Academics
The program, normally completed in 1 year of full-time study, offers:

• A solid foundation in the core areas of linguistic theory
• Exploration of the many dimensions of language and of interdisciplinary connections between linguistics and other areas of study
• An opportunity to get involved with projects at the forefront of research on a variety of topics, including:
  o Tone and intonation (Jon Barnes)
  o Language acquisition
    (Charles Chang, Paul Hagstrom)
  o Spanish in the United States (Danny Erker)
  o American Sign Language (Carol Neidle)
  o Theoretical morphology, syntax, and semantics
    (Elizabeth Coppock, Paul Hagstrom, Neil Myler)
  o Endangered indigenous languages of the Americas
    (Cathy O’Connor)

BU Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)
You can also gain experience in organizing the premier event in the field of language acquisition research.

The faculty is dedicated to the development of our graduate students, and we will work with you to design a course of study that will help you meet your goals, whether that means earning a spot in a top PhD program or finding a career in industry.

Boston-area Linguistics Community
As you progress towards your degree, you will also benefit from the many opportunities provided in the Boston area, which is home to an especially active language science community. With Harvard and MIT just across the river from BU and industry leaders in language technology in the area (Amazon, Google, Audible), our students are well positioned to cultivate broad academic and professional networks during their time in the program.

Financial aid is available for the most competitive incoming students.
MA in Linguistics

Some of the Linguistics Labs and Projects at Boston University

Phonetics, Acquisition, and Multilingualism Lab (PAMLab)  
Charles Chang  
Research at the intersection of phonetics, acquisition, and multilingualism, exploring speech production and perception across the lifetime of multilinguals.

American Sign Language Linguistic Research Project (ASLLRP)  
Carol Neidle  
Focus on ASL syntax; development of linguistically annotated video corpora that also serve as a basis for collaborative research in linguistics and in computer-based sign language recognition from video.

Spanish in Boston Project  
Danny Erker  
A large-scale urban sociolinguistics initiative investigating the outcomes of language and dialectal contact among Boston Spanish speakers, assessing the possibility that these forces are promoting the emergence of a Boston Spanish speech community.

Phonology Lab  
Jon Barnes  
Investigation of pitch perception sensitivity in speakers of languages with tone systems differing in complexity (e.g., Mandarin and Cantonese), as well as whether and how pitch is processed differently in speech and music perception.

Fieldwork & Morphosyntax Lab  
Neil Myler  
Study of morphosyntactic variation, with emphasis on fieldwork (particularly on Quechua languages and non-standard English varieties). Special focus on argument structure, micro-comparative syntax, and the morphosyntax and semantics of possession.

Linguistic Semantics Lab (LiSLab)  
Elizabeth Coppock  
Study of semantic/pragmatic theory using a variety of methods, including targeted comparative fieldwork across a broad range of languages, in-depth field studies on particular languages, and experimental techniques. Focus on reference, quantification, and comparison.

Language Documentation & Revitalization Lab  
Cathy O’Connor  
Current focus on linguistic documentation of Northern Pomo, a dormant indigenous language of California, and creation of web-based materials to support revitalization efforts by community members.