



LINGUISTICS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY & LANGUAGE SCIENCES

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SCOTLAND

*Professor Caroline Heycock FBA
President, Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
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Wednesday 1st June 2022

Dear Professor Ezingard, Professor Murray, Professor Flew,

I am writing to in my capacity as President of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (LAGB) to express deep concern at the redundancies and course closures that are planned for subjects in Arts and Humanities at Roehampton.

As I am sure you are aware, Linguistics and English Language at Roehampton is an important research centre for theoretical and socio linguistics, and is particularly noted for the strength of its teaching: in the Guardian league table for Modern Languages and Linguistics 2020 Roehampton topped the entire table for satisfaction with course and with teaching, reflecting the extremely high NSS ratings. The cuts being proposed will have a profound effect on the student experience in this and other areas in Arts and Humanities, also dramatically worsening the working environment and research and teaching productivity even for staff who are successful in re-applying for their jobs.

As extensively documented in the British Academy's publications on SHAPE subjects, Arts and Humanities are central to the cultural and economic life of the UK; they empower citizens, and engage students in developing cognitive, analytic, and creative skills that not only enrich the intellectual lives and economic outlook of individuals, but also help build a forward-looking, cohesive, and informed society. Participation in high level study in Arts and Humanities—and hence in the arts and creative industries, an area in which the UK excels—is still skewed away from students with working-class backgrounds and from Black and ethnic minority communities. Roehampton has an enviable record in attracting and educating students from these under-represented groups; the proposed cuts to Arts and Humanities at Roehampton will have a disproportionate effect in reducing access to first-class education in these areas in precisely the groups currently most underrepresented and underserved.

English Language and Linguistics at Roehampton recruit a wonderfully diverse cohort of students, including, among current students, first generation and working class students, mature students, students with a range of disabilities, students who are carers for family members, student parents, and students who are care experienced. This subject area recruits

from a wide range of Black and ethnic minority communities, and the module in Multilingualism encourages students to think both in terms of their own cultural and linguistic identities, but also takes advantage of Roehampton's location within one of the world's superdiverse cities. The subject area encourages students to bring their whole selves to their degree; and as a result these students produce a range of outstanding work.

We acknowledge, of course, that Higher Education is facing challenging times, and that the management at Roehampton has a responsibility to the whole university community, but we urge you in the strongest terms to reconsider your response to those challenges, and to find ways to support your excellent researchers and teachers in Linguistics and English Language, and more generally to maintain your offerings in the Schools of Arts and Humanities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Heycock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the typed name below.

Caroline Heycock FBA FRSE
Professor of Syntax, University of Edinburgh
President, Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland