

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (CMLT)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

A small, elite PhD degree program housed in the Department of English, the Comparative Literature Program is committed to the comparative and transnational study of literature and other media. Combining its own dynamic resources with those of the English Department and other units in the College of Arts and Humanities, the Program supports a wide range of interests, including Western Hemispheric and Transatlantic Studies, Film, Early Modern Studies, Classical Reception, and Diasporic and Postcolonial Studies. Students in the Program work in at least two languages and national literatures, one of them Anglophone. The Comparative Literature PhD Program complements the current PhD Program in English, giving students a place to pursue true comparative studies. Students seeking admission to the PhD Program in Comparative Literature must demonstrate advanced language proficiency before entry into the Program, and commit themselves to achieving a high degree of intellectual expertise in two or more languages and national literatures. Graduates are as likely to find academic positions in departments of foreign languages as they are to find them in English. A doctoral degree in Comparative Literature can uniquely prepare them for a profession that more and more studies literatures and cultures within a globalized, transnational context.

Financial Assistance

The Comparative Literature Department, in conjunction with the College of Arts and Humanities and the Graduate School, awards a combination of fellowships and teaching assistantships to admitted PhD candidates..

Contact

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Courses: CMLT (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/cmlt/>) ENGL (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/engl/>)

Relationships: English Language and Literature (ENGL) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/english-language-literature-engl/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample: A single sample of critical writing of approximately 12-20 pages. While we encourage you to submit your best writing sample, we prefer a writing sample in your declared field of interest. The writing sample should include an updated works cited page to help us evaluate your critical and theoretical familiarity with a field, a period or a genre. (uploaded to the Uploads Requirements section of the application)
- Master's degree

Applicants should have a strong background in arts and humanities. Students will not be admitted to the program without demonstrated proficiency in English and at least one other language. Each student must submit a critical writing sample (in English), three letters of recommendation and evidence of language proficiency. We do not require the GRE for admission to our program. International applicants must also submit TOEFL/IELTS scores.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 3, 2024
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	December 3, 2024

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <http://www.english.umd.edu>

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Comparative Literature, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/comparative-literature-cmlt/comparative-literature-phd/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Comparative Literature Program combines the benefits of a small department with the opportunities available at a large research university located in suburban Washington, D.C. Students have access to such University resources as the rare books and special collections of McKeldin Library, the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate program, and the Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies. Area resources include the extensive archival collections of the Library of Congress, the U.S. Archives, and the Folger Institute, as well as museums, galleries, embassies and cultural institutions in the Washington area and in the Baltimore-Philadelphia-New York corridor.