

An abstract, expressive painting with a rich palette of colors including yellow, blue, green, red, orange, and black. The brushstrokes are thick and textured, creating a sense of movement and depth. The composition is non-representational, with various shapes and colors overlapping and blending together.

**GERMAN  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
HANDBOOK  
2024–2025**

# Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

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## Admission

In order to be admitted to the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures as a degree-seeking student, applicants must first meet the requirements for admission set by the Graduate School. In addition, applicants must have a minimum 3.0 overall undergraduate GPA and a minimum GPA of 3.3 or regional equivalent in German. Subject to departmental approval, students without the minimum GPA may be admitted provisionally as non-degree-seeking students. Applicants are required to submit transcripts of all previous course work from institutions of higher learning. We do not use Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores for determining admission.

All applicants are required to submit:

- three letters of reference (at least two from faculty with whom the student has studied) evaluating aptitude for doctoral study;
- at least one sample of scholarly writing (published or unpublished research paper, thesis, etc.) in either English or German;
- an academic statement of purpose describing their specific professional interests, achievements, and goals.

All international applicants whose first language is not English or who have not received a baccalaureate degree from an institution in which the language of instruction is English, as determined by the Graduate School, must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination and attain a score greater than 550 on the paper test, score of 213 on the computer based test, or for the new on-line iBT test a score greater than 80 with a speaking score of 19 or greater.

Students admitted provisionally must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 in graduate work completed during each of their first two full-time semesters or they are subject to being dropped from the program. After performing satisfactorily during the probation period, students may be admitted to degree status.

## Advising

M.A. and Ph.D. students select a faculty advisor in their area of research specialization by the end of their first year of study. Between admission and the selection of a faculty adviser, advising is handled by the Graduate Program Director (also referred to as the Director of Graduate Studies or DGS) responsible for students' programs (currently Dr. Samuel Frederick). Students should contact their adviser at least once per semester regarding requirements, course selection for the following semester, and the scheduling of exams and other milestone events. For Ph.D. students, it is expected that the adviser will chair the doctoral committee.

## M.A. Degree

The M.A. in German is designed to offer students a general foundation in German culture, language, linguistics, and literature. After completing a small set of core requirements,

students may pursue their individual interests from among the courses offered by faculty who specialize in German Applied Linguistics, Culture, Linguistics, and Literature. The M.A. degree requires a minimum of 36 credits.

The following courses are required for the M.A. degree:

- German 510: Literary Theory: An Introduction
- German 511: The Teaching of College German
- German 513, or 514: German Phonetics and Phonology, and German Syntax

Practical experience in supervised teaching is required for all graduate degrees. Students who wish to earn a master's degree must write a research paper of between thirty and fifty pages on a topic defined in conjunction with a faculty adviser. The research paper should demonstrate mastery of primary and secondary literature, interpretative skills, and academic prose in either German or English. A one-hour oral defense of the thesis shall be scheduled two weeks after its formal submission to the adviser. A committee of three faculty members shall evaluate the student's knowledge of the subject matter.

## **Ph.D. Degree**

The goal of the Ph.D. program in German is a broad factual and theoretical background in German literature and culture or in German linguistics and applied linguistics, an advanced proficiency in writing and oral skills, plus a thorough grasp of research and teaching methodologies. Doctoral candidates are trained to become professionals in the educational institutions of North America or of other regions, or to enter other professions where a terminal humanities degree and excellent knowledge of German language and culture are prerequisites. The doctor of philosophy degree is conferred in recognition of a candidate's high level of scholarly competence and demonstrated capability to conduct and report significant research independently and effectively. The achievement of these ends requires more than the completion of definite courses of study through a stated period of residence. Nevertheless, a minimum of 54 graduate course credits beyond the baccalaureate degree is required. Between the dates of admission to candidacy and the completion of the Ph.D. program, the candidate must spend at least two semesters over a twelve-month period as a registered full-time student engaged in academic work on the University Park Campus.

The department offers two options for the Ph.D. degree: German Literature and Culture; and German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Although the two options differ with regard to emphasis and requirements, there is also strong overlap between the two domains.

Students in linguistics and applied linguistics are required to take two courses in German literature and culture, and they are also encouraged to take elective courses in German literature; conversely, the literature and culture option requires at least two courses in German linguistics and applied linguistics. Students in literature and culture may choose applied linguistics as one of their subfields for the comprehensive exam.

To be admitted to graduate work leading to the Ph.D. degree in either option, the student must pass a qualifying examination no later than their third semester of study. Students who are unable to pass this hurdle may be given the opportunity to complete a terminal M.A. degree. The qualifying examination is followed by additional coursework at the conclusion

of which the comprehensive examination is administered, which is a prerequisite for writing the dissertation. Within a year of completing the qualifying exam, the student, in consultation with the Graduate Program Director or Department Head, will form a doctoral committee. The formats of the qualifying and comprehensive examinations vary according to the Ph.D. option chosen by the candidate (see “Option in German Literature and Culture” and “Option in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics”). Students who fail an examination on the first attempt may repeat it once. Students who fail an examination the second time are terminated from the program.

**The following general information applies to both Ph.D. options:**

***Doctoral Committee Composition:*** In most cases, the committee chair will also be the chair of the dissertation. The doctoral committee must consist of at least four members of the graduate faculty, including at least two faculty members from German.

At least one regular member of the doctoral committee must represent a field outside the candidate's major field of study in order to provide a broader range of disciplinary perspectives and expertise. This committee member is referred to as the “Outside Field Member.” This can be a faculty member from another department, or a member of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures representing a different field from that of the majority of the committee (for example, a linguist serving on a committee of literature scholars, or a Slavist serving on a committee of Germanists). In cases where the candidate is also pursuing a dual-title field of study, the dual-title representative to the committee may serve as the Outside Field Member.

Additionally, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest, the primary appointment of at least one regular member of the doctoral committee must be in a Penn State administrative unit that is outside the unit in which the dissertation adviser's primary appointment is held (i.e., the adviser's administrative home; in the case of tenure-line faculty, this is the individual's tenure home). This committee member is referred to as the “Outside Unit Member.” In the case of co-advisers, the Outside Unit Member must be from outside the administrative home(s) of both co-advisers. In some cases, an individual may have a primary appointment outside the administrative home of the student's dissertation adviser and also represent a field outside the student's major field of study; in such cases, the same individual may serve as both the Outside Field Member and the Outside Unit Member.

If the candidate has a minor, that field must be represented on the committee by a “Minor Field Member.”

***Language Requirement:*** Graduate students are required to demonstrate reading proficiency in one or, in some cases, more foreign languages (other than English and German) to pursue research in their field of specialization successfully. The additional language competence may be demonstrated in a variety of ways, including passing a third semester language exam, passing an appropriate graduate-level reading course offered in the additional language, passing a Reading Proficiency Examination which consists of a translation into English or German of a passage whose content is relevant to the candidate's area of specialization, and/or an oral interview with a relevant faculty member in the additional language. The foreign language requirement should be completed preferably prior to the qualifying exam, but must be completed prior to the Ph.D. comprehensive exam. Failure to complete the foreign language requirement in a timely fashion will delay the taking of exams.

If a student wishes to count a language that is not offered at Penn State, it is the responsibility of the student to find a faculty member at another institution to certify proficiency. Students should consult their advisers or the Department Head to determine which institutions or specific faculty might be approached.

***English Language Competency:*** During coursework prior to the qualifying examination and at the qualifying examination itself, candidates will be assessed for communicative competence in reading, writing, and speaking English. English language competency will be assessed at the time of the qualifying examination and be based on submitted samples of written scholarly work and the oral presentation of the candidate's study and research plan. Should a higher level of competence be required, the candidate will be directed to the appropriate instructional resources. International students should be advised that the passage of the minimal TOEFL requirement does not demonstrate the level of competence required for completion of the Ph.D. program.

***Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI):*** All graduate students need to complete training in research integrity before taking the comprehensive examination. There are two components to this training:

On-line training in Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) should be completed by no later than October 1 of the student's first semester in residence. The Office for Research Protection (ORP) provides the link to this training via the SARI Resource Portal on the ORP website (<https://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari>)

After completing the online portion, students need to complete five more hours of research integrity training. This will be achieved by attending the German graduate seminar, GER 511, which contains a built-in research integrity component. Ph.D. students in the Language Science dual-title program may also complete these credits in their required LING proseminars.

***Post-Comprehensive Exam Course Registration and Departmental Involvement Requirement:*** The Graduate School imposes a continuous registration requirement of at least one credit Fall and Spring semester. Students beyond the comprehensive exam (known as ABD, or "all but dissertation") who are funded by the department are required to register for GER 601. In addition, they are strongly encouraged to audit one course within the department per semester within the limits that the Graduate School provides. This additional audit course is without tuition charges. Regular attendance is required in all audited courses; a major semester project or paper will not be required. Completion of smaller assignments is at the discretion of the instructor; the auditing student should consult with them and reach an agreement prior to the start of classes.

ABD students will need to develop a plan for the year, in consultation with their committee and the Director for Graduate Studies (DGS), which answers the question: 'What do you plan to do, now that you are ABD, in order to remain intellectually engaged with our departmental academic community?' The graduate committee recommends that voluntary audits be part of this answer, whenever feasible. Aside from auditing a course, there are other positive models of professional engagement, including attendance at the departmental

speaker series, recruiting events, serving and spearheading projects with the German Graduate Student Association (GGSA), serving as a graduate representative in the department or in the campus-wide Graduate Student Association (GSA), or volunteering for one of the various departmental projects.

***Dissertation and Final Oral Examination (Defense):*** The dissertation constitutes the final phase of the student's qualification for the degree. Prior to the comprehensive examination, the student will have selected a dissertation adviser. Following successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student and adviser select a topic, outline the project, and establish a relevant bibliography. The outline of the dissertation, the prospectus, should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than by the end of the semester following the comprehensive examination. The doctoral committee will consist of at least four members, one of which will be from outside the field (see "Doctoral Committee Composition"). The members of the doctoral committee serve as chief readers of the dissertation and participate in the final oral examination.

The final oral examination (defense) may be scheduled only after the entire committee has approved the manuscript. The candidate's manuscript is submitted to all readers as a "final" copy ready for submission to the Graduate School at least 4 weeks prior to the proposed defense date. At the same time as students submit their dissertation to their committee, they must also inform the graduate assistant for GSSL of the time and location of the final oral examination so that this information can be conveyed to the Graduate School in time for them to approve it by two weeks prior to the exam. Committee members may take 2 weeks to review the manuscript and request revisions that would require the proposed defense date to be moved. Once the defense date is confirmed (two weeks prior to the scheduled defense), it is understood that any revisions requested can be achieved in the time between the defense and the final submission date set by the Graduate School.

The final oral examination is devoted to the dissertation; however, it may also touch upon subjects other than the dissertation if the examination committee so chooses. Successful completion of the final oral examination is the last step in qualifying for the Ph.D. degree. The examination is conducted by the student's official doctoral committee, including the outside members. The exam lasts from one-and-one-half to two hours. Although the oral defense is open to the scholarly community, it also includes a close discussion between the student and the committee.

#### ***All Modes Allowed***

All examinations, including the final oral examination (defense), may be held fully in-person, fully remote, or hybrid with some individuals participating in-person while others participate remotely.

Student preference for delivery mode should be strongly considered, but the student and adviser must agree on the mode. If the student and adviser cannot agree on the mode, the Graduate Program Head will make the final decision. Either the student or adviser can appeal the decision of the Graduate Program Head to the Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Participation mode must be communicated by the student and their adviser to all Ph.D. Committee members at the time of scheduling the exam.

## ***Option in German Literature and Culture***

The option in German Literature and Culture prepares students in the history of German literature, the techniques of literary analysis and evaluation, and the application of literary theory, criticism, and aesthetics. At the same time, it focuses on the interdisciplinary study of German culture, combining the study of German language and literature with studies in related programs such as Comparative Literature, History, Philosophy, Media Studies, English, Women's Studies, etc. The aim of this option is to provide an intensive engagement with German language and culture through interdisciplinary courses that integrate literature within the broad sweep of German cultural history.

### ***Course Requirements for the Option***

Students must complete a minimum of 54 credits beyond the B.A. degree, at least 36 of which must be in German. The only required courses for the Ph.D. degree in German Literature and Culture are the ones required for the M.A. degree (German 511, plus one of the following courses: German 513, or German 514). Students must also complete at least three credits in the area of German linguistics and applied linguistics. The remaining courses are determined by the student and their adviser. Coursework should reflect the goals set by the student's qualifying exam essay. Students will prepare an individual sequence tailored to their interests and specific needs, combining courses offered inside and outside the department. In order to avoid a too narrow specialization, however, students are urged to strive for a broad coverage of the major periods of German literature and culture. If applicable, students are encouraged to take their courses in a pattern that will lead to a doctoral minor in another field such as History; Philosophy; Women's Studies; Aesthetics; or Second Language Acquisition.

### ***Qualifying Examination***

The qualifying examination consists of a research paper that demonstrates the student's research skills and ability to argue effectively. The qualifying exam provides students the experience of writing a well-defined scholarly essay. The topic for this 20-30-page essay must first be approved by a faculty advisor. The essay should be submitted during the first week of classes of the third semester, but in some cases the essay may be approved and written during an earlier semester. The student may present a paper written for a class in a German seminar that has been substantially revised and is suitable for publication in a scholarly journal. The essay should demonstrate the student's ability to present a close reading, to make effective critical and analytical arguments, to develop a cogent scholarly project, to research competently, and to write in clear English or German academic prose. An oral defense will be arranged about two weeks after the paper has been submitted to the faculty advisor. The examining committee shall consist of the chair and two or more other members of the graduate faculty. The chair and the other members of the examining committee will be chosen in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. The chair and at least one other member of the committee shall be faculty members from German. The oral examination shall test the student's ability to summarize the main arguments of the essay, to place the paper within a larger scholarly context, to critically evaluate the primary and secondary sources used in the paper, and to answer the committee's questions. The oral examination will be conducted in both German and English. Students intending to pursue a dual-title degree Ph.D. must be accepted into the dual-title degree program by the time of their qualifying examination.



### ***Comprehensive Examination***

The comprehensive examination must be taken no later than the seventh semester of study. All required coursework must be completed or in-progress by the end of the semester in which the exam is taken. The comprehensive examination has two parts: a written examination and an oral examination. The goal of the comprehensive examination is to test students' knowledge in German cultural and literary history, their familiarity with trends in cultural and literary theory, and their ability to engage directly with artifacts and texts. Within a year of the qualifying exam, the student shall select a doctoral committee chair and compose a doctoral committee in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. In consultation with this committee, the student will then draw up reading lists for the examination. Typically, students prepare three lists in three different areas (e.g., an historical period, an author or group of authors, a genre, a theoretical tradition, etc.). These lists shall be finalized no later than 12 weeks prior to the first written exam.

The **written examination** shall be taken on three days over a one-week period. The days on which the exam is written need not be consecutive. On each day, the student shall have five uninterrupted hours to write. Students are allowed to bring written notes to the exam. But they are not allowed to consult any internet resources or other sources besides their notes during the exam. Typically, each exam corresponds to each of the three readings lists students have prepared. The exam shall include one question involving a close interpretation of a text, image, or artifact. The other questions typically ask students to discuss theoretical concerns, often in relation to primary texts.

