FRENCH GRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Graduate Programs in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Graduate students in our three programs—French, German, and Spanish—thrive in a dynamic environment that combines the advantages of a large, multilingual department in a comprehensive research university with the relative autonomy of three distinct language sections. We offer the MA in French, German, and Spanish, and the PhD in French and Spanish.

Program overview

Our core program covers the range of French and Francophone cultural expression from the Middle Ages to the present moment, from France to Africa to the Caribbean to the South Pacific, with a particular emphasis on literature and cultural studies. You can add a minor in another language (German or Spanish), or in fields like English as a Second Language, History, Human Rights, English, Medieval / Renaissance Studies, and Digital Humanities.

Teaching assistants teach one five-hour course each semester, and each year we send one graduate student to teach English as a lecturer at the Université de Marne-la-Vallée, just outside of Paris.

Faculty

Professor Julia Frengs studies representations of the body, the environment, and anticolonialism in authors from French Polynesia, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Canada, and more. Lecturer Catherine Johnson, a native of Chartres, trains and mentors our graduate teaching assistants. Professor Nora Martin Peterson teaches diverse subjects from early modern literature and culture to courses in comparative literature and body language. Her research primarily focuses on the relationship between bodies and texts, women’s writing, travel, and the role of false binaries in medieval and early modern culture. Lecturer Erica Schauer specializes in gender and queer theory, modern French cultural history, and 19th-century French literature. Her courses range from creative writing to historical transsexual figures to the 19th-century novel. Professor Jordan Stump specializes in 20th- and 21st century literature and literary translation.

Financial aid

Graduate teaching assistantships are available for students to pursue their degree while gaining teaching experience. Additional fellowships provide supplementary funds to our graduate students. In addition, we offer economic support for students presenting their research at conferences.

Recent graduates

Some of our recent MA graduates in French are now in teaching positions or doctoral programs at other universities; others are teaching high school. Still others have pursued careers outside of
academia or education, in the world of publishing, in non-governmental organizations and in the professional translation and interpretation.

UNL at a glance

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), which is the nation’s preeminent model for effective collaboration among research universities. Headquartered in the Midwest of the United States, BTAA universities engage in approximately $10 billion in funded research each year. With a student enrollment of 26,079 in 2017, UNL offers a diverse and lively academic environment in a town of some 280,000 people, with a moderate cost of living and a variety of cultural opportunities and events.

Contact
For questions about the French graduate program or the application process, please email Prof. Nora Peterson at npeterson10@unl.edu