Comparative Culture and Language, PhD

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Comparative Culture and Language
The PhD program in comparative culture and language offers professional training that is linguistically well-grounded, historically and culturally informed, and methodologically transdisciplinary through courses and supervision of research. Central to the program is the critical inquiry of primary texts, media and cultural expressions, aiming at an original understanding of cultures and social groups in their formations, interactions and transformations throughout history.

This degree program is attentive to the various roles of language in societies and in the different perspectives through which language can be studied --- among other aspects, its variations, transformations, hybridizations and processes of acquisition. The doctorate in comparative culture and language focuses particularly on research questions and themes that cannot be fully explored within the traditional disciplinary boundaries; instead, it fosters dynamic collaboration across disciplines in order to engage in the production of knowledge that is crucial to understanding transnational and transcultural interactions across time and space.

The program provides an innovative intellectual platform that advances transdisciplinary research and teaching. In consultation with their advisor, students arrange their coursework in a primary and a secondary area of emphasis. Both areas are organized around interdisciplinary study and research in more than one language. Advanced language requirements vary depending on chosen areas of research. A sample program of study might include a primary emphasis area in French literature and visual culture, and a secondary emphasis area in gender studies, with research conducted in French and German. In another sample program, students might study multilingualism in Bolivia and Arizona from a comparative sociolinguistics perspective.

Faculty members are drawn from the School of International Letters and Cultures and other programs in the humanities and social sciences across Arizona State University.

At a Glance
Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, two foreign language exams, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**
SLC 602 Comparative Cultural Theory (3)

**Restricted Electives (36 credit hours)**
primary field of study (18)
secondary field of study (18)

**Electives and Research (33 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
SLC 799 Dissertation (12)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students will do coursework in a primary and a secondary area of emphasis. Both areas will be organized around interdisciplinary study and research in more than one language; students will be expected to have advanced proficiency in one language other than English (this is the "language of primary emphasis"), and at least reading knowledge in a second language other than English ("language of secondary emphasis").

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative of GPA 3.30 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. personal statement
4. resume or curriculum vitae
5. writing sample
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The personal statement should describe the questions, issues or challenges the student plans to explore through the doctoral program in comparative culture and language and explain how previous studies, training or professional experiences prepare the student for this research. It should include a proposed plan of study based on the current graduate-level offerings at ASU. In a brief statement, the student should indicate how those courses will be preparation for the dissertation, how the plan fits with the description and goals of this doctoral program, and why the proposed program does not fit some other degree program.

Applicants must provide a 15- to 20-page writing sample in English; a writing sample in the primary language of interest may also be requested at the discretion of the admissions committee. The writing sample should reflect the student's analytical and critical skills.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Career Opportunities
Professionals with this doctoral degree can confidently move into academic and international fields as an expert on concentration topics. Skills developed through this program are valued for teaching positions, translation work or work in a larger sector such as governmental, diplomatic and international business career opportunities.

Career examples include:

- area, ethnic and cultural studies teachers and professors
- education administrators
- foreign language and literature teachers and professors
- interpreters and translators
- philosophy and religion teachers and professors
- reporters and correspondents

Contact Information