustments/Academic Leave of Absence; Deadlines and Grading Policies; Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct; Absences for Religious Observance and specific policies relating to COVID-19 guidelines including mask wearing, class attendance, and class seating is available on the Provost's webpage at the link below:
  https://www.hofstra.edu/about/administration/provost/provost-information-for-students.html

Public Safety
Campus Emergencies: 516-463-6789
https://www.hofstra.edu/public-safety/

Information Technology Services (ITS)
https://www.hofstra.edu/its/

Axinn Library
https://libguides.hofstra.edu/libraries

Writing Center
https://www.hofstra.edu/writing-center/

Career Center
https://www.hofstra.edu/career-design-development/

Student Access Services (SAS) (for students with disabilities)
https://www.hofstra.edu/student-access-services/

Student Health Services
https://www.hofstra.edu/student-health-services/

Student Counseling Services
https://www.hofstra.edu/student-counseling-services/

9. Badge in Forensic Linguistic Case Studies: One-Week Intensives

Our Badge in Forensic Linguistic Case Studies is unique to Hofstra, and is aimed at non-matriculated students – many of whom are practitioners in the fields of law, intelligence, counterterrorism, law enforcement, and threat assessment/management – as well as our own matriculated Hofstra students from linguistics and other disciplines. Badges are valuable in highlighting specialty training on resumes, transcripts, and professional social media sites, as well as supplementing knowledge for career applications and continuing education requirements.

To earn the **Badge in Forensic Linguistic Case Studies,** a person completes our two popular one-week intensive courses LING 219 and LING 220 for six graduate credits. (Continuing Education/Professional Development participation in these courses does not qualify for the Badge.) Students acquire a foundational understanding of the science of linguistics and a basic knowledge of techniques, theory, and approaches to forensic linguistic casework.

These one-week intensive courses are modeled after the FBI Forensic Linguistics week-long "boot camp" courses that then-Supervisory Special Agent Jim Fitzgerald conceived, organized, and taught (and recruited Dr. Leonard to also teach) at Quantico. The "boot camp" was run by the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) to teach forensic linguistics to agents of the FBI and other agencies such as the ATF, Secret Service, and agents of allied governments. When Fitzgerald retired from the FBI, he and Dr. Leonard moved the week-long intensive course to Hofstra, where it evolved into the two current one-week intensive courses.

Cases studied in our courses are those that the three instructors – Leonard, Fitzgerald, and Christensen, three world-famous practitioners of forensic linguistics – themselves worked, including the JonBenét Ramsey Case, Unabomber case, Coleman triple homicides, the Facebook Catfishing Executions, death threats to sitting judges and to members of the U.S. Congress, Apple vs. Microsoft, Brooklyn 911 street assassination, and the Washington, D.C. Sniper Case.

LING 219: International Forensic Linguistics

This course is a broad introduction to the field of international forensic linguistics. In addition to teaching the investigation of criminal, intelligence, and terrorism cases—major components of which are profiling and authorship – the course discusses foundational linguistic theory, criminal defense strategies, and a selection of US and international civil and criminal cases, such as trademark, product warnings, and contracts. This course also includes the latest ongoing research on threat assessment, and European forensic linguistic responses to terrorism, threats, and violence. In addition to lecture and class-based exercises, students will be formed into teams to work on case analyses out of class.

Ling 220: Forensic Linguistics for Criminal Justice

This course is an introduction to the field of forensic linguistics with a focus on (predominantly US) criminal justice. Classes are taught through lecture, case study, and workshop formats, and they elucidate forensic linguistic responses to challenges of intelligence and counterintelligence; domestic and foreign terror campaigns; threats to government, officials, workplace, schools, and private individuals; and criminal communications such as extortion, ransom notes, criminal intelligence disinformation, and intercepted communications.

Please see the Hofstra Bulletin for more information on Badge policies (including admissions, grading, and academic honesty), and on the Badge in Forensic Linguistic Case Studies:

- https://bulletin.hofstra.edu/content.php?catoid=113&navoid=16942
- https://bulletin.hofstra.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=113&poid=22965&hl=Badge+Study&returnto=search

For information about upcoming offerings, including dates and modes of instruction, please email ForensicLinguistics@Hofstra.edu.