An **oral examination** on the written essays will be held approximately two weeks after the written examination. The oral exam shall focus on the written answers as well as on literary historical questions derived from the reading list. The oral examination will be conducted in both German and English.

All oral components of the Comprehensive Exam may be held fully in-person, fully remote, or hybrid with some individuals participating remotely. It is the responsibility of the student and the advisor to determine the method in which the exam will take place. If no decision can be agreed upon than the Director of Graduate Studies may make the final decision.

### ***Dissertation Proposal***

Students are required to submit the dissertation proposal to the doctoral committee for approval no later than the semester immediately following successful completion of the comprehensive examination. Upon approval of the proposal, the student shall give a public presentation of the dissertation project to the department.

### ***Option in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics***

The Ph.D. option in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics prepares scholars to conduct systematic examinations of how the German language is structured, how it is acquired, how it is used by individuals and across communities, including in contact with other languages, and how it is taught and learned in global contexts. The degree program includes the foundational theory of linguistics applied to the study of German. It will prepare doctoral candidates to utilize a range of research perspectives and methodologies, including

the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data. In addition, it will enable doctoral candidates to collect and systematically analyze German-language data, allowing them to conduct research with a focus on issues posed by the structure and use of German in the fields of linguistics and applied linguistics.

### ***Course Requirements for the Option***

Students must complete a minimum of 54 credits beyond the B.A. degree, at least 36 of which must be in German. Courses must be taken in three core areas of German including (1) German Linguistics, (2) German Applied Linguistics, (3) German literature and literary theory as listed below under (a). Students are also required to complete 15 credits in the area of Linguistics and Applied Linguistics as outlined below in (b). In addition, students must complete 27 credits of electives, selected in consultation with an advisor, as indicated in (c).

- **Required Courses in German (12 credits)**
  - GER 430 History of the German Language (3 cr.)
  - GER 511 The Teaching of College German (3 cr.)
  - GER 513 German Phonetics and Phonology (3 cr.)
  - GER 514 German Syntax (3 cr.)
- **Required Courses in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (15 credits)**
  - LING 500 Syntax II (3 cr.)
  - LING 504 Phonology II (3 cr.)
  - One research methods course (possible options include APLNG 592, APLNG 593) (3 cr.)
  - One course in 2 of the following 5 areas of linguistics and applied linguistics (6 cr.):
    - Historical Linguistics (e.g., LING 502 Historical Linguistics, GER 523 Gothic)
    - Pragmatics and Discourse Analysis (e.g., APLNG/CAS 581 Discourse Analysis)
    - Psycholinguistics (e.g., LING/PSY 520 Seminar in Psycholinguistics)
    - Second Language Acquisition (e.g., APLNG 591 Seminar in Second Language Acquisition)
    - Sociolinguistics and Dialectology (e.g., LING 548 Sociolinguistics)
- **Electives (27 credits)**
  - Select 27 credits, in consultation with an advisor. At least 6 credits should be taken in German literature/culture. Given that a minimum total of 36 credits beyond the B.A. must be in German, the majority of elective credits will carry the GER designation.

### ***Qualifying Examination***

All students in the German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics option must complete the qualifying examination in their third semester of study. During the qualifying examination, students are required to present a portfolio of work completed in their program of study that indicates their scholarly potential in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. The portfolio includes (1) a transcript of the candidate's academic record to date, (2) a projected plan of study, (3) samples of scholarly work in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (minimally two research papers), and (4) a brief description of the proposed dissertation research. Students must submit this portfolio to their doctoral committee at least three weeks

before the scheduled oral qualifying evaluation meeting. During the evaluation meeting, students are expected to give a brief presentation outlining their proposed dissertation research and how their proposed plan of study will adequately prepare them for their dissertation research.

The purpose of this evaluation meeting is three-fold: (a) to determine whether the candidate has achieved a level of learning and understanding sufficient to justify acceptance as a doctoral candidate, (b) to discover what further study is required to bring the candidate to the competence required for the research being proposed, and (c) to secure approval of a program of coursework and independent study to achieve the requisite competence. The particulars of each candidate's program of study and research are defined on the basis of the qualifying evaluation.

Students who fail the qualifying examination will be allowed to resubmit revised examination materials at the end of the fourth semester.

### ***Qualifying Committee Composition***

In the semester prior to taking the qualifying examination, students must choose an advisor. In consultation with the advisor, the student will form a qualifying committee at the beginning of the third semester. The committee will consist of three or more active members of the graduate faculty and must include at least two faculty members from German.

### ***Comprehensive Examination***

The comprehensive examination must be completed no later than the seventh semester of study. All required coursework must be completed or in-progress by the end of the semester in which the exam is taken. This examination is designed to assess the ability to synthesize and integrate theoretical issues in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. The examination consists of two separate meetings, both of which must be completed by the end of the semester (fall, spring, summer) in which students have scheduled the examination.

At least three weeks before the initial examination meeting, and no more than four weeks into the semester in which a student is taking their comprehensive examination, they are required to submit the following to all members of the doctoral committee: (a) two research papers demonstrating an ability to conduct high quality scholarly research in areas directly relevant to the proposed dissertation research, (b) a description of the proposed dissertation research, (c) a list of all completed coursework. At the initial examination meeting, students are expected to give a brief presentation of their proposed dissertation topic and how they have prepared themselves for research in this area of German linguistics or applied linguistics. The remainder of the initial meeting will be spent discussing the student's portfolio and their proposed dissertation research.

Within one week of the initial comprehensive examination meeting, students will be given two questions that address a set of issues posed by the doctoral committee. These questions will relate directly to the proposed dissertation topic. Upon receiving these questions, the student will have 8 weeks in which to complete and submit these examination papers to all doctoral committee members.

Within three weeks of submission of the examination papers, and prior to the conclusion of the semester in which a student is completing the comprehensive examination, students will take an oral examination based on their portfolio and the two examination papers. The examination will consist of a discussion and as well as a question session focusing directly on both the theoretical and methodological components of the proposed dissertation research project. Upon successfully completing this exam, students should be at the stage where they are prepared to begin collecting data for their dissertation research.

If the student fails the comprehensive examination, the student will be allowed to resubmit revised examination papers the following semester. The revised examination papers must be resubmitted within eight weeks of the failed examination.

### ***Dissertation Proposal***

Students are required to submit the dissertation proposal to the doctoral committee for approval no later than the semester immediately following successful completion of the comprehensive examination. Upon approval of the proposal, the student shall give a public presentation of the dissertation project to the department.

## ***Dual-Title Ph.D. in German and Language Science***

### ***Degrees conferred***

Students electing this program through the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, with the collaboration and support of the Linguistics Program and the Center for Language Science, will earn a degree with a dual-title at the doctoral level in German and Language Science. A graduate student obtaining this dual-degree will have the skills and knowledge to bring the methods and theories of linguistics, psycholinguistics, and cognitive neuroscience to bear on central issues in the study of the German language.

### ***Program Description***

A dual-title degree program in German and Language Science will prepare students to combine the theoretical and methodological approaches of several disciplines in order to contribute to research in the rapidly growing area of Language Science. This inherently interdisciplinary field draws on linguistics, psychology, speech-language pathology, and cognitive neuroscience, as well as other disciplines, to address both basic and applied research questions in such areas as first and second language acquisition, developmental and acquired language disorders, literacy, and language pedagogy. Dual-title degree students will receive interdisciplinary training that will enable them to communicate and collaborate productively with a wide range of colleagues across traditional discipline boundaries. Such training will open up new employment opportunities for students and give them the tools to foster a thriving interdisciplinary culture in their future positions and with their own future students. The dual-title program will facilitate the formation of a cross-disciplinary network of peers for participating students as part of their professional development.

