

UP DEPARTMENT
OF
LINGUISTICS

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN

Linguistics

PROSPECTUS | Academic Year 2026 - 2027





about the department of Linguistics

The UP Department of Linguistics is part of the University of the Philippines Diliman College of Social Sciences and Philosophy. It was established on August 28, 1922, with Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera as its first chair. He was immediately succeeded by Otto Johns Scheerer, the first Professor Emeritus of Philippine linguistics, who also founded *The Archive*, the official publication of the Department. The primary aim of the Department since its founding has been the scientific study, preservation, and promotion of Philippine languages & dialects through teaching, research, and publication.

As a CHED Center of Excellence in Foreign Languages, it is also dedicated to improving the teaching of national languages in Asia according to the needs of the Filipino people.

dedicated to the scientific study, preservation,
& promotion of Philippine languages & dialects

Research Agenda

The UP Department of Linguistics has five areas of focus as part of its research agenda, all of which reflect the Department's institutional mandate, current research activities, as well as future disciplinary trajectories.

Philippine Structural and Historical Linguistics

This area deals with the collection and analysis of linguistic data from Philippine languages in an attempt to adequately describe their grammatical components such as sound, syllable, phrase, and sentence. The linguistic data gathered in the duration of the research under this domain may also be utilized to provide answers to the problems encountered by current approaches to linguistic inquiry. It also seeks to study how these languages developed over time and how they are related to each other, thus giving insights into the history not only of words (etymology), but of the speech communities as well.

Philippine Linguistic Geography

The area aims to describe patterns of linguistic variation over a geographic space in the context of the Philippines. By undertaking research on dialectology, contact linguistics, and language vitality, this area takes into account the changes in the components of language that are subject to geographic and social variation. In particular, it seeks to determine the effects of language contact in a multilingual country like the Philippines, which is home to a dynamic and constantly migrating population.



Comparative Studies of Filipino and Other Asian Languages

The objective of this area is to solve linguistic issues and enhance pedagogy, translation, and interpretation in Filipino and other Asian languages by looking at the similarities and/or differences of their phonological, morphosyntactic, and semantic systems.

Entanglements of Philippine Linguistics with Other Disciplines

This area attempts to use multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary approaches to the study of Philippine languages by doing collaborative work with other disciplines. The research projects done under this area will generate more holistic and insightful ideas on the languages of the Philippines and the communities that speak them.

Asian Language Teaching Methods

The research projects undertaken within this area shall focus on describing linguistic structures of Asian languages and how to effectively utilize linguistic knowledge to improve the teaching of these languages. Various methods in the teaching of foreign languages shall be considered in order to identify successful techniques in teaching Asian languages within and outside the University.

Research Agenda





MASTER OF ARTS IN

Linguistics

The MA in Linguistics program places emphasis on the theoretical components of linguistics and equips students with advanced knowledge of contemporary linguistic theories and methodologies, which may be applied in conducting critical analyses of language structure, variation, change, and the social dimensions of language use. The program also focuses on the documentation and description of Philippine languages and dialects, as well as studies on their historical development.

Current students and graduates of our MA program have successfully conducted research that focus on language documentation and description, lexicography, diachronic linguistics, syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, dialectology, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics, and comparative linguistics.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

Program Requirements

Students in the MA in Linguistics program are required to complete 33 units of course work (27 units of core courses and 6 units of cognate courses in linguistics or in other related disciplines).

A bachelor's degree in linguistics is not required to be admitted into the MA in Linguistics program. Students who come from other disciplines are required to take Lingg 201 (The Science of Linguistics), in which they must obtain a grade of 1.5 or higher in order to continue the program.

