

FAQ - Applying to Comparative Literature & Foreign Languages

What is the deadline for admission?

For fall quarter, the official deadline for fullest consideration for financial assistance is January 5th, but applicants are urged to send in their applications by December 9th for possible earlier admission decisions with funding. Applications received after this date may still be considered depending on the availability of remaining resources. The Admissions Committee will only review an application once all required documents are received.

What supplemental documentation is submitted through Grad SIS?

- 3 Letters of recommendation (on official letterhead)
- GRE score(s)
- TOEFL score(s) or IELTS score(s) (if applicable)
- For International Students, confidential financial statement (if applicable)
- Statement of purpose and personal history
- Writing sample
- Statement of language proficiency
- Disclaimer statement and fee payment form
- Application fee

What supplemental documentation will need to be mailed in and what is the mailing address?

- Two official sealed transcripts from all institutions you have attended. Provide English translations of any transcripts not originally in English.
- If degree certificates are not originally in English, please provide English translations.
- Letters of recommendation can also be mailed in if the recommender prefers. If the recommender chooses to mail in their recommendation, their signature over the seal of the envelope is required. We strongly recommend that your recommenders submit letters through GradSIS as paper copies may delay your application decision significantly.
- Confidential financial statement, if international and able to self-support or receiving funds from government sponsorship.

- **UC Riverside**
Comparative Literature & Foreign Languages
Attn: Nicole Bogner
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Riverside, CA 92521

What are the minimum scores accepted?

- GPA: 3.0
- GRE: 1100 (taken prior to August 1, 2011); 290-300 (taken after August 1, 2011)
- TOEFL (paper based): 550
- TOEFL (computer based): 213
- TOEFL (internet based): 80
- IELTS: Minimum overall band score of 7 with no individual section score less than 6.

Where can I send my test scores?

- Institution Code: 4839
- GRE Department Code: 2902
- TOEFL Department Code: 28
- IELTS Department Code: Request official Test Report Form (TRF)

What can delay the processing of my application?

- Not turning in all required documents by the deadline.
- Letters of recommendation that are mailed rather than uploaded electronically. Additionally, any recommender e-mail address that is not a university e-mail address will greatly delay your application as the recommender must be contacted at their university address to verify that they are indeed the letter writer. Please make sure to use university e-mail addresses when listing faculty members as a recommender.
- Not having two official sealed transcripts from each institution you attended. Foreign transcripts not translated into English can also cause a delay.

I checked GradSIS and my “materials received” status has not been updated.

Please allow at least 10 business days for your “materials received” status to be updated for documents that are submitted by post. Different components of your application are reviewed and updated separately as well, which is

why you may see various update times. The University closes for two weeks at the end of December. This can delay status updates until staff return in January.

What if I do not meet the minimum requirements for test scores or GPA? Should I apply anyway?

Yes. The Admissions Committee reviews an applicant's overall file and takes many different factors into consideration. Although admission with fellowship is extremely competitive, it is possible to counterbalance low scores with superior achievement in other areas.

Do I have to take the TOEFL or IELTS?

International students, permanent residents, and even U.S. citizens whose native language is not English and who do not have a bachelor's or postgraduate degree from an institution where English is the exclusive language of instruction are required to complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

How do I obtain an application fee waiver?

There is currently no fee waiver available for applicants.

What forms of payment are accepted for the application fee?

The online application system, GradSIS allows credit card payments. If you cannot pay by credit card, please contact Graduate Division for alternate forms of payment: (951) 827-3313.

Is an M.A. degree a prerequisite for the program?

No, applicants with a bachelor's degree will be considered. However, while students may enter the program without an M.A. in literature and complete the M.A. before continuing to the Ph.D., this path is extremely rare for international applicants due to the difficulty in securing funding without an M.A.

How are students funded in the graduate program?

Most of our students, both domestic and international, receive fellowships and TA appointments.

I am self-supported. How much money will I need?

Please contact the [Graduate Division](#) for the numbers.

I have missed the deadline for fall acceptance. Do you take applications for winter or spring admission?

Yes, we accept applications for winter or spring admission. However, consideration for fellowships is only possible with fall application. Refer to [Graduate Division](#) regarding deadlines for admission.

Do you have any advice to increase my chances of being accepted?

Be specific in your personal statement about your academic interests, and emphasize how you would develop them using the specific curricular and faculty strengths of our department. Also, make sure your application is complete, by paying your application fee, making sure your recommendation writers send letters on time, and making sure original transcripts are sent. Make sure that your test scores are recent. Finally, make sure you list a valid email address on the application, and keep the address current. Notify us of any changes.

What is the normative time to degree?

For an M.A. the normative time to degree is six quarters. For Ph.D. it is five years for those without an M.A.

How does the visa application process work?

Check the [International Service Center](#) for visa and traveling information.

I am in the U.S. May I come and visit the campus?

Please contact the department with your interest.

Does UCR guarantee housing for graduate students?

Unfortunately we do not guarantee housing at this time. However, housing is offered both on and off campus. Please visit the [Housing Services](#) website for more information.

I am taking/have taken some of your core courses at my institution, can the credits be transferred?

Transfer of credit is done on a case-by-case basis. In general, we only transfer credits earned at US institutions. Because all graduate students receiving financial support are required to maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher, the transferred units are expected to meet this criterion. Units may only be transferred if they were not already counted toward some other degree at a different institution. If they were counted, you may use them to waive a required course at UCR, but not to count toward your UCR degree.