

Recruitment requirements 2025-2026
English Philology major, full-time 2nd cycle studies

1. Education

A completed bachelor's degree (first degree) in the humanities. **In the case of graduates from other fields (outside the humanities)**, you should approach the recruitment interview and present your knowledge of selected topics from the field in which the candidate will want to write a master's thesis. The list of topics is in the table below.

2. Knowledge of English

Confirmed language proficiency at ****C1**** level (according to CEFR). It can be verified on the basis of:

- diploma of completion of philological studies with confirmed learning effect concerning knowledge of English at level C1 (supplement)
- language certificates (e.g. CAE, CPE, IELTS, TOEFL),
- entrance exam in English organized by the university. (link to self-study issues C1 level for 3rd year
https://wfil.uni.opole.pl/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/Self-study-C1-EP_BA_GENERAL-INFO.pdf)

3. Interview for non-humanities candidates:

During the interview, the candidate selects topics from one discipline, from one column:

The group recruited in 2025-2026 will have a choice of one of two proseminars:

- 1) Literary Studies or
 - 2) Linguistics/ Media and communication studies
- details on the course website (<https://wfil.uni.opole.pl/english-philology/> - Seminars)

LINGUISTICS	COMMUNICATION STUDIES	TRANSLATION STUDIES in LINGUISTICS	TRANSLATION IN LITERARY STUDIES	LITERARY STUDIES
General linguistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is linguistics and what are the main branches of linguistics? What is the difference between descriptive and prescriptive approaches to language and competence and performance in linguistic theory by Noam Chomsky? What is the difference between synchronic and diachronic linguistics? Provide examples. 	General Communication Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is communication? What are the basic elements of the communication process: sender, receiver, message, channel, feedback, noise, context? What is the difference between interpersonal, intrapersonal, and mass communication or between verbal and nonverbal communication? What are the main functions of language in communication in society? 	The concept of translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is translation? Does the study of translation presuppose knowledge of more than one language? Describe Roman Jakobson's classification of translation types. Is interpreting a type of translation practice? How different is audiovisual translation from standard translation? 	Translation and native literary genres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is literary translation? What is a literary genre? What is the relationship between translation and original literature? <p>What types of literary translations do we have?</p>	English novel between the wars (1920-1940). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main trends in the history of the English novel between the wars? Who are the main English novelists between the wars? What are the main characteristics of the English novel between the wars?