### ***Admission Requirements***

To pursue a dual-title degree under this program, the student must first apply to the Graduate School and be admitted through the Graduate Program in Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures. In order to apply for the dual-title degree program in Language Science, the student must have a recommendation from a Language Science program faculty member in

the Department of Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures. Applications to the dual-title program will be solicited on a regular basis (typically once per year) by a committee that will include the Director of the Linguistics Program, one of the Co-Directors of the Center for Language Science, and a third elected faculty member within the Center for Language Science. All three committee members will be affiliated with the Program in Linguistics. Upon the recommendation of this committee, the student will be admitted to the dual-title degree program in Language Science. Students intending to pursue a dual degree PhD must be accepted into the dual title program by the time of their qualifying examination.

### ***Requirements for the Dual-Title Ph.D. Degree in German and Language Science***

The doctoral degree in German and Language Science is awarded only to degree-seeking students in the German doctoral program who have been admitted to the dual-title degree in German and Language Science. The minimum course requirements for the dual-title Ph.D. degree in German and Language Science, in addition to the German Program requirements, are as follows:

- Language Science proseminar courses (LING 521 and LING 522; 6 credits).
- Research Methods/Statistics (LING 525 or equivalent; 3 credits).
- Theoretical Linguistics (LING 500 or LING 504; 3 credits)
- Cognitive Neuroscience or Psycholinguistics (LING/PSY 520, PSY 511 or equivalent; 3 credits)
- Research internships with two different Language Science faculty mentors (CSD 596, GER 596, LING 596, PSY 596, SPAN 596; 6 credits).

Final course selection is determined by the student in consultation with their dual-title program advisors and their major program advisors. Students who already hold a master's degree from another institution may petition to have equivalent course credits accepted.

### ***Committee Composition***

The doctoral committee of a Ph.D. dual-title degree student must include a minimum of four faculty members, i.e., the chair and at least three additional members all of whom must be members of the Graduate Faculty; and the committee must include at least one representative from the Language Science program faculty. The chair of the committee can be a member of both the German and the Language Science faculty, but in this case, an additional Language Science program member should be on the committee (as the outside member). If the chair is not a Language Science program faculty member, the Language Science program representative must be the co-chair of the committee.

### ***Qualifying Exam***

In order to be admitted to doctoral candidacy in the dual-title degree program, students will take a qualifying examination that is administered by the primary program. A single qualifying examination will contain elements of both the German program and the dual-title program. For the Ph.D. student, the examination may be given after at least 18 credits have been earned in graduate courses beyond the baccalaureate; it must be taken within three semesters (summer sessions do not count) of entry into the doctoral program. With careful planning and consultation, in some cases it may be possible to complete all requirements for both German and Language Science without incurring any delays. However, it is possible that the dual-title degree student may require an additional semester or more to fulfill requirements for the primary program and dual-title program; therefore, the qualifying

examination may be delayed with the concurrence of the Graduate Program Director or Department Head in German and of the chair of the committee.

As part of the qualifying examination, students will be required to present a portfolio of work in Language Science to their committee. Such a portfolio would include a statement of the student's interdisciplinary research interests, a plan of future study, and samples of writing that indicate the student's work in Language Science. This portfolio may coincide with the portfolio submitted to fulfill the requirements of the qualifying examination in the Option in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

### ***Comprehensive Exam***

At the end of the coursework, candidates for the dual-title doctoral degree in German and Language Science will be required to pass a written and oral comprehensive examination based on their thesis proposal and areas of specialization in German and Language Science. The specific elements of this comprehensive examination will coincide with those of the requirements of the comprehensive examination in the Option in German Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

### ***Dissertation and dissertation defense***

Ph.D. students enrolled in the dual-title degree program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that reflects their original research and education in both German and Language Science.

### ***German and Language Science Courses Available to Fulfill Requirements***

Many existing Penn State courses are relevant and appropriate for Language Science students. Among the courses that could fulfill coursework requirements are courses in German Linguistics (e.g., GER 513 German Phonetics and Phonology, GER 514 German Syntax), in Linguistics (e.g., LING 538 Sociolinguistics), in Psychology (e.g., PSY 520 Seminar in Psycholinguistics), in Applied Linguistics, in Statistics, French, Spanish, etc. Students consult with their advisor to decide which courses could fulfill coursework requirements (e.g., research methods/statistics).

## ***Dual-Title Ph.D. in German and Visual Studies***

### ***Program Description***

Graduate students with interests in German culture and the history of visual media may apply to the dual-title Ph. D. in German and Visual Studies. The goal of the dual-title Ph.D. in German and Visual Studies is to enable graduate students from German to acquire the knowledge and skills of their major area of specialization in German, as well as the theories and methods of Visual Studies.

### ***Admission Requirements***

Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in German and the Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admissions requirements of the Visual Studies dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the Visual Studies Bulletin page. Students must receive approval from the Graduate Program Director in German and must submit a recommendation from a member

of the German graduate faculty who is also a member of the Visual Studies graduate faculty. Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in Visual Studies prior to completing the qualifying examination in German.

### ***Degree Requirements***

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the Ph.D. degree in German, listed above. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in Visual Studies, listed on the Visual Studies Bulletin page.

### ***Committee Composition***

The candidacy examination committee for the dual-title Ph.D. degree will be composed of graduate faculty from German and must include at least one graduate faculty member from the Visual Studies program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both German and Visual Studies. Dual- title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for doctoral committees, the doctoral committee of a German and Visual Studies dual-title Ph.D. student must include at least one member of the Visual Studies Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the doctoral committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Visual Studies, the member of the committee representing Visual Studies must be appointed as co-chair. The Visual Studies representative on the student's doctoral committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination. Students in the dual-title program are required to write a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their doctoral committee and reflects their original research and education in German and Visual Studies. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the doctoral committee, the Graduate Program Director, and the Graduate School.

### ***Qualifying Exam***

The qualifying examination consists of a research paper that demonstrates the student's research skills and ability to argue effectively. The qualifying exam provides students the experience of writing a well-defined scholarly essay. The topic for this 20-30-page essay must first be approved by a faculty advisor. The essay should be submitted during the first week of classes of the third semester, but in some cases the essay may be approved and written during an earlier semester. A single qualifying examination will contain elements both of the German program and the dual-title degree. The student may present a paper written for a class in a previous semester. The student may present a paper written for a class in a **German and/or Visual Studies** seminar that has been substantially revised and is suitable for publication in a scholarly journal. The essay should demonstrate the student's ability to present a close reading, to make effective critical and analytical arguments, to develop a cogent scholarly project, to research competently, and to write in clear English or German academic prose. This essay may coincide with the essay submitted to fulfill the

requirements of the qualifying examination in the Option in German Literature and Culture. An oral defense will be arranged about two weeks after the paper has been submitted to the faculty advisor. The examining committee shall consist of the chair and two or more other members of the graduate faculty. The chair and the other members of the examining committee will be chosen in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. The chair and at least one other member of the committee shall be faculty members from German. The oral examination shall test the student's ability to summarize the main arguments of the essay, to place the paper within a larger scholarly context, to critically evaluate the primary and secondary sources used in the paper, and to answer the committee's questions. The oral examination will be conducted in both German and English.

