

ENGLISH

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

Transcript

Please be sure to order official final transcripts from all previously attended institutions confirming degree conferral (if applicable) at least one month before the posted application deadline. Transcripts should be sent directly from your prior institution(s) via secure electronic delivery to the Office of Admissions at fuga@fordham.edu. We strongly recommend that you upload unofficial copies of your academic transcripts to your application while the Office of Admissions awaits receipt of your official transcripts. International transcripts should be translated.

CV or resume

Include your full legal name, permanent and local/current addresses and contact numbers, and any relevant professional and scholarly experience (max 5 pages).

GRE General Test

GRE scores are optional for both the Ph.D and M.A. programs; absence of GRE scores will not impact application evaluation. Applicants who still wish to submit GRE scores may send them directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code #2259. We **do not** require the GRE Subject Test in Literature for M.A. or Ph.D. applications.

English Proficiency

TOEFL test results must be submitted by International Applicants: International applicants whose native language is not English are required to complete and submit to GSAS prior to matriculation their official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). GSAS will also consider a student's International English Language Testing System (IELTS)—Cambridge English Proficiency Level language testing results.

Official TOEFL or IELTS scores should be sent directly by the testing service to the Office of Graduate Admissions, Fordham University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences – Code # 2259.

NOTE: Students who have completed a degree (undergraduate or graduate) at an English-language university are exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

Ph.D. Applicants

Ph.D. applicants are not required to hold an M.A., and all admitted Ph.D.'s are funded.

Ph.D. candidates should select one or more Areas of Interest from our annually updated list. This selection should reflect your current intellectual interests, with the understanding that interests commonly grow and change over the course of study.

For more information about admissions to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, please visit this page on the Fordham website.