



Dear applicants in our doctoral program in Comparative Literature (of French in Comparative Literature, or German in Comparative Literature), please find below some answers on frequently asked questions.

**Q: Do I need GRE scores?**

A: Admissions decisions are based on a holistic review of the applicant's entire record and application materials. Starting in fall 2019, we will no longer be requiring GRE scores.

**Q: What sort of funding is available for graduate students?**

A: All our students are funded through some combination of internal and university-level fellowships and teaching assistantships. Students with excellent materials (writing samples and statement of purpose in particular) are the most competitive for university-level fellowships. Admitted students who do not receive university-level funding may be awarded department-level fellowships. In general, we strive to fund every admitted student and remain committed to ensuring that all students have sufficient funding and time to focus on their studies. After their first year, competitive international applicants who remain in good standing are awarded a university-level fellowship that pays for their non-resident supplemental tuition for 9 quarters.

**Q: Who makes the final decision on admissions? Do I need to contact an advisor ahead of time?**

Admissions decisions are not made by individual faculty based on research area, but by the Graduate Recruitment Committee based on the quality of the application materials. Interviews may be conducted to discuss your applications and interests with the Graduate Recruitment Committee in January.

Admitted students will be able to select appropriate mentors after entering the program. However, it is a good idea to know with whom you would like to work and list their names on your statement of purpose.

**Q: I am unable to list three fields at this time as advised on your admission page. What shall I do?**

In order to judge whether your doctoral goals will be well supported in our program, we need to know your main areas of scholarly interests and the ways in which you plan on building on your previous work. You can describe what you feel will be the main topics and fields of your studies, including the two or three literary cultures that you are interested in and the main theoretical lines you would like to pursue and enhance. In all cases, explain why Comparative Literature at UC Santa Barbara is your choice of program. Our program is fully interdisciplinary, so you may list a variety of potential fields; for example, you can list American Literature, Ecocriticism, and Black Studies as your three fields, with additional graduate emphases on Global Studies and Translation Studies.

**Q. I am interested in all the emphases you list on your website. Can they also be my main or minor fields?**

You can complete up to three graduate emphases, but you can list one of the emphases as your main fields or your Minor field. For example, a course of study can be as follows: Main Fields: ChicanX Studies; Francophone Literature; Minor Field: Translation Studies. Emphases: Global Studies; Writing Studies.

**Q. How long should the statement of purpose be?**

Usually, the statement runs between two and three pages, single-space (with a legible font). The statement of personal achievements/contribution has the same length or shorter.

**Q. I do not have a writing sample or an official score to demonstrate my current level in a second or a third language? What shall I do?**

We can only admit students who already have a solid proficiency in a second language linked to their field of studies, for example Japanese, Arabic, German, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, etc. If you are not a native speaker of a foreign language, and cannot provide a writing sample in a foreign language, or an official score testifying to your current level, please contact us.

**Q: I would like to earn a master's degree but not a doctoral one. Can I do so in your program?**

A: **No.** Our program does not offer a terminal MA, but only a PhD (for those entering with an MA in either Comparative Literature, English and other disciplines in the literary humanities) and a joint MA/PhD (for those entering without an MA degree).

**Q: Is the TOEFL or IELTS required of all international applicants who are not native speakers of English?**

A: **Yes,** unless the applicant holds a degree from an institution where English was the medium of instruction. For more information, see the [requirements for international applicants](#).

**Q: Do you have minimal requirements for TOEFL or IELTS?**

A: **Yes.** See the [requirements for international applicants](#).

**Q: Can I be considered for conditional or deferred admission?**

A: **No.** Our program does not permit conditional or deferred admissions.

**Q: I missed the admissions deadline. Can I still be considered in this admissions cycle?**

A: Under very exceptional circumstances, some late applications may be considered. However, applying by the deadline of **December 15** will insure that your application will be considered for central fellowships

**Q: I would like to apply for winter or spring admission. Can I do so?**

A: Admission is for fall only of the next year by which you apply.

**Q: I submitted the application fee but my application is incomplete. Can I still be considered in this admissions cycle?**

A: Yes. Paid applications will be considered based on the submitted materials. Materials can still be submitted after the deadline, but may not be given the same full consideration as complete applications.

**Q: I would like to schedule a campus visit. How do I do so?**

A: All **domestic** applicants who are short-listed for admission will be invited to campus for a visit in February (Note that “domestic” means here those who are already in the US or Canada; we cannot pay for overseas travel).

Prospective graduate applicants who are interested in visiting before applications are due should contact our Graduate Program Coordinator to arrange a visit. Depending on scheduling constraints, the Faculty Graduate Advisor and/or the Graduate Program Coordinator will meet with you during your visit to discuss the program and application process with you. You may also have the opportunity to sit in on one or more graduate seminars, and you may take a self-guided tour of the campus. We are generally unable to schedule meetings with individual faculty and current graduate students before admissions decisions are made.

For more information, please write to our Graduate Program Coordinator:

E-mail: [gd-complit@complit.ucsb.edu](mailto:gd-complit@complit.ucsb.edu)

We look forward to reading your applications!

