

### PROGRAM PROFILE

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages offers a distinctive interdisciplinary master's degree in foreign languages. Students choose one of four concentrations that are designed to meet the needs and interests of prospective and practicing teachers and other professionals. These concentrations also provide a solid foundation for future doctoral study. Graduates of the degree program work in a variety of career settings including education, business, diplomatic service, health professions, journalism, law and law enforcement, politics, social services, and translation.

Students benefit from small classes that are offered once a week in the late afternoon or evening in order to meet the needs of working professionals and to accommodate part-time students. They can earn credit in a broad spectrum of courses in languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistic studies. Highly motivated students can choose to write a master's thesis, which gives them the opportunity to work closely with a faculty mentor in the development of their own research projects.

### CONCENTRATIONS

#### French or Spanish

Students can focus their degree program on one language through a 30-credit concentration in French or Spanish. The courses in this interdisciplinary option range from the traditional study of language, literature, and cultures to subjects such as film studies and the literatures from the many French- or Spanish-speaking regions of the world. This unique array leads to an in-depth liberal arts experience in scholarship that exposes students to the full spectrum of cultures surrounding the language of their concentration.

#### French and Spanish

Students can focus their degree program on two languages through a 42-credit concentration in French and Spanish. The interdisciplinary course offerings allow graduate students to pursue a multilingual path of scholarship and an array of in-

ternational opportunities. This expanded master's degree combines the basic requirements of the concentrations in French and Spanish, with additional opportunities for electives and an optional thesis.

These three concentrations are designed primarily for students who want to pursue careers in the teaching of language in secondary and post-secondary educational settings, for students who want to build on their undergraduate study of language, and for students who plan to continue language study in a doctoral program.

#### Spanish/Bilingual-Multicultural Education

The 36-credit concentration in Spanish/bilingual-multicultural education combines courses in Spanish language and culture with courses in multicultural education offered through George Mason's College of Education and Human Development. This concentration prepares students to teach effectively in bilingual and multicultural settings in both secondary and post-secondary institutions. Students also have the opportunity to pursue state licensure with minimal additional coursework beyond the master's degree.

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

#### Teaching assistantships

Highly qualified students with excellent language preparation may apply for teaching assistantships offered by the department. Students appointed to assistantships develop valuable language teaching experience by working with faculty experts in language teaching pedagogy.

#### Study abroad

Students pursuing the master's degree in foreign languages have the opportunity to participate in the many study abroad programs offered by George Mason's Center for Global Education ([gmu.edu/departments/cge/](http://gmu.edu/departments/cge/)). The center offers semester-long programs as well as shorter courses during winter and spring breaks in the French and Spanish speaking regions of the world.

## FACULTY

The interdisciplinary master's degree is supported by a diverse faculty from around the world that includes literature and film scholars as well as linguists, sociolinguists, language pedagogy experts, and practicing poets. The range of their interests and expertise is demonstrated by their participation in university programs in Cultural Studies, Film and Media Studies, Latin American Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

The faculty members combine a commitment to teaching with international reputations as scholars, and regularly publish and present their research and creative work. The faculty's diversity can be seen in a sampling of their course offerings and research areas.

- Applied linguistics
- Colonial and Post-colonial studies
- French and Spanish literatures and cultures
- Foreign language learning and teaching
- Francophone and Hispanic literatures and cultures
- Gender and Women's studies
- Latina/o studies
- Literature and film
- Middle Ages and Early Modern literatures and cultures
- Popular culture
- Sociolinguistics
- Spanish American literature
- Technology-assisted language learning

## HOW TO APPLY

Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants to the master's degree program in foreign languages should submit official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education attended, a goals statement written in the language in which applicant is most comfortable, three letters of recommendation, and a resume.

See [chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply](http://chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply) for complete details on the application process.

## WHY FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT GEORGE MASON?

The university provides a multitude of opportunities for research, internships, and work experiences for students of languages. It has strong alliances with language resources and opportunities in the area including schools, embassies, federal agencies, museums, nongovernmental organizations, international businesses, and cultural organizations. The Department of Modern and Classical Languages is a vibrant multicultural community. In addition to experts in French and Spanish, the department is home to faculty with expertise in the languages and cultures of the areas of the world that represent their language offerings in Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Russian. The region is one of the most socially complex and culturally diverse places in the nation.

Named by *U.S. News & World Report* as "the #1 national university to watch," George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See [mcl.gmu.edu](http://mcl.gmu.edu) for a listing of faculty, courses, and program requirements.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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