Graduate Program: MA

Our graduate program in German offers you the opportunity of critically engaging with German and German-speaking literatures, cultures and linguistics.

Next Steps

1. Check out our website
   https://modlang.unl.edu/german-graduate-program

2. Talk to the Graduate Advisor
   Email Prof. Nora Peterson, npeterson10@unl.edu

3. Begin your application
   https://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/prospective/steps
Modern Languages and Literatures Graduate Programs

Graduate students in our three programs (French, German, and Spanish) thrive in a dynamic environment that combines the advantages of a large, multilingual department at a comprehensive research university with the relative autonomy of three distinct language-specific programs. We offer the MA in German, French and Spanish, and the PhD degree in French and Spanish.

German Program

Our core program covers the range of German cultural expression from the Early Modern period to the present, with particular emphasis on German Classicism and Romanticism, women’s literature, and comparative cultural studies. You can add a minor or second major in another language (Spanish or French), or in other fields such as English as a Second Language, Foreign Language Pedagogy, History, Human Rights, English, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Digital Humanities, or Women’s and Gender Studies.

UNL offers three Masters programs in German:

- MA in German
- Double major Masters in German and Foreign Language Pedagogy (with UNL’s College of Education and Human Sciences), with or without certification to teach in Nebraska public schools
- For qualified students from German universities: MA in one year

Our Faculty

- Prof. Christina Brantner: Romanticism, women authors, composers, visual artists, contemporary fiction.
- Lecturer Christiane Jensen: native of Hamburg, trains and mentors graduate TAs.
- Prof. Priscilla Hayden-Ray: religion and society, Friedrich Hölderlin, German children’s literature.
- Prof. and Department Chair Patricia Anne Simpson: co-editor of the Goethe Yearbook, German Classicism, material culture, environmental humanities, migration, rise of far right populism and Islamophobia.

On-Campus Opportunities

There are many opportunities in our department, including teaching, coordinating basic language courses, leading weekly the German conversation table, collaborating in research projects with a professor, freelance translation and tutoring, professional development workshops, and presenting papers at conferences.

Financial Aid

Graduate Teaching Assistantships with tuition waiver are available for students to pursue their MA while gaining teaching experience. Additional fellowships are offered to provide supplementary funds to our graduate students. We also offer economic support for students presenting their research at conferences. Teaching Assistantships allow a student to cover most, if not all, their education expenses plus a stipend.

Recent Graduates

Recent MA graduates in German are now doctoral students at other universities, both in the US and abroad, and teachers of German in public schools across the United States. They are also pursuing a range of non-academic careers in areas such as diplomacy, film, translation, business, and international hospitality.

Because of the unique dual Master’s degree program, I was able to continue my personal education in German literature and language, while simultaneously teaching German classes and receiving extensive pedagogical training from the College of Education.

— Kaylee Barber, German Teacher at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Kansas

Because of the open, caring atmosphere among my professors, I felt like all the program participants shared a common goal. We were working with our professors to grow, not just working for them.

— Brian Rentfro, German Teacher at Brentwood High School in Williamson County, TN