ENGLISH

The Department of English at Fordham offers M.A. and Ph.D. degree programs. In addition to offering small, seminar-style courses led by our widely published and recognized faculty, we provide individualized, personal mentorship to all members of the graduate program. Ph.D. students take our distinctive, two-semester teaching practicum, which prepares them to become effective instructors. M.A. students complete capstone writing projects while working closely with faculty mentors in their chosen fields of interest. We also run numerous workshops on dissertation writing, publishing, and other topics related to professionalization, and we have a dedicated faculty member who serves as our job placement officer.

Ph.D. students with a prior master's degree are eligible to receive five years of funding, while those without prior master's are eligible for six years of funding. M.A. students may apply for competitive funding for the two-year program.

Admissions

Fordham’s English department warmly welcomes qualified M.A. and Ph.D. applicants who seek to join a dedicated, vibrant community of scholar-teachers to pursue literary studies at an advanced level. Our M.A. program offers in-depth exploration of literary topics and diverse professionalization opportunities over a nimble two-year program. Our Ph.D. program supports students from year one through the dissertation defense and beyond, with flexibly conceived coursework, hands-on mentorship, sustained pedagogical formation, and diversified professional development. We seek to strike a balance between broad historical coverage and research specialization, and we encourage students to explore and expand their intellectual interests over the duration of their studies. Our faculty teaches and mentors widely across literary fields from medieval to contemporary; please see our list of Areas of Interest for an up-to-date sense of our department's current research strengths. Apply through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences online application.

Statement of Intent

Your 750-word Statement of Intent should characterize your interests as a student of literature, your current intellectual engagement with one or more Areas of Interest listed below, and your aspirations as a doctoral student of literature at Fordham University. It should detail your preparation for doctoral-level study during your undergraduate and/or master’s degree program, identify topics and literatures you have enjoyed exploring in the past and/or wish to explore in the future, and describe your academic and/or non-academic professional goals.

Writing Sample

Your writing sample should be an original scholarly essay between fifteen (15) and twenty-five (25) pages, preferably written for an upper-level literature course. Ideally, it should reflect your scholarly interests and intellectual potential. The sample must be written in English and may be uploaded either as a Word or PDF document. Note: applicants who do not have a 15-page sample may submit two shorter samples (for example, two papers of 10 pages each would be acceptable).

Recommendations

Three letters of recommendation submitted via the online application