



BSc APPLIED COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS

DC122 - CAO Entry 2002-2003

The B.Sc. in Applied Computational Linguistics (ACL) is a degree programme taught jointly by the Schools of Computer Applications (CA) and Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (SALIS) at Dublin City University.

It's a four-year programme, offering a unique combination of computing, a language and computational linguistics. Students spend their 3rd year at a university abroad.

It will appeal to students interested in understanding how computers are programmed, how language works and how computers can process and understand language. At the same time and as part of the degree, students learn to speak a foreign language fluently.

Computing, a Language and Computational Linguistics

In our increasingly multilingual society, there is a growing demand for graduates in Information Technology who can not only speak a foreign language and programme computers, but who also understand the areas of Human Language Technology (HLT) and computational linguistics.

Computational linguistics and HLT help develop computer programs that can:

- Automatically translate between languages
- Convert speech to text (talk to your computer)
- Convert text to spoken language (your computer can speak to you)
- Drive Search Engines on the World Wide Web
- Help people learn a foreign language

On this programme, students take courses in computer programming, computational linguistics, and one of three foreign languages (French, German or Spanish). Ultimately they will be able to develop their own HLT systems, such as those listed above.

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Every first year applicant who enters through the CAO with 500 points or more will be awarded an Entrance Scholarship that includes the guarantee of accommodation in an apartment on DCU's campus. No special application procedure is required other than making the degree your first choice.

Full details of the scholarships will be published soon on our website at www.computing.dcu.ie, well in advance of the CAO closing date. Make sure you check the details. Normal charges apply for use of accommodation.

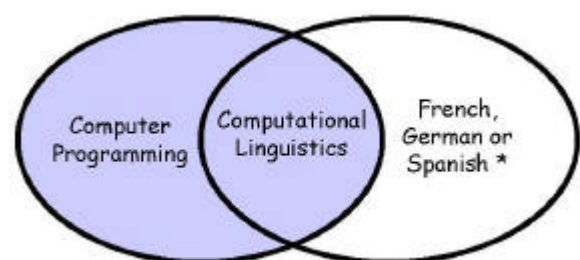


How does ACL differ from other programmes offering computing and a language?

- The programme is spread evenly over the three strands (i.e. 1/3 computing, 1/3 language, 1/3 computational linguistics)
- Students spend their third year at a host university in Europe as part of a foreign exchange programme (in France, Germany or Spain depending on the language chosen)
- The computational linguistics strand makes explicit the connections between language and computing - i.e. it shows how computers can be seen as 'word-crunchers' in much the same way as they are seen as 'number-crunchers'.

If you have access to the World Wide Web, try out one of these applications for yourself. You can input a text in any of a number of languages at the following web-site and then wait for the 'computer' to translate it: <http://babelfish.altavista.com/>.

The Structure of the ACL degree



* French, German and Spanish are taught from intermediate level; Spanish can be taken from scratch.

1 st year	Linguistics Computing Language	Introductory
2 nd year	Computing Language Computational Linguistics	Intermediate
3 rd year	France Germany Spain	Year Abroad
4 th year	Computing Language Computational Linguistics 4 th Year Project	Advanced

Some Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Computational Linguistics?

Linguistics is the Science of language. It tells us about the basic building blocks and the structure of language. It helps us answer questions such as: how did we come to learn our 'native' language? Why is learning a 2nd language more difficult? How can we tell that a sentence is a proper English sentence or not even if we've never heard it before? Computational Linguistics uses linguistic techniques to enable computers to process and 'understand' human languages.

2. Is this the degree for me?

The ACL degree offers a unique combination of computational linguistics, language and computing. It teaches a wide range of different subjects. It is one of the most interesting degrees at DCU. If you want to know how language works, how to program computers and how to get computers to understand language, while at the same time learning to speak a foreign language fluently, this is the degree for you.

3. What are the Employment possibilities?

ACL graduates have a unique blend of computing and language skills. This combination is in high demand in both the national and international IT industry.

4. What sort of computer skills do I need?

Each year we get a wide range of applicants. Some have a strong background in languages; others are more interested in maths and computing. Because of this, we teach computing from scratch. All we require you to have is an open mind and an interest in language and computing.

5. How much maths do I need to know?

Leaving Certificate: you need to have a Grade C3 in Mathematics at Ordinary Level or Grade D3 at Higher Level. To get everybody up to the same level, we will teach you the basic maths you need for ACL in 1st year.

6. What are the language requirements?

Leaving Certificate: you need a grade C3 in French, German or Spanish at Higher Level. Spanish can also be

taken from scratch if you have a C3 in any European language or Irish at Higher Level.

7. How many people do the course?

ACL is a popular degree. Currently we offer 30 CAO places.

8. How many points do I need?

In the last few years points were in the 370-450 range.

9. I want to do more computing and less language?

You can apply for the B.Sc. in Computer Applications (CA). You can take French, German or Spanish as optional subjects. The CA degree is 5/6 computing and 1/6 language option and only a small fraction of the students spend third year at a host university abroad.

10. What is degree shadowing?

You can come and spend a day with us in DCU on the ACL degree. You'll meet the students and staff, and see what's involved in studying ACL at DCU. If interested, contact Dr. John McKenna on (01) 7005507, or by email: john@computing.dcu.ie

11. How do I find out more about the degree?

You can get more information about the School, this programme, and our other programmes by visiting our website at www.computing.dcu.ie/prospective/openday/



You can also contact the Registrar's Office for copies of the Faculty Booklet on (01) 7005338, or by email: regoffice@dcu.ie

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