

# Master of Arts in French and Francophone Studies

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The Department of French, Francophone, and Italian Studies offers a comprehensive graduate program (M.A. and Ph.D.) in French and Francophone language, literature, and culture. Our faculty (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/affiliated-faculty/>) is dynamic, professionally active, and committed to excellence in scholarship and teaching. The major emphasis of teaching and research is French and Francophone literature.

The department also offers courses in literary theory, cultural studies, and film. The department offers a balanced emphasis on periods from medieval through twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Our students represent a diverse group, and we encourage equally applicants from traditional and nontraditional backgrounds. Excellent facilities, strong library holdings, and a faculty dedicated to both teaching and research assure students of a challenging and professional graduate preparation.

Please visit the Graduate Program page (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/graduate-admission/>) of the department website and see our Graduate Handbook (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/resources/>) for additional information.

## Departmental Funding

The department does its best to provide funding in the form of Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) appointments to all incoming graduate students. GTA appointments are awarded for the academic year and .50 full-time equivalent (FTE) appointments come with:

- a competitive academic year (9 month) salary
- a 100% tuition waiver for all courses at KU
- 100% of student fees for 3 credits and the student wellness fee (for students enrolled in at least 3 hours) are covered
- optional University-subsidized group health insurance

The appointments are guaranteed, based on funding availability and performance, for 2 years for M.A. students and 6 years for students who receive both an M.A. and a Ph.D. at The University of Kansas. GTAs in the department receive thorough training in language instruction, close mentoring, and the opportunity to teach French at a variety of levels, providing them with a strong base of teaching experience upon entering the job market. Additional information about teaching for the department is available on the Graduate Funding page (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/ma-funding-opportunities/>) of our departmental website.

## Additional Funding

Other funding opportunities for graduate students include the Office of Study Abroad's Springer award; the department's Cornell, Mahieu, and Magerus fellowships; awards for research abroad; and French university exchanges.

Visit the Graduate Studies website for additional information about funding opportunities (<http://graduate.ku.edu/funding/>) for graduate students at KU.

Financial Aid and Scholarships (<https://financialaid.ku.edu/>) administers grants, loans, and need-based financial aid.

## Admission to Graduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

## Admission to the M.A. Program in French

In addition to the general admission requirements (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/>) from the Office of Graduate Studies, applicants should have the equivalent of a major in French at the B.A. level, with a minimum of 9 hours of advanced undergraduate course work in French literature.

## Required Supplemental Documents

In order to complete the application online, please prepare the following items ahead of time to be uploaded with the online application.

Please note that the department cannot complete the processing of your application until all supplemental documentation has been received.

Prior to applying, we also encourage you to look at the faculty page (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/faculty/>) and current graduate course offerings page see which faculty members do research or teach in your areas of interest.

- A current resume or C.V.
  - The résumé or C.V. should include academic, employment, and extracurricular background
- Statement of Purpose
  - This statement should provide the admissions committee with a sense of what you hope to encounter in the graduate school experience, your experience and general research interests at this point in your career, what skills you most need to work on, and what shape you think your career might take--in the academy or outside of it.
- A sample essay or research paper in French
  - A written work to demonstrate your writing skills and basic research capacity in French. For the M.A. program, submit a 12 to 15 page writing sample. For the Ph.D. program, submit a 20-page writing sample.
- The names and contact information of three references
  - These references, preferably academic, will be contacted directly by KU for letters of recommendation. Please alert your references in advance.
- Copies of official transcripts
  - Transcripts are required from all institutions from which a degree was obtained, or any institutions attended post-bachelors. Official transcripts that you have opened may be uploaded to the application online and used for admissions consideration, but

if you are admitted, official (sealed) transcripts showing degree conferral, if applicable, must also be provided.

- For applicants whose native language is not French
  - upload an mp3 audio file on which the applicant speaks extemporaneously (do not use a prepared script) for approximately five minutes in French, giving an account of background, training, and interests.
- For applicants whose native language is not English
  - upload an mp3 audio file on which the applicant speaks extemporaneously (do not use a prepared script) for approximately five minutes in English, giving an account of background, training, and interests.
- GRE scores - if you are a North American applicant
  - While you may enter your scores on the application, confirmation of scores will need to come directly from GRE. KU's GRE institutional code is 6871. International applicants do not need to submit GRE scores.