CORE COURSES

Lingg 204	Phonology	Lingg 245	Lexicography
Lingg 206	Grammatical Analysis I	LinggPil 280	Structure of a Philippine Language
Lingg 207	Grammatical Analysis II	LinggPil 285	Structural Comparison of Philippine Languages
Lingg 213	Diachronic Linguistics	Lingg 299	Seminar in Linguistics
Lingg 225	Field Methods in Linguistics		





MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

Program Requirements

COGNATE COURSES

Lingg 214	Proto-Philippine & Proto-Austronesian	Lingg 250	Sociolinguistics
Lingg 230	Grammatical Theories	Lingg 260	Psycholinguistics
Lingg 240	Semantics	Lingg 270	Ethnolinguistics
Lingg 241	Linguistics and Translation	Lingg 290	Current Trends in Linguistics
		LinggPil 271	Linguistics & Folklore

Note that cognate linguistics course offerings vary every semester, depending on the availability of the instructor who may teach them. Students may also take cognate courses from other related disciplines, subject to the approval of the program adviser.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

All MA students are required to submit a certificate of proficiency in a language for research. The language for research is ideally a language that the student can use in their studies and research. It may be any language other than English, Filipino, and the student's native language(s).

Fulfillment of the LPE should be done as early as possible (around the end of the second semester of residence in the graduate program). You should discuss first with your program adviser your choice of language and your plan in complying with this requirement.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

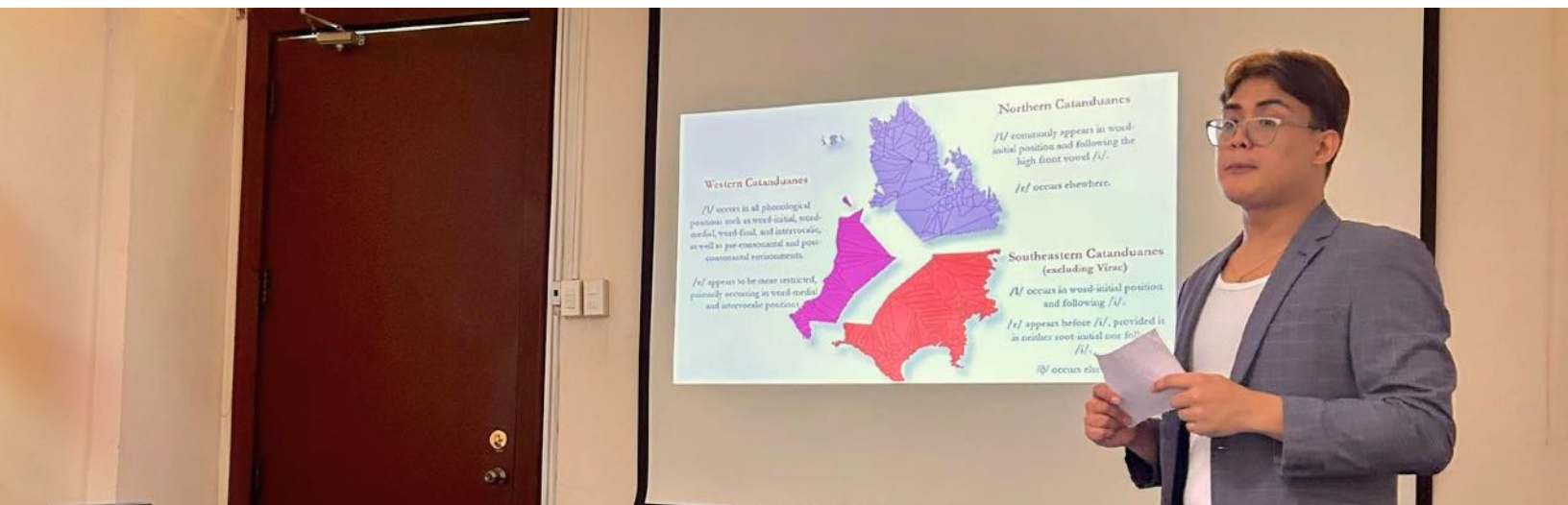
Program Requirements

MASTER'S THESIS

The master's thesis is the culmination of a student's graduate work. It is a significant new contribution to scientific knowledge, written in a style acceptable to a wide community of scholars.