### ***Comprehensive Exam***

The comprehensive examination must be taken no later than the seventh semester of study. All required coursework must be completed or in-progress by the end of the semester in which the exam is taken. The comprehensive examination has two parts: a written examination and an oral examination. The goal of the comprehensive examination is to test students' knowledge in German cultural and literary history, their familiarity with trends in cultural and literary theory, and their ability to engage directly with artifacts and texts. Within a year of the qualifying exam, the student shall select a doctoral committee chair and compose a doctoral committee in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. In consultation with this committee, the student will then draw up reading lists for the examination. Typically, students prepare three lists in three different areas (e.g., an historical period, an author or group of authors, a genre, a theoretical tradition, etc.). These lists shall be finalized no later than 12 weeks prior to the first written exam.

The **written examination** shall be taken on three days over a one week period. The days on which the exam is written need not be consecutive. On each day, the student shall have five uninterrupted hours to write. Students are allowed to bring written notes to the exam. But they are not allowed to consult any internet resources or other sources besides their notes during the exam. Typically, each exam corresponds to each of the three readings lists students have prepared. The exam shall include one question involving a close interpretation of a text, image, or artifact. The other questions typically ask students to discuss theoretical concerns, often in relation to primary texts.

An **oral examination** on the written essays will be held approximately two weeks after the written examination. The oral exam shall focus on the written answers as well as on literary historical questions derived from the reading list. The oral examination will be conducted in both German and English.

### ***Dissertation Proposal***

Students are required to submit the dissertation proposal to the doctoral committee for approval no later than the semester immediately following successful completion of the comprehensive examination. Upon approval of the proposal, students shall a public presentation of the dissertation project to the department.

### ***Course Requirements for the Dual-Title Ph.D. Degree in German and Visual Studies***

15 credits of course work related to Visual Studies, all at the 500- or 800-level. In certain circumstances, a 400-level course may be substituted with the approval of the Director of the



Visual Studies graduate program and the student's adviser. Such approval must be granted in writing before the course is taken and will require work supplementing the syllabus, such as a culminating research paper. Of the 15 credits required for the Visual Studies dual-title, 6 must come from the two required core courses in the Visual Studies program: VSTUD 501 and VSTUD 502.

Students must also take 9 elective credits from courses approved by the Visual Studies Academic Advisory Committee. In order to promote interdisciplinarity, at least 3 of these credits must be from a college, department, or program outside the student's home department or program. Students may complete the courses contributing to the Visual Studies degree in any sequence.

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. It is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the College of the Liberal Arts community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Academic misconduct is prohibited from a student's time of accepting admission, registration, or enrollment (whichever occurs first) to the awarding of a degree or complete withdrawal.

All students involved in graduate education are expected to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards as scholars and professionals in their respective fields. Academic misconduct is a violation of these expectations and may lead to processes and actions in addition to those described in this policy including the GCAC-800 Student Conduct and Performance Policies. The procedures associated with this policy are designed to promote fairness and consistency in processes and outcomes when addressing allegations of academic misconduct utilizing an evidence-driven focus. This policy applies to students enrolled in a graduate degree program or certificate, non-degree students enrolled in graduate courses, and undergraduate students completing work in a graduate-level course. As described in Penn State policy G-9 (<https://undergrad.psu.edu/aappm/G-9-academic-integrity.html>), violating undergraduate students and Schreyer Scholars may face outcomes beyond those described in this policy.

The department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures follows the College of the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Academic Integrity Interim Policy. All students in any of the department's graduate programs are subject to that policy. The policy is located at <https://la.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/11/Policy-on-Grad-Academic-Integrity-CLA-Posted.pdf>

## Annual Evaluation Procedure for Graduate Students in German

### *Purpose of the evaluation*

Annual review and evaluation of student performance and progress assures both the student and the department that each student is meeting the academic standards, teaching standards (for teaching assistants, paper graders, and ABD lecturers), and professional standards of

conduct expected of graduate students in our program. The review process provides an opportunity to discuss and remedy any deficiencies in student performance and progress.

***What are the “standards,” and how is “satisfactory progress” measured?***

All doctoral students and selected master’s students are given funding when they are admitted to the program. Continued funding, however, is dependent on satisfactory progress. The following factors will be considered in judging graduate student performance and progress. Time limitations or guidelines in most cases apply to full-time graduate students. Part-time students may be subject to other time limits and guidelines.

1. **Grade-point average (GPA) and unsatisfactory scholarship:** A graduate student who receives one or more failing grades or whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 for any semester or session will be dropped from the German graduate program. The Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures department expects graduate students in its program to exceed the minimum Graduate School GPA requirement. All graduate students in German, including those in both the master’s degree program and the doctoral program, are expected to maintain a 3.5 GPA. A GPA below 3.5 in any semester falls below the academic standard expected by the department. Pursuant to the terms of appointment, if a student’s GPA falls below 3.5 in any given semester, their cumulative grade point average must be at a minimum 3.5 by the end of the following semester, they will be ineligible for funding and dropped from the program.
2. **Required courses:** Students entering both the M.A. and Ph.D. programs should register for and successfully complete the required courses for the M.A. and Ph.D., during their first four semesters in the program or during the first semester in which these courses are offered.
3. **Graduate assistant ratings (when applicable):** The annual evaluation of student performance and progress in teaching will be measured by faculty observations and evaluations of GAs' courses, SRTE (Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness) scores, and students’ written comments on SRTE evaluations. Based on these evaluations, graduate assistants will be given advice and assistance in overcoming weaknesses. Failure to resolve deficiencies in graduate assistant performance may result in a student being dropped from the program.
4. **Deferred grades:** In the absence of written notification to the Graduate Program Director from the faculty member involved in certifying legitimate, extenuating circumstances, deferred grades will be interpreted as an indication of less-than-optimal academic performance. Students should be aware that faculty are not obligated to assign deferred grades for incomplete or unsatisfactory course work. Graduate assistants will not be eligible for renewal, and first-time applicants for graduate assistantships will not be considered, unless outstanding DF grades are completed in a timely and satisfactory manner prior to the department’s consideration of these awards, usually early in the spring semester. More than one DF grade in any semester, without prior approval of extenuating circumstances from the Graduate Program Director, constitutes unsatisfactory progress toward the degree, and may result in the immediate termination of a graduate assistantship, a fellowship, or other funding provided by the department, the College of the Liberal Arts, or the University.

5. **Foreign language requirements:** Students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward meeting their language and research techniques requirements. Progress is normally demonstrated by passing language examinations administered by appropriate faculty or by registering for and passing appropriate language courses. Full-time students must demonstrate near-native speaking abilities in German and English, as well as proficiency in an additional foreign language related to their field of study. Students with significant deficiencies in language competency that will adversely affect their academic progress normally will not be admitted to doctoral candidacy. Students in the doctoral program will meet language requirements on a schedule established by their doctoral committees, but in all cases the requirements must be met prior to taking the Ph.D. comprehensive examination. If these requirements are not met in a timely manner, students may be dropped from the program.
  
6. **Time limitation on completion of degree requirements:** Graduate School regulations require students pursuing the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees to complete all requirements for the degree within eight years of admission to degree status. The Graduate School urges individual graduate programs to set shorter time limits. Ordinarily, the M.A. program in German should take no more than four semesters of full-time academic work to complete. The doctoral program should ordinarily be completed in five years. Students with special foreign language requirements may require more than the average length of time to complete their degree work. The department recognizes other legitimate reasons for extending a degree program beyond the “normal” time frames indicated above: an unusual amount of publication activity in refereed professional journals; an unusual number of papers presented at high-quality professional conferences; participation in professional conferences or projects in which the student assumes significant responsibility. In the absence of exceptional circumstances, judgments concerning a student's “normal progress” or “satisfactory progress” toward a degree will compare the student’s progress with the expected timeline. In the absence of special circumstances, students who fail to progress within the normal time frame will not receive departmental or university support.
  