Phonetics and phonology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the difference between phonetics and phonology? What are phonemes and allophones? What are minimal pairs and what is their significance in phonological analysis? What is the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and why is its significance? 	Interpersonal Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key principles of effective interpersonal communication? What is the difference between self-disclosure and impression management? What is relational communication, and why is it important? 	Equivalence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is denotative meaning and connotative meaning? Explain. According to Eugene Nida, what is the difference between formal and dynamic equivalence? Discuss Baker's types of equivalence. Why do we speak of equivalence above word level? What is the principle of equivalent effect? 	Polish tradition of literary translations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the earliest translations into Polish? What literatures influenced Polish literature in its early history? What literatures influence Polish literature now? 	Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the origins of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain? What are the main characteristics of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain? Who are the main representatives of the Modernist literature in the US and Great Britain?
Morphology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a morpheme? What is the difference between free and bound morphemes, derivational and inflectional morphology? What are the main types of word formation processes? 	Mass Communication and Media Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is mass communication? How does it differ from face-to-face communication? What is media convergence? Provide examples. What is agenda-setting theory and how does it impact media consumers? What is the difference between traditional media and new media? How does the media influence public opinion? 	Translation studies as interdisciplinary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is translation studies and when did it emerge? Is it a fully autonomous discipline? What fields is it related to and why? Explain. What is the practical outcome of translation studies interfacing a host of other domains? In what way, and to what degree, is translation studies influenced by technology? 	English tradition of literary translations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the earliest translations into English? What literatures influenced English literature in its early history? What literatures influence English literature now? 	Literature of the Lost Generation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the origins of the Lost Generation movement? What are the main characteristics of the Lost Generation movement? Who are the main representatives of the Lost Generation movement?
Syntax <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is syntax and why is it important in linguistics? What are syntactic categories? What are their characteristics? What are the basic types of sentence structures (SVO, SOV) and syntactic transformations? 	Nonverbal Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is nonverbal communication? Provide examples of different types e.g., kinesics, proxemics, haptics, paralanguage. How does culture influence nonverbal communication? What is the significance of eye contact in communication? What is the difference between facial expressions and gestures in communication? What role does silence play in communication? 	Untranslatability: myth or reality? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are semantic fields? Provide an example in English or Polish. Discuss the hierarchical organization of meaning (hyperonym/hyponym). What are some of the common problems of untranslatability? Discuss a selected example. Would you consider loanwords an effective way of overcoming lacunae in language systems? Explain. 	American tradition of literary translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the earliest translations made in the USA? What literatures influenced American literature in its early history? What literatures influence American literature now? 	William Faulkner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main novels and short stories written by William Faulkner? What are the main characteristic features of William Faulkner's novels? What are the main themes of William Faulkner's works?
Semantics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is lexical semantics. What is hyponymy, synonymy, and antonymy? Provide examples. 	Intercultural Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is intercultural communication, and why is it important? 	Translation and multi-word expressions	Translation and ideology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is ideology? How does ideology influence translation? 	British/American dystopian novels of the XX century (including cyberpunk novels).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is polysemy and homonymy? Provide examples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are high-context and low-context cultures in Hall's cultural theory? How do cultural differences affect communication styles? What is ethnocentrism, and how can it impact communication? What is Hofstede's cultural dimensions theory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the difference between an idiom and a fixed expression (collocation)? Which is more likely to be misinterpreted? What are some of the difficulties in translating idioms? Provide a few examples. What strategies of rendering idioms do translators take? Explain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can the translator change dominating ideologies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main characteristic features of the dystopian novel? What are the most famous British/American dystopian novels of the XX century? What is cyberpunk?
Pragmatics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the scope of pragmatics? What is implicature, based on Grice's maxims? What is speech act theory and provide examples of locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts? How can (im)politeness be represented through language choices? 	Rhetoric and Persuasion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is rhetoric? What are Aristotle's three modes of persuasion - ethos, pathos, logos? What are the key components of a persuasive speech? How does cognitive dissonance theory relate to persuasion? What is propaganda, and how does it differ from persuasion? 	Translation at word level vs. translation at text level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a unit of translation? Can the whole text be considered a translation unit? What is theme and rheme in a syntactic structure? Is word order important in translation? Is back translation a suitable way of ensuring the quality of translation? 	The polysystem theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the polysystem? How do polysystems develop? What is the most active part of any polysystem? 	American poetry after 1950. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main trends/movements associated with the American poetry after 1950? Who are the most famous American poets writing after 1950? What are the main characteristic features of the American poetry after 1950
Sociolinguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is sociolinguistics and how does it differ from general linguistics? What is dialect, sociolect, and idiolect? Provide examples. What is code-switching, and why does it occur? What influences language variation? 	Digital and Social Media Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is digital communication, and how has it changed the way people interact? What is virality in the context of social media? How do social media algorithms affect information consumption? What is the role of influencers in digital marketing? What are echo chambers in social media communication. 	Translation shifts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is de Saussure's distinction between langue and parole? What is a translation shift? What are the direct and oblique translation methods to Vinay and Darbelnet? Discuss transposition and modulation as ways of circumventing translation problems. What is a level shift to Catford? In the course of translation, something is always lost, but something else may be found. Do you agree with this? 	Translation and nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is nationalism? How is nationalism connected with the practice of translation? <p>Why does nationalism prefer domestication as a translation strategy?</p>	Afro-American Literature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the origins of Afro-American literature? What are the main characteristics of Afro-American literature? Who are the main representatives of Afro-American literature?
Historical linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is language change (phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical)? What are language families? What is a comparative method in historical linguistics? 	Organizational Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is organizational communication, and why is it important? What is the difference between formal and informal communication networks in organizations? 	Translation strategies and the translator's (in)visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Venuti, what is invisibility in terms of translation? Describe domestication and foreignization. Which of these is a time-honoured translation strategy and why? 	Translation as a political intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can translation be free from political influence and how? What is the role of the translator in shaping political reality? 	Toni Morrison. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main novels written by Toni Morrison? What are the main characteristic features of Toni Morrison's novels? What are the main themes of Toni Morrison's works?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Grimm's Law and why is it significant? • What is the Great Vowel Shift, and how did it affect English pronunciation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key principles of crisis communication? • What is workplace communication and what is its impact on productivity? • What is leadership communication, and how does it influence team dynamics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are translators visible in the Polish translation context? • Is it important to find the voice of the author? Why? Why not? • What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative impoverishment to Berman? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the politics of meaning? 	
Cognitive linguistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is language related to thinking and representing reality in the human mind? • What is metaphor? • What types of metaphors are there? • What is the difference between the notion of dead and novel metaphor and between embodied and culturally specific metaphors. • What other figures of thought can be identified? 	Political and Public Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is political communication, and why is it significant in democratic societies? • What is "spin doctoring" in political communication? • How do public relations strategies shape public perception? • What is the role of speeches and debates in political communication? • How does the media influence political discourse? 	Translation and text types <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the typology of texts. Mention a few types of text and explain the differences between them. • What is text hybridization? • What are argumentative and instructional texts? Do translators tend to render them in the same or different ways? • Is it necessary to determine the rhetorical purpose of a text? 	Phases of functioning of translation in the target language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the "phase of mimicry"? • What is the phase of conflict? • What is the phase of diffusion? 	Postmodern novel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main characteristics of the postmodern novel? • Who are the main representatives of American/British postmodern novel? • What are the main differences between modernist and postmodern literature?
REFERENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aitchison, J. (2012). <i>Linguistics: An Introduction</i> (7th ed.). Hodder Education. • Lakoff, G., Johnson, M. (1980). <i>Metaphors we live by</i>. University of Chicago Press. • Meyer, C. F. (2009). <i>Introducing English Linguistics</i>. Cambridge University Press. • Yule, G. (2020). <i>The Study of Language</i> (7th ed.). Cambridge University Press. 	REFERENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockcroft. R. Cockcroft S. (2013). <i>Persuading people: An introduction to rhetoric</i>. Bloomsbury. • Crystal, D. (2011). <i>Internet linguistics: A student guide</i>. Routledge. • Fairclough, N. (2001). <i>Language and power</i> (2nd ed.). Longman. • Jones, R. H., Jaworska, S., Aslan, E. (2020). <i>Language and media: A resource book for students</i>. Routledge 	REFERENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baker, Mona. 2011. <i>In other words: A coursebook on translation</i>. Abingdon–New York: Routledge. • Hatim, Basil & Jeremy Munday. 2004. <i>Translation: An advanced resource book</i>. London–New York: Routledge. • Munday, Jeremy. 2001. <i>Introducing translation studies. Theories and applications</i>. London–New York: Routledge. 	REFERENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lefevere, André. 1992. <i>Translating literature: Practice and theory in a comparative literature framework</i>. New York: MLA. • Venuti, Lawrence. 1995. <i>The translator's invisibility. A history of translation</i>. London–New York: Routledge. • Marcinkiewicz, Paweł. 2024. <i>Literature, translation, and the politics of meaning</i>. Göttingen: V&R unipress. 	REFERENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Ruland and Malcolm Bradbury, <i>From Puritanism to Postmodernism. A History of American Literature</i> – pp. 237-429. • David Daiches, <i>A Critical History of English Literature</i>, Volume II, pp. 1152-1178. • Malcolm Bradbury, <i>The British Novel</i>.