After completing their coursework and fulfilling the language proficiency requirement, MA students are required to enroll in the 6-unit thesis course (at most 3 units per semester), where they will write a master's thesis on their chosen research topic under the supervision of an appointed thesis adviser.

A set of University rules and procedures are followed, from the conceptualization of the thesis proposal to the submission of the final thesis manuscript. A student must successfully defend their thesis proposal at least one semester before the final oral thesis defense.



MA IN LINGUISTICS

Program of Study

Upon admission to our graduate programs, and during the orientation to new graduate students, you will be given a study plan based on your own timeframe in finishing the program and in accordance with the prescribed period set by the College. Please refer to the Program of Study templates below to give you an idea of the study load required to successfully pursue a graduate program offered by our Department.

MA IN LINGUISTICS PROGRAM OF STUDY (FULL-TIME)

PRESCRIBED PERIOD TO FINISH THE PROGRAM: 5 YEARS

YEAR	SEMESTER	Non-BA Linguistics degree holder		BA Linguistics degree holder	
		Course	Total No. of Units	Course	Total No. of Units
I	1st	Lingg 201 Cognate	6.0	Lingg 213 Cognate	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 204 Lingg 206 LinggPil 280	9.0	Lingg 204 Lingg 206 LinggPil 280	9.0
	Midyear Term	Lingg 225	3.0	Lingg 225	3.0
II	1st	Lingg 207 Lingg 213 LinggPil 285	9.0	Lingg 207 LinggPil 285 Cognate	9.0
	2nd	Lingg 245 Lingg 299 Cognate	9.0	Lingg 245 Lingg 299	6.0
II	1st	Lingg 300*	3.0	Lingg 300*	3.0
	2nd	Lingg 300**	3.0	Lingg 300**	3.0

*Expected output: Successful thesis proposal

**Expected outputs: Successful oral defense and bound copies of thesis manuscript

MA IN LINGUISTICS

Program of Study

MA IN LINGUISTICS PROGRAM OF STUDY (PART-TIME)
 PRESCRIBED PERIOD TO FINISH THE PROGRAM: 5 YEARS

YEAR	SEMESTER	Non-BA Linguistics degree holder		BA Linguistics degree holder	
		Course	Total No. of Units	Course	Total No. of Units
I	1st	Lingg 201 Cognate	6.0	Lingg 213 Cognate	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 204 Lingg 206	6.0	Lingg 204 Lingg 206	6.0
	Midyear Term	Lingg 225	3.0	Lingg 225	3.0
II	1st	Lingg 207 Lingg 213	6.0	Lingg 207 Cognate	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 245 LinggPil 280	6.0	Lingg 245 LinggPil 280	6.0
III	1st	LinggPil 285 Cognate	6.0	LinggPil 285 Lingg 299	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 299	3.0	Lingg 300*	3.0
IV	1st	Lingg 300*	3.0	Lingg 300*	3.0
	2nd	Lingg 300**	3.0		

*Expected output: Successful thesis proposal

**Expected outputs: Successful oral defense and bound copies of thesis manuscript



15 PHILIPPINE LINGUISTICS CONGRESS

23-25 AUGUST 2023, NISMED UP DILIMAN

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN **Linguistics**

The PhD in Linguistics program focuses on Philippine linguistics and promotes research on Philippine languages to address language-related issues and needs of the country. The program is designed to provide students with a broad knowledge of linguistic studies that have been done on Philippine languages and hone their ability to apply various research methods in order for them to conduct original linguistic research.

Current students and graduates of our PhD program have successfully conducted advanced research that focuses on language documentation and description, lexicography, diachronic linguistics, field linguistics, phonology, morphology, syntax, dialectology, ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics, and comparative linguistics.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LINGUISTICS

Program Requirements

Students in the PhD in Linguistics program are required to complete at least 30 units of course work in linguistics and 6 units of cognate courses.

Students who come from a different discipline are also required to take Lingg 201 in their first semester in the program. They must obtain a grade of 1.5 or higher in this course in order to continue in the program. They will also be required to take Lingg 206, Lingg 225, LinggPil 280, and LinggPil 285 in addition to the PhD (300-level) courses.