## Additional Required Supplemental Documents\*

\*For applicants who want to be considered for the Haitian Creole Studentship

- A sample essay or research paper in Haitian Creole
  - A written work to demonstrate your writing skills and basic research capacity in Haitian Creole. For the M.A. program, submit a 5-7 page writing sample. For the Ph.D. program, submit a minimum 10-page writing sample.
- For applicants whose native language is not Haitian Creole
  - Upload an mp3 audio file on which you will speak extemporaneously (do not use a prepared script) for approximately five minutes in Haitian Creole, giving an account of background, training, and interests.

Submit your graduate application online (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/>).

For any questions regarding the application process, department-specific deadlines, or required supplemental documentation, please contact the department's Graduate Program Coordinator, **Aley Pennington**, [aleypennington@ku.edu](mailto:aleypennington@ku.edu).

## M.A. Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
FREN 704	Methods in Foreign Language Instruction	3
FREN 720	Introduction to Graduate Studies in French	3
FREN 610	Theme et Version	3
Select one of the following:		6
FREN 900	Seminar in French: _____ (2 seminars of 3 hours each)	
FREN 899	M.A. Thesis (6 hours of enrollment total over 2 semesters)	
A maximum of two graduate-level courses outside the department to be determined in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies or 6 additional hours of department electives from list below		6
FREN 795	Investigation and Conference (Maximum of 3 hours)	3
Electives		6
FREN 500	Advanced French Phonetics	

FREN 530	Studies in Film: _____	
FREN 700	Old French	
FREN 703	Structure of Modern French	
FREN 705	Colloquium in Methods of Teaching French Language	
FREN 732	Francophone Studies	
FREN 799	Masters Seminar	
FREN 800	Studies in: _____	
FREN 848	Studies in Medieval French Literature: _____	
FREN 858	Studies in Sixteenth Century French Literature: _____	
FREN 878	Studies in Eighteenth Century French Literature: _____	
FREN 898	Studies in Twentieth Century French Literature: _____	
FREN 995	Investigation and Conference	
One semester of a second Romance language, Latin, Greek, German, Arabic, or another language pertinent to the student's career path and approved by the DGS*		5

**Total Hours** **35**

In the event that a required course cannot be offered during the time when the student completes coursework, the student will take a substitute course in consultation with the DGS.

\*Students must earn a grade of 'B' or higher in any course taken to fulfill the language requirement. If students prefer to take a regular language course (not a reading knowledge course), then they must take the accelerated version, if one is available (e.g. SPAN 111). Proficiency may be demonstrated by completion of the first-semester course (or equivalent) or by examination

## Comprehensive written and oral examinations

- Students are expected to complete their M.A. written and oral examinations in the fourth semester of their studies. The written examination is based on a reading list covering all periods of French and Francophone literature and includes: identifications and both short and long essay questions. The examination is graded as follows: "Strong pass," "Pass," "Weak pass," or "Fail." Once the candidate's exam has been read and graded, the DGS confers with the graduate faculty to discuss and confirm the evaluations, and then informs the student of the results.
- After the written examination is passed, an oral exam will be scheduled, with a committee of 3 faculty members. The oral exam consists of (a) the candidate's *commentaire de texte*, followed by discussion, and (b) questions covering all areas of French and Francophone literature. One week before the oral examination, the candidate, in consultation with the graduate director, will choose the author for the *commentaire de texte*. The Director of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the members of the examination committee, will choose the short text or passage to be analyzed and will give a copy of the text to the student 2 hours prior to the examination. The *commentaire de texte* must be given in French. In the discussion and question period that follows, the candidate should expect to speak both French and English and normally should answer in the language in which a question is asked. The examination is graded as follows: "Honors," "Pass," or "Fail."

**At least 50% of coursework for the master's degree must be taken at the 700 level or above.**

## **Handbook for Graduate Students**

A detailed presentation of departmental processes and regulations is included in the department's Graduate Student Handbook (<https://frenchitalian.ku.edu/resources/>).

## **Summer Language Institute in Paris**

The department conducts a 6-week summer institute in Paris focusing on French language and culture. Students take courses in intermediate and advanced French language at L'Etoile, a private language institute in the center of Paris. Before the stay in Paris, students spend 10 days to 2 weeks touring regions such as Normandy, Brittany, and the château country along the Loire River. Some scholarship aid is available. Consult the department (<http://www.frenchitalian.ku.edu/>) or the Office of Study Abroad (<http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu/>) for information.

## **Graduate Study Abroad**

Graduate students have the opportunity to serve as program assistants for the department's Paris Summer Language Institute. The department also has a graduate exchange agreement with the Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- show critical knowledge of French and Francophone literary and cultural history.
- show critical knowledge of French and Francophone literary and cultural history.
- show proficiency in the teaching of French and knowledge of major language-learning pedagogical approaches and theories.