7. **Ph.D. qualifying examination (when applicable):** Regulations of both the Graduate School and the GSSL department require that students in the doctoral program must take and pass a qualifying examination for formal admission to doctoral candidacy. These same regulations stipulate that the Ph.D. qualifying examination should be taken in the third semester. You must be registered as a full-time or part-time degree student for the semester in which you take the qualifying examination. You may not take the qualifying examination while you have deferred grades on your record. In the doctoral program in German, advancement to doctoral candidacy through the qualifying examination normally takes place by the end of the third semester (students entering the program with an MA degree may take the qualifying examination at an earlier date) of full-time enrollment in the doctoral program. In the absence of extenuating circumstances certified beforehand by the Graduate Program Director, students in the doctoral program who either fail to take the qualifying examination by the end of the third semester, or who take the qualifying examination but fail to pass it by the end of the fourth semester in the Ph.D. program, will be dropped from the doctoral program.

8. **Ph.D. comprehensive examination:** The annual student evaluation will determine whether doctoral students are completing comprehensive examinations on a timely basis. Unless a doctoral committee requests a justified delay from the Graduate Program Director, doctoral candidates should take Ph.D. comprehensive examinations after they have completed all coursework, usually no later than the seventh semester in the program. Students who fail to pass the comprehensive exams within four years of admission to the Ph.D. program will not be offered a graduate assistant in the ninth semester without extenuating circumstances. Students must be registered as a full-time or part-time degree student for the semester in which students take the comprehensive examination. Students may not take the comprehensive examination while they have deferred grades on their record. Students who pass the Ph.D. comprehensive examinations with average or below average ratings will receive lower priority for research and travel funding opportunities and graduate assistantships.
9. **Dissertation proposal:** Doctoral students are expected to have a dissertation proposal approved by their doctoral committee within one semester of the completion of the Ph.D. comprehensive examination.
10. **Papers delivered, articles published:** Doctoral students are expected to prepare themselves for the job market and subsequent professional careers by delivering papers at selective, professional German conferences. Doctoral students are also encouraged to publish articles in refereed journals. Some financial assistance for travel to conferences is available from the department and the College of the Liberal Arts (note, that presentations at graduate student conferences will be a lower priority).

***Who will evaluate student performance and progress? What evaluation instruments will be used?***

The graduate faculty of the Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures Department will conduct the annual evaluation of all graduate students in spring term of each year, and, as needed, will evaluate the performance of individual students throughout the academic year. The graduate faculty will utilize material normally collected in student files (admission documents, transcripts of grades, written evaluations of performance in seminars, graduate assistant evaluations, etc.). Additionally:

1. Each student in the graduate program will be required to submit a self-evaluation form provided by the Graduate Program Director and due at a date specified between week 12 and 14 of the spring semester. With the self-evaluation form, each student must also submit a current CV.
2. Every member of the faculty who serves as adviser to a graduate student, as chair of a master's committee, or as chair of a dissertation committee, will submit an annual status and progress report on each of their students.
3. The Graduate Program Director will submit a brief report on a student's status and progress.
4. Reports from professors teaching courses in which a student is enrolled, regarding their academic writing skills. The Graduate Program Director will provide appropriate

forms and guidelines for both faculty and student status/progress reports. Prior to preparing annual status and progress reports, students and advisers or committee chairs should meet to discuss the student's status, progress, and performance for the year under review.

***How will the review be conducted? What happens after the review is completed?***

The GSSL graduate faculty will review each student's status, rate each student's performance and progress, and make appropriate comments and recommendations. The Graduate Program Director will communicate the evaluation results in writing to each student and will recommend to the student appropriate remedial action to rectify deficiencies in performance or progress. The Graduate Program Director will rate each student in one of the following categories:

**Satisfactory:**

A student will receive a rating of “satisfactory” if the committee has found that the student is clearly meeting all departmental expectations as outlined in the graduate handbook with regard to progress toward degree and the performance of assigned teaching and research duties. A rating of satisfactory does not imply that the student’s work is less than excellent, nor should it be construed to indicate that there is no room for improvement.

**Concerned:**

A student will receive a rating of “concerned” if the committee has found indications that the student’s progress towards degree or the performance of assigned teaching and research duties is in danger of slipping below the standards outlined in the graduate handbook. Possible reasons for a rating of concern might include relatively low grades even if still above the minimum required GPA, slower than expected progress on the coursework or dissertation, or subpar performance of assigned duties.

**Unsatisfactory:**

A student will receive a rating of “unsatisfactory” if the committee has found that the student’s progress toward degree or performance of assigned duties does not meet the standards outlined in the graduate handbook. Possible reasons for a rating of unsatisfactory might include a GPA that does not meet the department’s minimum requirements, lack of progress toward the degree, poor performance of assigned duties, and/or failure to remedy any deficiency that resulted in a previous “concerned” letter.

If a student receives an “unsatisfactory” rating in more than one evaluation cycle, the evaluation committee may recommend that the student withdraw from the degree program or have their enrollment in the graduate program terminated by the department. In all cases, the recommendations for action made by the Graduate Program Director are advisory in nature. Any action concerning the retention or termination of a graduate student, or retention, termination, renewal, or non-renewal of a student's funding, shall continue to be the responsibility of the Head of the Department in consultation with the Graduate Program Director and the Graduate Studies Committee.

## Fellowship and Assistantship Opportunities

Financial aid is available on a competitive basis through fellowships and graduate assistantships (see *Graduate Bulletin*). In order to be assured of consideration in the competition for financial aid, the FAFSA application must be completed no later than January 15. Students holding graduate assistantships for the fall and spring semesters of an academic year receive tuition grants-in-aid for the following summer.

**Graduate Assistantships:** An appointee may serve as a teaching assistant in classroom or laboratory instruction, in research, or in other work. Appointments are made subject to admission to the Graduate School as a degree student. Clear evidence of superior ability and promise is required for the award of a graduate assistantship.

Graduate assistants must be enrolled at Penn State as graduate students working toward advanced degrees. Since assistantships are provided as aids to the completion of advanced degrees, assistants are expected to enroll for 9-12 credits each semester. Students wishing to carry more than 12 credits during the semester must have the approval of the Graduate Program Director or the Department Head.

**Graduate School Fellowships:** Graduate School fellowships are awarded by the Graduate School to a limited number of scholastically outstanding students. Fellows receive a stipend and remission of tuition. Fellows are required to enroll as full-time students. For incoming students, the graduate admission application serves as the fellowship application. Application forms can be obtained from the Graduate School Fellowship Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 205 Kern Building, University Park, PA 16802-3303. Applications must be submitted through the applicant's department and must be received by the Graduate School no later than February 1 to be considered for the following year.

**Bunton-Waller Graduate Awards Program:** Fellowships, assistantships, and fellowship supplements are granted to incoming students as part of the University's comprehensive educational opportunity program. The graduate admission application serves as the Bunton-Waller Graduate Awards application. Applications must be submitted through the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures; the program must guarantee funding for the second year before an award for the first year is made. Contact the Graduate School Fellowship Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 205 Kern Building, University Park PA 16802-3303.

**Graduate School Tuition Grants-in-Aid:** A number of grants of tuition remission for a semester of full-time study are awarded each year. Applications are available to any graduate degree or certificate student during or after the second semester at the University. Financial need is the criterion for selecting recipients. A recipient must take at least 9 credits of graduate work. Summer session tuition grants-in-aid are also available. Application forms and information on application deadlines can be obtained from the Graduate School Fellowship Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 205 Kern Building, University Park PA 16802-3303.

### *Additional Year Funding*

The department has a deep investment in the academic and professional outcomes of our graduate students. In recent years, the typical funding package issued at the time of a

student's matriculation has covered four to five years' worth of graduate-level study. We recognize, however, that under certain circumstances students making good progress may significantly enhance their competitiveness with extra time, and that the profession itself has come to favor first placements in a postdoc or postdoc-like position. Furthermore, the vicissitudes of the job market in any given year may mean that spending an additional year at Penn State is a strategic long-term career move that enables a student to enhance their portfolio with specific publication, research, teaching, and service activity.

