

MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

About the Department

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers a variety of programs in languages, literatures, linguistics, and cultures. Its broad aim is to explore the linguistic, cultural, and textual forms by which human beings have constructed and interpreted reality and fictional forms.

The department prepares students to develop expertise in the following areas: literatures of the world, literary studies, cultural studies, visual culture, intercultural theory and communication/translation, *eloquentia perfecta* (theater, performance, writing, and public speaking), linguistics and bilingualism/multilingualism, and humanitarianism (anthropology/political science/international studies). Our students demonstrate a commitment to collaborative leadership in community-engaged learning, contact zones, and language cultures (business, health, social justice, translation).

The department offers language courses in Arabic, French, German, Hebrew (LC), Italian, Japanese (LC), Mandarin Chinese, Russian (LC), and Spanish; majors in the following languages and literatures and area studies: Chinese studies, French and Francophone studies, German, Italian, Spanish Language and Literature, and Spanish studies, and minors in Arabic, French and Francophone studies, German, Italian, Linguistics, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, and Spanish.

Courses at the 2000 level normally concentrate on advanced language, communication, linguistics, and cultural studies. Courses at the 3000 level normally concentrate on in-depth analysis of literature and artistic productions, intercultural theory, cultural and humanitarian studies, and linguistics. Courses at the 4000 level include Interdisciplinary Capstone Core courses, Senior Values Seminars, and courses that provide students with the opportunity to pursue faculty-mentored research either in the form of an individualized thesis, in our neurolinguistic or sociolinguistic laboratories, or in the social innovation project on water and migration in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Modern Languages and Literatures also offers a variety of hands-on Community Engaged Learning Courses that enable students to use their linguistic and cultural skills as they work with local New York City communities on a variety of social justice minded issues in addition to MLAL courses taught in English on a myriad of subject matters. The majority of our majors are double majors in a wide variety of fields of specialization including among others: communication and media studies, comparative literature, English, humanitarian studies, integrative neuroscience, international political development, international studies, philosophy, psychology, political science, and visual arts.

Program Activities

The department offers a broad range of activities for undergraduates and the broader Fordham community including weekly conversation cafés in the various languages, cultural nights and concerts, literary journals such as *Le Bélif*, sponsored film screenings, master classes with some of the most preeminent creators in the industry, Fordham Reads Dante, the Bronx Italian American History Initiative (BIAHI), and numerous other interventions. Invited speakers offer formal lectures, informal talks, seminars, and workshops either designed for or open to undergraduates. The French section's *Concours d'éloquence* in partnership with the French Office of Cultural Services offers Fordham students the opportunity to

compete both internally and against students from Columbia, CUNY, and NYU.

Since summer 2020, the department has embarked on the MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative, a collaborative initiative between faculty and students which seeks to understand how language, and the way we and our textbooks present and represent language/vocabulary in the classroom, create, reinforce, and normalize certain forms of bias, stereotype, and prejudice. As a result of the ongoing roundtables and workshops devoted to the subject and various other related initiatives, MLL remains committed to the ongoing revision of our curriculum and our pedagogy to be more actively anti-racist and inclusive.

The students studying abroad at Fordham's center in Granada, Spain, publish the journal *Por Granada*, which collects the term papers completed in the course *Spain in Context*. Students taking the MLAL course "Berlin Tales," which includes a study tour to Berlin over spring break, publish their research papers in the journal *Kiez Kieken*.

Awards and Scholarships

Each year the department bestows a number of awards and scholarships on Fordham students for excellence in the study of foreign languages, literatures, and cultures, and for outstanding commitment to promoting foreign language learning and foreign culture awareness at Fordham and in the larger community. Awards and scholarships include:

- Francis R. Favorini Italian Achievement Award (FCRH)
- French Achievement Award (FCRH)
- German Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Anthony and Cecilia Guardiani Award (FCRH)
- Heydt French Award (FCRH)
- Heydt Spanish Award (FCRH)
- Spanish Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Istituto Italiano di Cultura Award (FCRH)
- Arabic Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Mandarin Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Russian Achievement Award (FCRH/FCLC)
- Fernand and Santina Vial Scholarship (FCRH, FCLC, GSB)

In addition, honors are awarded to the student with the highest GPA in each of the minors and majors our department offers at FCLC. Students who excel in their German classes will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the German government.

Internships

Students who wish to pursue an internship and receive college credit for it should contact their major adviser and Career Services to identify internship opportunities relevant to their field of study and professional interests. Credits for internship tutorials will be granted depending upon the type of internship, the extent to which the relevant language is used in the work environment, and the significance of the experience for a student's course of study. The number of credits is contingent on the fulfillment of various requirements, such as regular meetings with the adviser, weekly written reports, and completion of a substantial final project, among others.

Below is a sample of organizations at which some of our students have done internships in past years:

- Alliance Française of New York (FIAF)
- Bayern München (the soccer club's NYC office)
- Cultural Services of the French Embassy (CALEC)
- German-American Chamber of Commerce
- Goethe Institute
- Hermès
- Kino Lorber
- *Le Figaro* (sports division)
- Met Cloisters
- Morgan Library and Museum
- National Organization of Italian American Women (NOIAW)
- New Sanctuary Coalition
- New York African Film Festival
- One Week/Un Acte
- Pergamena parchment makers
- Rare Books Collection at Columbia University Library
- Sorteer
- Theatrical production of *Fragments of a Star*
- Theatrical production of *Les Bonnes* at La Mama Theater
- *Vogue*

Student Clubs and Honor Societies

Modern languages and literatures students are encouraged to share and develop their literary and cultural interests by becoming involved in student clubs and Honor Societies at Rose Hill and Lincoln Center. Such clubs as the following sponsor academic and social events including lectures, film series, outings and dinners to foster an understanding and appreciation of foreign languages and cultures beyond the traditional classroom setting:

- Academia Hispana (RH)
- El Grito de Lares (RH)
- Le Cercle Français (RH)
- CIAO Amici (LC)
- Deutscher Studenten Klub (RH)
- Insieme Italian Cultural Society (RH)
- La Société Française (LC)
- Honor Societies:
 - Alpha Mu Gamma (foreign languages, RH)
 - Gamma Kappa Alpha (Italian, RH and LC)
 - Pi Delta Phi (French, RH)
 - Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish, RH and LC)

Study Abroad

The faculty of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures believes immersive study is one of the best ways to gain linguistic and cultural fluency and encourage our students to study abroad for a semester or an entire academic year. As such, the faculty works carefully with each individual student to discover and prepare for a study abroad experience whether for a semester, year, summer, or as part of a Fordham study tour. We send students each year to Africa, China, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, and have relationships with some of the best and most academically rigorous programs in the world. In addition, Fordham maintains fall, spring, and summer study abroad programs in Granada (Spain) and at our London campus (United Kingdom). It also has exchange agreements with universities

in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Perú, Spain, and South Korea.

Students who study abroad can rather easily become a double major in our department and usually at least two of the courses taken abroad can apply to both of the student's majors or to a major and minor. Students who opt to apply study abroad credits toward their major or minor must seek approval from their major or minor adviser in their language area prior to their going abroad. See program requirements above for accepted maximum number of courses. Additional study abroad credits accepted by Fordham University may be applied as elective credits toward graduation, but not toward the major or the minor. For further information about study abroad, interested students should contact the department and the Office of International and Study Abroad Programs (www.fordham.edu/isap).

For more information

Visit the Modern Languages and Literatures department web page.