CORE COURSES

LinggPil 302	History of Linguistics in the Philippines	LinggPil 380	Dialectology in the Philippines
LinggPil 345	Lexicography in the Philippines	LinggPil 385	Subgrouping of Philippine Languages
LinggPil 346	Grammatical Analysis of Philippine Languages	LinggPil 390	Selected Problems in Philippine Linguistics
LinggPil 365	Diachronic Comparison of Philippine Languages	Lingg 396	Seminar on Grammatical Theories
LinggPil 366	Typological Comparison of Philippine Languages	Lingg 399	Research





DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LINGUISTICS

Program Requirements

COGNATE COURSES

- Lingg 301** History of Linguistics
- Lingg 335** Transformational Grammar
- Lingg 386** Linguistics in Southeast Asia
- LinggPil 360** Psycholinguistics in the Philippines
- LinggPil 370** Sociolinguistics in the Philippines
- LinggPil 375** Ethnolinguistics in the Philippines

Note that cognate linguistics course offerings vary every semester, depending on the availability of the instructor who may teach them. Students may also take cognate courses from other related disciplines, subject to the approval of the program adviser.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT

All PhD students are required to submit a certificate of proficiency in a language for research. The language for research is ideally a language that the student can use in their studies and research. It may be any language other than English, Filipino, and the student's native language(s).

Fulfillment of the LPE should be done as early as possible (around the end of the second semester of residence in the graduate program). You should discuss first with your program adviser your choice of language and your plan in complying with this requirement.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LINGUISTICS

Program Requirements

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

PhD students are required to take a comprehensive examination after completing their coursework in the program. The comprehensive exam is a written examination designed to test the students' mastery of the discipline, which they would have acquired during their coursework. It will test the students in the following three areas: Synchronic Linguistics, Diachronic Linguistics, and Cognate (to be determined with the adviser). The exam may be taken upon the students' completion of coursework, submission of a certificate of proficiency in the language for research, and obtaining a CWAG of 1.75 or better.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

In their final year in the program, PhD students are required to enroll in the 12-unit course for dissertation research and writing (at most 6 units per semester). PhD students are required to submit and defend their dissertations in order to complete the program. The research that PhD students should undertake throughout their stay in the program must be centered on Philippine languages.



PHD IN LINGUISTICS

Program of Study

Upon admission to our graduate programs, and during the orientation to new graduate students, you will be given a study plan based on your own timeframe in finishing the program and in accordance with the prescribed period set by the College. Please refer to the Program of Study templates below to give you an idea of the study load required to successfully pursue a graduate program offered by our Department.

PHD IN LINGUISTICS PROGRAM OF STUDY (FULL-TIME)

PRESCRIBED PERIOD TO FINISH THE PROGRAM: 8 YEARS

YEAR	SEMESTER	Non-MA Linguistics degree holder		MA Linguistics degree holder	
		Course	Total No. of Units	Course	Total No. of Units
I	1st	Lingg 201 Cognate	6.0	LinggPil 302 LinggPil 345 Cognate	9.0
	2nd	Lingg 206 LinggPil 280 Cognate	9.0	LinggPil 346 LinggPil 365 LinggPil 380	9.0
	Midyear Term	Lingg 225	3.0		
II	1st	LinggPil 285 LinggPil 302 LinggPil 345	9.0	LinggPil 366 LinggPil 385 LinggPil 390	9.0
	2nd	LinggPil 346 LinggPil 365 LinggPil 380	9.0	Lingg 396 Lingg 399 Cognate	9.0
III	1st	LinggPil 366 LinggPil 385 LinggPil 390	9.0	Comprehensive Examination	
	2nd	Lingg 396 Lingg 399	6.0	Lingg 400*	6.0
IV	1st	Comprehensive Examination		Lingg 400**	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 400*	6.0		
V	1st	Lingg 400**	6.0		