Thus, our intention is to support graduate students making good progress toward the Ph.D. and to provide some funding, as appropriate and available, for entering the profession. An additional year of funding for doctoral students in German is not guaranteed; rather, it is determined by the graduate committee and the Department Head.

1. An additional year of funding (prior to the official graduation) may be granted to support students who require a delayed graduation for reasons pertaining to visa status, participation in a Dual Title Ph.D. program, the timing of additional language training, and/or a clearly demonstrated and justified need for further research, publication, or teaching experience, beyond that required for dissertation progress. An additional year of funding can only be granted to students who are making substantial progress toward the dissertation and are exhibiting effective teaching and research productivity.
2. A post-doctoral fellowship in German may be granted to support students who have completed the degree in good time (during the final year of their previous funding package), but for whom the vicissitudes of the job market mean that spending an additional year at Penn State is a strategic long-term career move that enables the student to enhance their portfolio and competitiveness on the job market (for instance, being able to go on the market with PhD in hand). A post-doctoral fellowship in German can only be granted to graduates who have exhibited effective teaching and research productivity.

Additionally, students are expected to identify and apply to other sources of funding – including internal and external predocs, postdocs, and dissertation support – in order to optimize their chances, both for funding and for the professional recognition that an external award can bring. However, normally only one such position can be held at a time.

The Graduate Studies Committee and the Graduate Program Director will make recommendations to the Department Head about an additional year funding. Teaching load, research expectations, salary, and other benefits will be determined by the Department Head in consultation with the Graduate Program Director.

The Graduate Studies Committee will review progress from each cycle of awards for additional funding and will give feedback to both the student and the advising faculty members involved.

## **Gerhard F. Strasser Graduate Endowment in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures**

The Gerhard F. Strasser Graduate Endowment in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures provides support for the activities and programs for graduate students of the

Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures in the College of the Liberal Arts. This endowment comes from the generous support of Gerhard F. Strasser, Emeritus Professor of German and Comparative Literature. Dr. Strasser taught in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, as well as the Department of Comparative Literature, at Penn State for 25 years and retired in 2004. In the fall of 2012, Dr. Strasser was given the College of the Liberal Arts Emeritus Distinction Award. Dr. Strasser continues to present his ongoing research at international conferences.

**Eligibility and Application:** The Department Head and Graduate Program Director use this endowment to award scholarships annually to graduate students in the German Graduate Program to support research and travel expenses. There is also the possibility of funding teaching releases through this endowment. Applications are due annually in the spring term, based on a form sent out by the Department Head.

## **Walter Edwin Thompson & Dr. Regina Broch Thompson Scholarship Fund**

The Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures is in the enviable position of having access to this generous scholarship fund, which we are sharing with three other Pennsylvania institutions. These funding opportunities substantially increase any graduate support departmental students receive. Excerpts from the scholarship description are as follows:

*“...A perpetual trust where the net income is to be distributed to or among students at Villanova University, Villanova, PA; The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA; Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA; and Widener University, Chester, PA.”*

**Eligibility:** All graduate students majoring in Russian or German languages at the above-named colleges and universities are eligible to be considered for scholarship awards. To be eligible for this award, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled as a full-time graduate student in Russian or German
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3
- Demonstrate financial need according to federal guidelines.

**Application:** Applications are due in mid-January and will consist of a form sent out by the Head of the Department as well as a short personal statement. U.S. citizens and permanent residents will be required to submit a FAFSA form for the current academic year prior to applying for the Scholarship Fund.



## Our Faculty and their Specialties

### **Bettina Brandt**

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Ph.D., Harvard University

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The Max Kade German-American Research Institute was founded in 1993 with a grant from the Max Kade Foundation of New York and continues to receive annual sustaining help from the Foundation. It also receives support from the University's College of the Liberal Arts. The Institute is directed from the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

### ***What the Institute Does***

The Max Kade Institute promotes research into the role of German-speakers and cultures in the Americas and around the globe from the sixteenth century to the present. We examine the history of German migrants, merchants, soldiers, artists, writers, and colonists as they moved across the Atlantic and through the world. The history and maintenance of German-speaking communities in the United States and across the New World are a particular interest for our students and scholars. The Max Kade Institute fosters academic exchange and dialogue between Penn State and universities in Germany by sponsoring visiting professors, international conferences, and study abroad. We are committed to fostering an understanding of German culture on the Penn State campus through our sponsorship of events. At the same time, the Institute fosters research and publication that examines how Germans fostered and participated in global networks. Specifically, under its research mission, the Institute:

- cooperates with academic departments within the College of the Liberal Arts in promoting scholarship and teaching with an emphasis on the global migration of German culture
- sponsors scholarly conferences of Germanists, historians, anthropologists, and students of music, art, and culture from the U.S. and abroad who pursue research in the German diaspora in the Americas and across the globe
- subvents and encourages publication of scholarship emerging from the Institute's research focus
- publishes the Max Kade Institute Series with Penn State University Press where we seek to publish the best new scholarship in areas of German-American research that fits with the broader objectives of the Institute (<https://maxkade.la.psu.edu/book-series/>)
- cooperates with other Penn State units and beyond the College to encourage alumni and public participation in and support for international programs and initiatives at Penn State.

The Max Kade Research Institute offers two types of research funding directly related to graduate studies at Penn State:

- The Max Kade Graduate Fellowship supports graduate students in the final stages of writing their dissertations on German topics.
- The Max Kade Summer Research Award funds Penn State graduate students and non-tenure track faculty writing on German-related scholarship so that they may travel to archives, language courses in Germany, and other research sites vital to their work.

## German-American Resources at Penn State

Located near the geographic center of Pennsylvania, Penn State's University Park Campus includes the Pattee Library which, since its founding, has emphasized the collecting of works pertaining to German-language documents and works in translation. The Allison- Shelley Collection on Anglo-German literary and cultural relations, including German literature in English translation as well as German settlements and culture in Pennsylvania, is internationally recognized as a unique resource pertinent to the Institute's mission. In 1997, the University also acquired the John A. Hostetler Papers, consisting of the research notes and observations of the world's preeminent authority on the Amish communities in North America. The Institute, along with Pattee Library, continues to buy selectively to enhance the collection of original books, pamphlets, broadsides, and other primary source documents essential to scholarly research for the 1620–1820 period.

## Graduate Program Course Listing

430. HISTORY OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE (3) Development of German from its earliest stages, including historical and cultural aspects.

510. LITERARY THEORY: AN INTRODUCTION(3) Introduction to literary theory with particular emphasis on more recent models; critical examination of selected literary texts.

511. THE TEACHING OF COLLEGE GERMAN (3) Theory, methods, techniques, materials, bibliography, contributions of linguistics and psychology to language learning; methods of teaching post-secondary German.

513. GERMAN PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY (3) Topics discussed include articulatory phonetics, the phoneme, distinctive features, and common phonological processes in German such as final devoicing, prosody, prosodic morphology and dialectal variation.

514. GERMAN SYNTAX (3) This course provides an overview of morphosyntactic processes in German.

524. REMAPPING THE HOLOCAUST (3) In this course we will examine a number of divergent historiographic trends regarding the origins, enactment, end, and aftermath of the Holocaust.

530. THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL & THE POLITICS OF VISUAL AESTHETICS (3) The course will examine critical theories by members of the Frankfurt School regarding visual strategies for representing and challenging urban consumer culture.

