Dear (prospective) applicant,

Thank you for your enquiry.

I have attached for you the prospectuses for all of the postgraduate programmes offered by the Department of General Linguistics (henceforth "the Department") in 2022. All of the details of the requirements for admission are laid out in these prospectuses so please consult them carefully to determine if you do indeed qualify for admission to the programme of your choice.

1) Very brief, general, yet important things to note

All of our postgraduate programmes are **only offered on a full-time basis**; part-time postgraduate study is not an option here in the Department. However, the postgraduate diploma (henceforth "PGDip") and MA programmes are structured so that students working full-time jobs, locally and internationally, are able to study further. There are no lectures in any of the MA and PGDip programmes, and contact between supervisor/lecturer and student is maintained electronically (email, MSTeams, Zoom, etc.). This, in effect, means that one is able to complete the PGDip and MA programmes via distance learning BUT see below for info about the compulsory postgraduate contact session should you be accepted into any of these programmes.

Please note that we are phasing out all of the "course work + thesis of more limited scope" MA programmes (programme codes ending in 889), meaning that we are not accepting any students to these programmes. Please do not apply for them as your application will be rejected.

The Honours in General Linguistics (henceforth "Hons") programme requires students to be on campus for compulsory lectures during at least the first semester of the academic year, as well as the first week of August (generally; this may be subject to change) for students' presentations of their research proposals. Also see section 4 below for info about the compulsory postgraduate contact session should you be accepted into this programme.

2) Completing your application according to the Department's requirements

There are a few things, depending on the postgraduate programme you are applying for, that need to be completed and received by the Department in order for your application to be viewed as complete by the Department. You are required to do the following:

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(i) **Formally apply online** for the postgraduate programme of your choice. Please note that this application is then sent to Stellenbosch University's Centre for Student Administration, where it is processed, ensured that it is complete according to their specifications, and then sent on to us. **We as a department do not directly receive your formal application and we do not handle anything to do with the formal application process.** Applications for study in 2022 open on **1 June 2021 (2 August for current SU students)** and the general, final, university-wide closing date for applications is **30 November 2021.**

(ii) Complete the *Jupiter* **diagnostic test** (see Appendix), which *all* of our postgraduate applicants are required to complete as part of their application for study in the Department of General Linguistics. Please fill out the cover page (entitled *Additional Information*) of this PDF and send this, together with your answers to this test, back to me, Ms Lauren Onraët, via email (laureno@sun.ac.za).

(iii) As part of your application to our Hons programme or any of our MA programmes, you are required to send us a brief outline (minimum ¾ of a page, maximum 2 pages; 1.5pt spacing, Times New Roman font size 12pt) of your **ideas of the research** you would like to carry out should you be accepted into the postgraduate programme for which you are applying. Please note that the research ideas you submit here are not necessarily your final, set-in-stone ideas; they may change next year (provided, of course, that you are accepted into the postgraduate programme for which you are applying). *You must also indicate whether you are open to being allocated a research topic by the Department.* Please send your research ideas to me, Ms Lauren Onraët, via email (laureno@sun.ac.za).

NB! When you draft your research ideas, please take careful note of the fields of study in which our members of staff are experts (see "STAFF PROFILE" in the prospectuses for more information in this regard). We unfortunately will not be able to help you further your research if you are planning on completing the research for your degree outside of these fields.

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Note that applicants for the PGDip in Second Language Studies programme do not have to submit any research ideas [point (iii) above] to complete their applications, as this programme does not involve research of any kind. Such applicants do, however, still need to complete the *Jupiter* diagnostic test [point (ii) above].

(iv)   **All MA applicants** are required to submit their **final examined research report or thesis, or one marked assignment** that was completed at junior postgraduate level. Please send your research report, thesis, or marked assignment to me, Ms Lauren Onraët, via email (laureno@sun.ac.za).

Tabulated below is a helpful summary of the documentation you need to submit for the postgraduate programme for which you are applying:

	Jupiter test?	Research ideas?	Junior postgrad level thesis, research report or marked assignment?
PGDip SLS applicants	✓		
Honours applicants	✓	✓	
MA applicants	✓	✓	✓

Be aware that your application remains incomplete if we do not receive all of the aforementioned, complete documentation, and the Department cannot review incomplete applications.

Because spaces are limited for our Hons and MA programmes — the number of students we accept into our Hons and MA programmes every year depends on the supervision availability in the Department per year as well as the applicability of your research ideas to the respective fields of expertise of our supervisors — it is advisable that you complete your application *without delay*, as these places fill up quickly.

3) The application review process

Your complete application will be reviewed by a panel of staff members in the Department who constitute our Postgraduate Admissions Committee. This Committee meets four times per year, towards the end of the year, to review all complete and received applications. I will inform you of the result of your application as soon as it is made available to me.

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4) Annual Postgraduate Contact Session

Should your application be successful and you are accepted into the Hons programme or any of the MA programmes in 2022, it will be **compulsory** for you to attend **in person all five days** of our annual Postgraduate Contact Session here on campus in Stellenbosch. This contact session will take place from **Monday 17 to Friday 21 January 2022**. (These dates are preliminary at this stage, and will be finalised and confirmed by 1 July 2021.) Should your application be successful, we will keep you up to date with all the arrangements pertaining to this contact session, amongst various other things.

5) Student fees and bursaries

I cannot assist you with anything to do with the costs of the various postgraduate programmes we offer, nor on anything relating to student fees. For information on these, you will need to contact the [Division for Student Fees](). You can also consult the [2021 Student Fees information book]() for details on the current year's fees. For information about bursaries, please visit the [Postgraduate Funding and Support webpage]().

I hope this answers any questions you may have at this stage, and that this, together with the prospectuses, will assist you in making an informed decision about postgraduate study here with us. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Ms Lauren Onraët (MA in Linguistics for the Language Professions)

Postgraduate Programme Coordinator: Department of General Linguistics

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