Field of Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of study that investigates issues pertaining to the nature of language and language use, particularly in the field of Education. The PhD in Education Studies in the field of Applied Linguistics challenges students to engage with foundational theories and focused areas of educational research, allowing them to address a wide range of language-related issues. Through developing expertise in the domain of applied linguistics, candidates also contribute to existing bodies of knowledge and extend the reach of research to influence theory, policy and practice.

Students acquire a comprehensive understanding of how different theoretical perspectives and alternative approaches to research inform scholarship and practice in education.
Why Western Education’s PhD?

Field of Applied Linguistics

This four-year, onsite program is designed for those wishing to:

- work alongside world-class scholars in Applied Linguistics
- hone their research skills and develop a deep understanding of the Applied Linguistics field
- plan, design and conduct research that advances the field and influences theory, policy and practice
- excel in academia or an industry role related to the development and delivery of education programs

**Master the research methods and theoretical perspectives that can inform scholarship and practice**

Reinforce your research skills and ability to leverage different theoretical perspectives to better understand and tackle complex issues.

**Plan your research program and build expert knowledge in your area of focus with electives and faculty mentorship**

Demonstrate your knowledge of the evolution, seminal works, contemporary knowledge and issues that define your focus area and proposed research.

**Conduct innovative research that advances the field and builds your reputation as a scholar and expert in the field**

Complete your dissertation as part of a strong research community with the support and guidance of world-class faculty, friendly staff and your own colleagues.

Timing and Delivery

The PhD program is designed to be completed over four years. PhD Candidates typically complete required and elective courses in their first two terms, followed by a comprehensive exam, thesis proposal and presentation, and dissertation work in years 2 to 4.

Course Content

- **Two required courses:**
  - PhD Seminar in CSSAL
  - 1 additional research methodology course

- **Three Elective Courses (your choice from a list of 17, such as...):**
  - Syllabus and Materials Design
  - Teaching the Four Skills
  - Teaching and Learning Vocabulary

Comprehensive Exam

Thesis/Dissertation

Admission Requirements

- Research-based Master’s degree in Education or equivalent from an accredited university
- Normally an “A” standing (80%) or equivalent in previous graduate work
- Evidence of previous scholarly research, such as a Master’s Thesis, Master’s Research Project, or Qualifying Research Paper acceptable to the Doctoral Admissions Committee and the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs
- Clear statement of plans for future study and research
- Professional qualifications and work in an educational setting (teaching experience or other) is recommended

Learn More

Interested applicants are encouraged to learn more by visiting our program website, calling the program office or emailing questions to the address below. We look forward to hearing from you.