Graduate Program: MA

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

German Program

Our core program covers the range of German cultural expression from the Early Modern period to the present, with particular emphasis on gender studies, environmental humanities, migration, media studies, and critical theory. You can add a minor or second major in another language (Spanish or French), or in other fields such as History, Human Rights, English, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Digital Humanities, or Women’s and Gender Studies. In addition to the traditional German MA, we offer a distinctive double major MA in German and Foreign Language Pedagogy, preparing students for either PhD studies or secondary teaching.

Core Faculty

- Christina Brantner: Romanticism, women authors, composers, vis. artists, contemp. fiction
- Ted Dawson: Austrian studies, environmental humanities, sound studies, digital humanities
- Christine Jensen: teaching coordinator, trains and mentors graduate TAs
- Patricia Anne Simpson: co-editor the Goethe Yearbook, German Classicism, material culture, environmental humanities, migration, rise of far right populism and Islamophobia.

German Studies Faculty outside the Department

- Marco Abel: film and media studies, German Cinema, Berlin school
- Amy Burnett: early modern European and German history until 1800
- Aleidine Moeller: SLA and language pedagogy
- Gerald Steinacher: modern Jewish history, Holocaust, immigration, espionage
- Alexander Vazansky: post-war German history, US military in Germany, 1960s

On-Campus Opportunities

There are many opportunities in our department, including teaching, coordinating basic language courses, leading the weekly 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 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