532. HOLOCASUT AND VISUAL CULTURE (3) This course studies how art, literature, film, and other media can provide a perspective on one of the most horrific events in human history, the Holocaust: the genocidal murder of more than six million men, women, and children (mostly Jewish) under the Nazi regime during World War II.

534. HISTORY OF GERMAN FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY (3) This course will examine the history, theory, and practice of German photographic and moving picture technology from its origins to the digital age.
537. PHOTOGRAPHY, RACE, GENOCIDE (3) The course aims to critically examine photographic evidence of genocidal violence, revealing the long shadow of modern genocides from colonialism, to the Holocaust, the Armenian, Cambodian, Rwandan.
538. GERMAN EXPANSIONISM, WAR & VIOLENCE: FROM THE SEVEN YEARS WAR TO THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN (3) The course explores the various intersections between domestic politics and sociocultural developments and policies of martial brinksmanship, spatial expansion, and policies of ethnic cleansing and genocide.
540. SEMINAR IN GERMAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (3–12) Examination of special problems in German culture and civilization.
561. GERMAN LITERATURE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY—FROM BIEDERMEIER TO REALISM (3) Survey of major developments in German literature from the mid-to the late-nineteenth century.
571. GERMAN LITERATURE FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY TO 1945 (3) Advanced survey of German literature from the era of Naturalism to that of Exile literature.
572. POST-WAR AND CONTEMPORARY GERMAN LITERATURE (3) Intensive survey of German literature from Gruppe 4 through the literature of the GDR and down to the present.
581. TOPICS IN LITERARY GENRES (3–12) Special studies in the German lyric, drama, short story, and novel.
582. TOPICS IN GERMANIC PHILOLOGY AND GERMAN LINGUISTICS (3 per semester, maximum of 12) Special studies of modern or older Germanic languages.
589. (CMLIT 589, FR 589, SPAN 589) TECHNOLOGY IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION: AN OVERVIEW (3) Approaches to the uses and research applications of multimedia and other educational technologies applied to the teaching of foreign language.
591. GERMAN LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM (3–6) Examination of major movements in literary theory and criticism with special reference to German literary thought.
592. SEMINAR IN GERMAN LITERATURE (3 per semester, maximum of 12) Focused investigation of a major figure or theme in German literature.
593. SEMINAR IN GERMAN PHILOLOGY AND GERMANIC LINGUISTICS (3 per semester, maximum of 12) Focused investigation of a major topic in Germanic philology or linguistics.

596. INDIVIDUAL STUDIES (1–9) Creative projects including non-thesis research, supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

597. SPECIAL TOPICS (1-9)

600. THESIS RESEARCH (1-15)

601. Ph.D. DISSERTATION (0)

603. FOREIGN ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (1-12)

## International Travel Policy

The International Travel Requirements Policy (<https://policy.psu.edu/policies/tr01>) applies to all University employees, students, and authorized volunteers while travelling as part of any University-Affiliated International Travel, regardless of the funding source, including individuals and groups of students participating in for-credit academic study- abroad experiences.

This policy requires that all international travel (other than approved education abroad programs) be registered in the Office of Global Programs' Travel Safety Network (TSN; <https://tsn.psu.edu/login>) a minimum of 30 days prior to travel.

International travel reimbursement will not be approved without a receipt from the TSN confirming registration, completion of the Emergency Preparedness Workshop and HTH insurance coverage.

All new and returning graduate students must be aware of these policies. **Indicating that one wasn't aware of the policies will not be considered an acceptable reason for not registering in the TSN, not completing the Emergency Preparedness Workshop and for not having the required HTH travel insurance.** University funds will not be approved for any costs associated with travel in such cases. Questions about the operation or use of the TSN system should be directed to the TSN Staff within the Office of Global Programs. The TSN Staff may be reached via email ([tsn@psu.edu](mailto:tsn@psu.edu)) or via phone (814-863-8788).

## Graduate Student Resource Guide

**International Student Services** provides answers to questions and needs that are unique to international students. The office is located at 410 Boucke Building. <https://global.psu.edu/>

**Graduate Student Association (GSA)** is the representative body for all graduate students. The GSA addresses issues of concern to graduate students and elects members to sit on shared-governance bodies of the University. The GSA also organizes social events for graduate students. <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/gsa/>

**The Office of Student Aid** is a good place to begin the search for financial assistance. <http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/>

**The Student Disability Resources Office** provides information and assistance to students with disabilities. <http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/>

**The Writing Center** is sponsored by the Graduate School and provides assistance to graduate students who wish to enhance their writing skills. Graduate students are invited to schedule appointments for one-on-one discussions of their writing projects. <http://pwr.la.psu.edu/resources/graduate-writing-center/GWC>

**Penn State Escort Service** is operated under the auspices of Police Services and will provide an escort for students walking on campus after dark. The escort service may be reached at 5-WALK (865-9255). <https://www.police.psu.edu/safe-walk-service>

**Off-Campus Housing** opportunities are listed in 213 HUB-Robeson Center, 865-2346. <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus/>

**Office of Student Accountability and Conflict Response** is responsible for dealing with violations of the Code of Conduct including sexual assault, harassing, stalking, and physical assault. The phone number is 863-0342. <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/>

**The Code of Conduct** is available at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/support-safety-conduct/student-conduct/code-conduct>

**The Affirmative Action Office** is committed to ensuring the University maintains an environment free of harassment and discrimination. <https://affirmativeaction.psu.edu/>

**HUB-Robeson Center** is the site for multiple student services including restaurants, a copy center, a bank (Penn State Federal Credit Union), STA Travel, a convenience store, the Penn State Bookstore, the Center for Arts and Crafts, Art Galleries, and the main information desk for the University. <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub>

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** can help students resolve personal concerns that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, and satisfaction at Penn State. Some of the more common concerns include difficulty with friends, roommates, or family members; depression and anxiety; sexual identity, lack of motivation or difficulty relaxing, concentrating or studying; eating disorders; sexual assault and sexual abuse recovery; and uncertainties about personal values and beliefs. <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>

**Career Services**, located in the MBNA Career Services Building, is fully equipped to assist graduate students in the preparation of resumes and curriculum vitae and developing effective interviewing skills. Career Services hosts a career fair that is open to graduate as well as undergraduate students. <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/>

**Research Protections** is the office that oversees all research on human participants, animals, radioisotopes and biohazardous materials. You must have permission from this office prior



to conducting research involving any of these subjects. Permission cannot be obtained after the work has begun. <http://www.research.psu.edu/orp/>

**Pasquerilla Spiritual Center** is home to more than fifty spiritual organizations. The center is non-denominational and provides students with opportunities to explore ethical and spiritual issues. <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/spiritual/>

### **Problem resolution**

Graduate students occasionally have difficulties with their advisors, their programs or an academic matter associated with their programs. The first step in problem resolution is always to talk with your advisor and then with the Program Chair or Department Head and then the associate dean of your college. If satisfactory resolution remains elusive, the associate dean of the Graduate School is available to provide guidance and maintain neutrality. Issues discussed during meetings with the assistant dean will remain confidential if requested by the student. Appointments may be made by calling 865-2516.

### **Academic Integrity**

The University does not tolerate violations of academic integrity, which include but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, falsification of information, misrepresentation or deception. The complete policy is available at:

<https://la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/academic-integrity>

**University policies** may be viewed online. Important policies include: Sexual Harassment (AD85)

General Standards of Professional Ethics (AC47) Parking Rules (BS04)

Intellectual Property (IPO1) <https://policy.psu.edu/policies>

**Graduate Student Policies** are available online here: <https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/> or here: <https://gradschool.psu.edu/current-students/>

## **This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: [aao@psu.edu](mailto:aao@psu.edu), Tel 814-863-0471.