How to Apply for the Fall 2025 intake

The online application system opens in mid October of each year for the program beginning in September of the following year. For admittance into the program starting Fall 2025, the deadline is January 17 at 11:59pm. Incomplete applications will not be considered and the application fee will not be refunded.

See the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies webpage for general instructions for the online application process.

An application fee of $110 CAN (applicants with Canadian transcripts) or $150 CAN (applicants with international transcripts) is required. Applicants will not be able to proceed to the document uploading or referee entry process until the application fee is paid and processed. Note: international payments can take up to 3 business days to process.

Supporting documents to be submitted via the online application system:

1. Unofficial post-secondary transcript(s):

   a) All uploaded transcripts are considered unofficial, even if they were once sealed (opened transcripts are considered unofficial).
   b) Transcripts in languages other than English or French must be accompanied by an English or French translation provided by a certified translator.

   NOTE: Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the initial application process. Those offered admission to the MA or PhD program will be required to submit original, official transcripts in envelopes sealed by the originating institution to the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies office prior to enrollment.

2. References: Referees will be automatically notified by email with a request for reference.
   a) SFU has an online referee system and the referee will be sent a secure link and password to access the referee system.

3. Short curriculum vitae (CV, an academic résumé that lists relevant achievements). Upload a PDF document containing a brief two to three page CV. In particular, you should list (in reverse chronological order):

   o Degrees obtained and institutions attended
   o List of Linguistics courses taken, specifying:

   > Course title (translated into English)
   > Undergraduate or graduate
   > University
   > Year
   > Grade

   o Publications and presentations. Translate into English where appropriate.

   > Publications
   > Conference presentations
   > Theses, even if unpublished o Teaching experience

   > Teaching experience, specifying whether as instructor or Teaching Assistant, institution, level of the course, and date(s)

   o Research experience

   > Teaching Research assistantships, specifying projects involved, contributions, supervisor, institution and date(s)

4. Statement of research interests: a brief statement (one to two pages), stating your background, motivation, research interests and career goals. The proposal does not have to be specific, but it does have to show that you have a general direction for research, which can be refined later on.

5. Writing sample: This should preferably be a thesis, project, or paper written for a linguistics course. You should not submit a co-authored paper. The writing sample must illustrate your ability to express ideas in clear and appropriate language, and sustain an argument and develop a logical conclusion. The writing sample should be uploaded online as a PDF.

University English language requirement

English is the language of instruction and communication at the University. Accordingly, an applicant whose primary language is not English must demonstrate command of English sufficient to pursue graduate studies. See a full list of countries from which an English language proficiency test is not required as part of the graduate studies application.

Applicants who must submit test scores should be aware of the University *minimum*