SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, M.A.

Slavic languages and literature at the University of Wisconsin–Madison is a national leader of doctoral programs in the field, and welcomes students with a B.A./B.S. or M.A. who are interested in all areas of Russian and comparative Slavic prose, poetry, drama, and philosophy. The curriculum offers breadth and depth in a variety of areas of Slavic philology, literature, and culture, and is known for offering a balanced approach to training in teaching, writing, and research.

The program is fortunate to count among its faculty, specialists in Czech, Polish, Russian, and Serbo-Croatian languages, literature, and culture, award-winning authors and teachers, and members of editorial boards of leading journals and publication series. Information regarding faculty biographical sketches are available on the program website. In addition to their excellence in teaching and research, professors are unparalleled mentors to graduate students. Students work closely with faculty members on writing, teaching, and publishing. Graduate students are expected to produce publishable articles during their graduate careers, and are provided the guidance and feedback to do so.

The department places high expectations on graduate students to achieve and maintain professional-level proficiency in the Russian language in all four modalities: speaking, writing, listening, and reading. All students who are not native speakers of Russian will be tested in those modalities—plus Russian grammar—when they enter the program, and periodically throughout their tenure. Appropriate competency must be demonstrated before receiving a teaching assistantship and before passing from M.A. to Ph.D. candidacy.

Graduate students in the program receive exceptional training in teaching both language and literature. The department has a thriving undergraduate program in Slavic languages with strong enrollments in language, literature and culture, providing many opportunities for teaching experience, working closely with master teachers among the faculty and academic staff. In addition to teaching assignments in first- through fourth-semester Russian language (and occasionally in other Slavic languages), as well as in the two-semester undergraduate survey of Russian literature course, the department has also instituted an apprenticeship program for adequately prepared graduate students in the teaching of advanced literature and language classes. The program’s graduate teaching assistants regularly win prestigious campus awards for their excellence in the classroom.

The Ph.D. program typically requires three years of coursework, including an introduction to literary theory and a methods course in the teaching of Slavic languages, as well as linguistics courses and the full range of Russian literary and cultural history. An M.A. is conferred after three or four semesters, when all master’s requirements are fulfilled. Students accepted to the Ph.D. program with an M.A. in Russian literature earned at another institution may choose to fulfill master’s requirements through the passing of a special qualifying examination. All Ph.D. students are also expected to choose a secondary area (minor) in addition to the major in Russian literature. Many choose to minor in a non-Russian Slavic language and literature (Polish or Serbo-Croatian). Other popular minors include English, history, communication arts, second language acquisition, comparative literature, linguistics, philosophy, folklore, and religious studies. The department also requires evidence of reading knowledge of a non-Russian Slavic language (Czech, Polish, or Serbo-Croatian) as well as of French or German before attaining dissertator status. More information regarding coursework may be found on the program website.

Students complete all requirements for dissertator status by the end of their seventh semester. The graduate program was recently revised, including the dissertation process, to allow for graduation with the Ph.D. in six to seven years from the B.A. Students who choose to take a leave of absence for language study may require a longer tenure.

Please note that the Slavic department does not typically award a terminal M.A. degree. Rather, the M.A. is earned as part of studies towards the Ph.D (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/german-nordic-slavic/slavic-languages-literatures-phd/#text). Students who are admitted already holding an M.A. in Slavic from another institution are required to complete a qualifying exam no later than the first semester in residence, or to fulfill all UW–Madison M.A. requirements as well.

ADMISSIONS

This master’s program is offered for work leading to the Ph.D. Students may not apply directly for the master’s, and should instead see the admissions information for the Ph.D. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/german-nordic-slavic/slavic-languages-literatures-phd)

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Most students receive funding for multiple years in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships or project assistantships. These positions include a stipend as well as tuition remission and a generous health plan. Additional hourly employment is also often available. See the program website (http://slavic.lss.wisc.edu/new_web/?q=node/271) and the Graduate School’s funding information page (http://grad.wisc.edu/studentfunding) for more information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/policiesandrequirements#text), in addition to the program requirements listed below.
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Mode of Instruction Definitions
Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail
Minimum Credit Requirement 30 credits

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 30 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement 66% of degree coursework (20 credits out of 30 total credits) must be in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/).

Overall 3.6 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements Students must earn a B or above in all core curriculum coursework.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code Title Credits
SLAVIC 800 Proseminar-Slavic Literature and Culture 1

Select at least two of the following:

SLAVIC 801 Slavic Critical Theory and Practice
SLAVIC 802 The Structure of Russian
SLAVIC 803 Introduction to Old Church Slavonic and the History of Russian Literary Language

Two SLAVIC 900 3-credit courses (topics seminars)

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program’s policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.
PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
Students are not allowed to count graduate coursework from other institution to fulfill degree requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With program approval, up to 7 credits numbered 700 and above taken in the Slavic program while pursuing a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION
A semester GPA below 3.25 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a semester GPA of 3.25 is not attained during the subsequent semester of full time enrollment (or 12 credits of enrollment if enrolled part-time) the student may be dismissed from the program or allowed to continue for 1 additional semester based on advisor appeal to the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
All students meet with graduate advisor once a semester (in November and April) to discuss their progress and to plan their coursework for the subsequent semester.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER
Students are typically admitted with four- to five-year funding guarantees contingent on satisfactory progress and ability to perform assigned responsibilities well. Funding packages combine fellowships, teaching assistantships and project assistantships at the level of at least 33.3%. All such positions include a stipend as well as tuition remission and a generous health plan. Funding beyond the initial guarantee period is often available for one or two years.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. (Critical Thinking and Writing Skills) Demonstrate: analytic, interpretive, and critical thinking skills; knowledge of research protocols; and understanding of the specificity of the literary object as well as its historical and cultural context.
2. Develop broad knowledge of Russian literary history, the major writers and movements, from the origins to the present day. Demonstrate this knowledge in relation to periods and movements, courses in which are offered during their time in the program. These include: Old Russian Literature; 18th-Century Russian Literature; Romanticism (ca. 1790s to 1840s); Realism (ca. 1840s to 1890s); Modernism (ca. 1890s to 1920s); Soviet, Emigre, and Post-Soviet Periods (ca. 1930s to the present).
3. (Language proficiency) Demonstrate Advanced Russian language proficiency on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) scale across three modalities (speaking, listening, reading, or writing). Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the structure of contemporary Russian.
4. Recognize and apply principles of ethical and professional conduct in the context of Slavic studies.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Danaher, Evans-Romaine, Filipowicz, Longinovic, Shevelenko, van de Water; Associate Professors Reynolds; Assistant Professor Zilbergerts; Faculty Associate Tumarkin