

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (SLPH)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Arts and Humanities

Abstract

The Ph.D. program in SLA at the University of Maryland aims to train students to conduct research on second language acquisition processes. It has a strong cognitive focus. The program draws upon the expertise of a distinguished cadre of faculty in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (<http://www.languages.umd.edu/>), and in affiliate departments such as Human Development, Linguistics (<http://ling.umd.edu/>); Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation (<http://www.education.umd.edu/EDMS/>); Hearing and Speech (<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/hesp/>); Philosophy (<http://www.philosophy.umd.edu/>); Psychology (<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/psyc/>); and Curriculum and Instruction (<http://www.education.umd.edu/EDCI/>)

Financial Assistance

Most students admitted to the Ph.D. program will be funded, either via graduate or teaching assistantships or via research assistantship on grants and contracts, all providing tuition waiver plus stipend. Some students may receive a Graduate Assistantship from the UMCP-affiliated Center for the Advanced Study of Language (CASL) (<http://www.casl.umd.edu/>) or the National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) (<http://www.nflc.org>), a unit within the College of Arts and Humanities (ARHU).

Contact

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Courses: SLAA (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/courses/slaa/>)

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)
- Writing Sample: Demonstrated evidence of ability and interest in undertaking scholarly research; could be published paper or M.A. thesis. (one required, up to one more optional)
- CV/Resume
- Publications/Presentations

For more admissions information or to apply to the program, please visit our Graduate School website (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying/>).

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline	Spring Deadline	Summer Deadline
Domestic Applicants			
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	January 16, 2026	September 27, 2025	N/A
International Applicants			
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants.	January 16, 2026	September 27, 2025	N/A

Other Deadlines: Please visit the program website at <http://www.sllc.umd.edu>

REQUIREMENTS

- Second Language Acquisition, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/second-language-acquisition-sllph/second-language-acquisition-phd/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

In addition to the University graduate library, the SLA program offers research facilities and resources to facilitate research and materials development, including a multimedia SLA Lab, the Language House (<http://www.languages.umd.edu/lh/>), The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (<http://sllc.umd.edu/citl/>), the Office of Information Technology (<http://www.oit.umd.edu/>), and the Center for Teaching Excellence (<http://www.cte.umd.edu/>).

Students completing coursework with affiliate faculty in the Departments of Psychology, Communication (<http://www.comm.umd.edu/>), Linguistics (<http://www.ling.umd.edu/>), and Education (<http://www.education.umd.edu/>) as well as the Center for Advanced Study of Languages (<http://www.casl.umd.edu/>) may have access to their respective resources.