

Admission to French Graduate Programs

Students applying for admission to the French 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) and GRE scores are a required component of the application procedure. 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 Assistantships 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 online, 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; international applicants should contact the department regarding the GRE).
- 5) Official TOEFL exam results for international student applications. The required minimum TOEFL score of 90 (with at least a score of 22 in all of the four sections of speaking, listening, reading and writing) will be required for 2013-2014 applicants. The required minimum IELTS score of 7.0 (with at least 6.5 in each of its four sections) will be required for 2013-2014 applicants. 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 (2) academic 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. **Writing samples should be combined in one document and uploaded through the Apply Yourself system, which will only accept one document.**

- 8) A payment of \$50.00 to the University 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******

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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; international students should contact the Director of Graduate Studies for information regarding the GRE.

All supporting documentation should be sent to:

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