*Expected output: Successful dissertation proposal

**Expected outputs: Successful oral defense and bound copies of dissertation manuscript

PHD IN LINGUISTICS

Program of Study

PHD IN LINGUISTICS PROGRAM OF STUDY (PART-TIME)

PRESCRIBED PERIOD TO FINISH THE PROGRAM: 8 YEARS

YEAR	SEMESTER	Non-MA Linguistics degree holder		MA Linguistics degree holder	
		Course	Total No. of Units	Course	Total No. of Units
I	1st	Lingg 201 Cognate	6.0	LinggPil 302 LinggPil 345	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 206 LinggPil 280	6.0	LinggPil 365 LinggPil 380	6.0
	Midyear Term	Lingg 225	3.0		
II	1st	LinggPil 285 LinggPil 302	6.0	LinggPil 366 LinggPil 385	6.0
	2nd	LinggPil 346 LinggPil 365	6.0	LinggPil 346 Lingg 396	6.0
III	1st	LinggPil 345 LinggPil 366	6.0	LinggPil 390 Cognate	6.0
	2nd	LinggPil 380 Lingg 396	6.0	Lingg 399 Cognate	6.0
IV	1st	LinggPil 385 LinggPil 390	6.0	Comprehensive Examination	
	2nd	Lingg 399 Cognate	6.0	Lingg 400*	6.0
V	1st	Comprehensive Examination		Lingg 400**	6.0
	2nd	Lingg 400*	6.0		
VI	1st	Lingg 400*	6.0		

*Expected output: Successful dissertation proposal

**Expected outputs: Successful oral defense and bound copies of dissertation manuscript

Research Activities

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

The Archive Journal

This is the Department's official peer-reviewed journal publication dedicated to the study of Philippine languages and dialects.

The UP Working Papers in Linguistics Journal

The *UPWPL* is an open-access online publication featuring preliminary research, reports on research in progress, and think pieces done primarily by undergraduate students and visiting research fellows.

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

The Department supports the dissemination of research done by its faculty and students by offering them the chance to share their work & exchange ideas through various platforms:

Philippine Linguistics Congress

An international conference regularly held to bring together scholars actively engaged in the study of Philippine languages and dialects



Research Activities

RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Linguistics Research Colloquium

Held every August during the Department's Linguistics Month, the Linguistics Research Colloquium (LRC) is where we showcase some of the best works produced by the Department's undergraduate and graduate students. Faculty members also present some of their recent studies at the LRC.

Linguistics Brown Bag Sessions

An informal sharing of updates on working papers by junior faculty members, graduate students, and visiting research fellows.

Talks on Asian Languages

The Talks on Asian Languages (TAL) Series serves as an avenue for the faculty members and alumni of the UP Department of Linguistics, including colleagues from other institutions teaching Asian languages, to share their research about second and foreign language education. Each lecture will focus on how linguistics and pedagogical trends can be employed and adapted to fit the learning needs of Filipino students.





GRADUATE PROGRAMS

opportunities

TEACHING ASSOCIATE/FELLOW

MA and PhD students can apply to become a Teaching Associate (TA) or Teaching Fellow (TF) of the Department, respectively. TA/TF helps faculty conduct classes while prioritizing their studies. Students in this position are also expected to do research, attend conferences and publish their work. This position is by invitation only.

GRADUATE/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Graduate students can participate in research projects conducted by the Department's faculty and staff by applying as a graduate or research assistant (GA or RA). The Department posts announcements for available GA and RA positions on its social media pages and the Department website. You can also email your professors directly to inquire if you can volunteer to assist in any of their research so that you can gain more experience and learn by observing closely how our faculty and staff conduct research.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

opportunities

FUNDING SUPPORT

Thesis & Dissertation Grants

The grant, which is administered by the UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Development, aims to assist in the completion of MA/MS thesis or doctoral dissertation of UP Diliman faculty and REPS that will lead to a graduate degree. The grant supports thesis and dissertation work in any academic discipline.

