International Letters and Cultures, PhD

Combine your study of language, literature and cultures to address questions that cannot be fully explored within traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through an academic culture that fosters dynamic collaboration across disciplines, deepen your understanding of transnational and transcultural phenomena, from antiquity to the present.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD International Letters and Cultures

The PhD program in international letters and cultures offers professional training that is linguistically well-grounded, historically and culturally informed, and methodologically transdisciplinary, through courses and supervision of research. Central to the program is the critical inquiry of primary texts, media and cultural expressions, aiming at an original understanding of cultures and social groups in their formations, interactions and transformations throughout history.

The program is attentive to the various roles of language in societies and in the different perspectives through which language can be studied --- among other aspects, its variations, transformations, hybridizations and processes of acquisition. The doctorate in international letters and cultures focuses particularly on research questions and themes that cannot be fully explored within the traditional disciplinary boundaries; instead, it fosters dynamic collaboration across disciplines in order to engage in the production of knowledge that is crucial to understanding transnational and transcultural interactions across time and space.

This degree program provides an innovative intellectual platform that advances transdisciplinary research and teaching. In consultation with their advisor, students arrange their coursework in both a primary and a secondary area of emphasis. Both areas are organized around interdisciplinary study and research in more than one language. Advanced language requirements will vary depending on chosen areas of research. Sample programs of study might include a primary emphasis area in medieval theater and a secondary emphasis area in medieval book culture, with a focus on France and Italy, or students might study multilingualism from a comparative sociolinguistic perspective, comparing trilingual communities like the Yaquis in Arizona and the Uros in Bolivia. Faculty members are drawn from various departments and programs in the humanities and social sciences.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
SLC 602 Comparative Cultural Theory (3)

**Restricted Electives (36 credit hours)**
primary field of study (18)
secondary field of study (18)

**Other Requirements (33 credit hours)**
elective and research credit hours (21)
foreign language credit hours (12)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
SLC 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students should see the academic unit for a complete list of approved courses.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor’s or master’s degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.
Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor’s degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master’s degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. writing sample
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

The personal statement should describe the questions, issues, or challenges the student plans to explore through the doctoral program in international letters and cultures and explain how previous studies, training, or professional experiences prepare the student for this research. It should include a proposed plan of study based on the current graduate-level offerings at ASU. In a brief statement, the student should indicate how those courses will be preparation for the dissertation, how the plan fits with the description and goals of this doctoral program, and why the proposed program does not fit some other degree program.

Applicants must provide a writing sample of 15 to 20 pages minimum in English; a writing sample in the primary language of interest may also be requested at the discretion of the admissions committee. The writing sample should reflect the student's analytical and critical skills.

Global Opportunities

PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information