

# Graduate

## *Admission to the Masters and Doctoral French Program*

### Admissions

Students applying for admission to the graduate program are evaluated on the basis of previous academic performance, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and two writing samples. The admissions committee will look for evidence of promise as a graduate student in French Studies. Applicants often hold a BA or MA (or equivalent degree) in French or in a closely related area, but we have accepted applications from students with varied backgrounds. A test of English is required for international students (see below). GRE scores are required for American applicants. While our department does not require a specific score for admission, high scores will be advantageous in later applications for fellowships.

Applicants to the graduate program are considered for departmental funding as teaching assistants or for Arts and Sciences fellowships, unless otherwise stated on the application form. There is no separate application for such funding.

### Items Required for Admission to the French Program

#### University of Pittsburgh

The following checklist includes the required information necessary for admission into the French program.

1. Application must be completed through Apply Yourself.
2. Three (3) letters of recommendation from the form available on line, or referees can submit recommendation letters online through Apply Yourself (recommended). Please be sure your referees submit their letters by the application deadline.
3. **Official transcripts** of all post-secondary academic work, and official translations if these are not in English.
4. Official GRE scores (general exam only: the French subject exam is not necessary). (GRE scores not required for international students).
5. Official TOEFL exam results for international student applications. A minimum required score of 213/550/80 or 6.5 on the Cambridge IELTT is necessary to process admission. This requirement is waived for applicants with an awarded degree from an American institution.
6. A personal statement (1-3 pages single-spaced) written in English outlining goals and reasons for pursuing graduate education in French. This is a very important part of the file, so applicants are urged to take great care to discuss their previous experience and future goals.
7. Two writing samples (one in English, one in French). The French sample should address questions concerning the literature and culture of France or the francophone world and

should be 7-10 pages in length. Please note that the writing samples are considered very important documents in the application file. Consequently, applicants should make sure that they present their intellectual abilities in the best possible light.

8. A payment of \$50.00 to the U. of Pittsburgh, either through a check or money order (drawn on a US bank) or by credit card through Apply-Yourself.

Completed applications must be received in our office no later than **January 10** to be considered for admission in the next Fall Term. Late applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Applicants may be contacted for a bilingual oral interview with the Director of Graduate Studies.

### **Additional Supplementary Information for International Students**

- The Information and Supplemental Application form must be completed. The Financial Support Statement must be completed if you are not awarded financial support from the University of Pittsburgh or in the event that you will be bringing a dependent. This form must be completed by someone who would be able to support you in the event that you could not support yourself with the scholarship money awarded by the university
- While GRE scores are not required of international students, the official record of your TOEFL examination (test must have been taken within two years of date of application) must be sent to the University of Pittsburgh French Department.

All supporting documentation should be sent to:

University of Pittsburgh  
Assistant Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of French & Italian  
1328 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260