UP Diliman Creative/Critical Thesis Grant in the Arts, Culture, and the Humanities (UPD CCTGACH)

The UPD CCTGACH is an outright grant provided by the UP Diliman Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA) as financial assistance for thesis, dissertation, and capstone projects with topics related to arts and culture. Applicants must be enrolled in the thesis/dissertation subject and have passed the proposal defense.

Travel Grant for Research Presentation In International Conferences

The UP Office of International Linkages offers financial assistance to enrolled graduate students to be able to present their research at international conferences.

The ALEC Grant for Graduate Students

The Asian Languages Extramural Classes (ALEC) Grant awards free ALEC slots to enrolled graduate students in the MA and PhD in Linguistics programs of the Department preparing for their Language Proficiency requirement.

- Requirement: Endorsement from the Program Adviser and approval of Chair
- Termination of grant: Grant ends upon successful completion of a Language Proficiency Test

NOTE: Awarding of ALEC grants is on a first-come, first-served basis, and subject to availability of slots in the desired class. A graduate student may only apply for one (1) class per cycle.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

admission process

APPLICANTS MAY COME FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.

- Admission to all programs under the Department is conducted during the first semester only. The application period for First Semester A.Y. 2026-2027 will end on **26 May 2026**.
- Interested applicants to the MA in Linguistics program are required to have an average grade of 2.5 or higher in their bachelor's degree program.
- Interested applicants to the PhD in Linguistics program are required to have an average grade of 1.75 or higher in their master's degree program.
- Applicants may come from different disciplines.
- Applicants who pass the initial desk review of their application may be called by the Graduate Program Admissions Committee of the Department for an interview.
- Foreign applicants whose first language is not English or Filipino should present a certificate of language proficiency in English or in Filipino.
- Please follow the Department's website at <linguistics.upd.edu.ph> or Facebook page at <fb.com/UPLinguistics> for announcements. Contact the CSSP Office of the Graduate Program at <ogpcssp.upd@up.edu.ph> for the complete list of application requirements.
- For foreign nationals who wish to apply for admission to our graduate program, visit the following link <<https://upd.edu.ph/foreign-graduate/>> for more information and instructions.



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

admission process

REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- Accomplished graduate program application form with passport-size ID picture attached (download the form at <https://bit.ly/GradProg_AppForm>)
- Application Letter addressed to:
Prof. Ruth R. Lusterio-Rico, PhD
Dean, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Transcript of Records or True Copy of Grades
- Recommendation letters from three (3) former professors or employers. The recommendation letters must be sent by the recommenders directly to <linguistics.upd@up.edu.ph> on or before the deadline. (NOTE: It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the recommenders submit the accomplished recommendation form on time.)
- PSA-authenticated birth certificate
- For MA applicants - an accomplished research plan (the template may be downloaded at <<https://bit.ly/GradResearchPlan>>)
- For PhD applicants - a research proposal detailing what the applicant intends to work on for their doctoral dissertation (the guidelines for writing the research proposal are available at <<https://bit.ly/PhDResearchProp>>)
- Proof of payment of application fee

Upload the documentary requirements to the application portal accessible through this link: <<https://bit.ly/linggradapp>>

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

other information

APPLICATION FEE PAYMENT

Applicants should contact the Department via email at <linguistics.upd@up.edu.ph> to get up-to-date information on requirements and application fee procedures.

INTERVIEW

Applicants may be invited for an interview (online or onsite). Always keep your lines open and regularly check your email for updates on your application.

MODALITY

By default, the graduate programs at the UP Department of Linguistics are delivered face-to-face. Additionally, Lingg 225 (Field Methods in Linguistics) requires students to conduct linguistic fieldwork at a site to be determined by the Department and the faculty in charge of the course.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 26 MAY 2026



contact details

Want to learn more? Feel free to get in touch with us or visit our online platforms.

Email

linguistics.upd@up.edu.ph

Website

www.linguistics.upd.edu.ph

Telephone

8981-8500 local 2128

Facebook

facebook.com/UPLinguistics

Instagram

instagram.com/upd_linguistics

YouTube Channel

youtube.com/@UPDLinguistics