This handbook describes the procedures of the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature. It is each graduate student’s responsibility to read this document carefully and to consult it when questions about the program arise. Because the department faculty and profession are continually changing, these procedures are revised on a regular basis. As we discover ways of improving the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature, we will bring these proposals to the Graduate Committee. That committee sometimes recommends revisions that require approval of both the Department of Comparative Literature faculty and the Graduate Council. When such changes in the Graduate Program have been approved, we will include them in the annually updated online version of the handbook at the Department of Comparative Literature web page. Graduate students in the department will be notified by email when changes are made to the site.

Revised August 2017
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COURSE WORK AND SCHOLARSHIP

When You Arrive on Campus
The Department of Comparative Literature is housed in Marston Hall, 20 Manning Walk.

Your first and principal contacts in the Department of Comparative Literature are the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Administrator.

Consult the DGS with questions about:

- Course requirements
- Course selection
- Recommendation letters
- Teaching Assistantship assignments
- Meeting language requirements
- Assembling Major Literature
- Examination reading lists and committees
- Assembling Comparative Project committees
- Fellowship opportunities
- Graduate student travel
- Leaves of absence
- Summer support

Consult the Department Administrator for:

- Building and office access/keys
- Photocopying codes and instructions
- Information about payroll and status
- Information about conference travel funding
- Obtaining coursework evaluations, yearly or semianual evaluations, and teaching evaluations
- Seminar room reservation

Before or during the first week of classes, you will make an appointment with the DGS to plan your course work and to discuss any other issues related to your first year of graduate study. As you make decisions about your coursework, bear in mind the doctoral program’s course requirements:

Course Requirements for the Ph.D.
Students will usually enter the program with sound training in literature written in three languages, one of which may be English. They will be expected to develop a strong enough competence in one of these literatures to be qualified to teach in a national literature department since comparatists are often hired in such departments or have joint appointments. The major literature is studied in a cross-cultural context linking it with the other two diachronically or synchronically. Students may pursue literary currents or follow the evolution of ideas or themes across linguistic boundaries, or may study features of genre, style, convention, etc. The program may also emphasize theory including poetics, stylistics, semiology, feminist, socio-cultural, post-structuralist, and post-colonial approaches.
Students entering with the B.A. will normally take 15 advanced literature courses (1000-level) and graduate seminars (2000-level). These courses will be spread over three years: 8 in the first year, 6 in the second, and 1 in the third. Two or three of these may be Independent Study/Research work supervised by a faculty member.

Individual programs are worked out in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies to include:

- a substantial core of courses in Comparative Literature, at least one per semester during the first two years of study
- a substantial core of courses primarily in one major literature along with significant related work in at least two others. Courses taken in the second and third literatures must include a minimum of two regularly scheduled graduate seminars (or 1000 level where appropriate with approval of the Director of Graduate Studies)
- a spread of courses comprising work in all three major genres (poetry, drama, narrative) and covering a significant range of distinct cultural epochs (medieval, romantic, modern, and so forth)
- some work in the area of literary theory, literary criticism, or literary translation
- if pertinent, courses relating literature to other fields of inquiry or expression; for example, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, history, music, or the visual arts

In special circumstances students may obtain up to a year of course credit for graduate work done at other institutions. Students who enter already having completed some advanced work may be asked to proceed more quickly. Students wishing to do so should schedule an appointment with the DGS after completing two semesters. They should bring to that meeting a copy of their transcript and any additional material—syllabi, for instance—that would help the DGS to determine the appropriateness of the course(s) they wish to transfer and which requirements they may satisfy.

Lectures, talks, and colloquia held in the Department of Comparative Literature are considered part of your professional training, hence it is expected that graduate students will attend events sponsored by the department, regardless of whether they are of direct relevance to your field of study.

**Grading Policy**
The Department conforms to the grading standards as set out in the Graduate School Handbook.

**Incompletes**
In exceptional circumstances, you may request to receive an “I” as a letter grade for a course, denoting an incomplete. Incompletes can only be taken with the prior consent of the faculty member teaching the course. Avoid accumulating incompletes: they can greatly impede your progress through the program and can have a significant impact on
your evaluation (see below). The deadlines for making up incompletes are as follows: for courses taken in Semester I, by mid semester of Semester II; for Semester II, by the first day of the following semester. These can be extended only at the request of the instructor. However, any incomplete that remains one calendar year after the end of the semester in which the course was taken turns into an “NC,” or “no credit,” and you will have to make up that credit by taking another course.

Evaluation
The DGS convenes the Graduate Committee in May for the purpose of evaluating every graduate student. We make these evaluations on the basis of written evaluations and commentary of those faculty who have been responsible for teaching, examining, or directing respective students during the preceding semester. Faculty commentary during meetings is confidential.

Following the evaluation meeting, you will receive a letter from the DGS summarizing faculty discussion regarding your progress toward the Ph.D. This letter will identify the strengths you have demonstrated and suggest aspects of your professional development on which you should concentrate in the semester to come. This letter may also mention any concerns about your adaptation to academic life that if not rectified might limit your ability to complete the degree. The letter of evaluation typically concludes with an assessment of your progress toward the Ph.D.

Letter of Evaluation
On the basis of the faculty’s assessment of your progress toward the Ph.D., the DGS will make one of several recommendations:

1. As a result of your successful progress toward the degree, you are approved to continue in the program, and will continue to receive financial support in the following year, either through a Teaching Assistantship or a fellowship.
2. If the faculty review indicates a deficiency in any aspect of your work, you will be asked to take steps to correct the problem before your next review. In most cases, it is meant to ensure your success in the program. However, in cases where the faculty has serious reservations about a student’s progress toward the Ph.D. they may ask the DGS to issue a warning that, unless progress is demonstrated by the next review, the student’s standing in the program and funding may be seriously jeopardized.
3. If faculty reservations about the quality of your work are especially serious, the DGS may be obliged to recommend that you complete requirements for the M.A. and not proceed further toward the Ph.D.
4. If you accumulate too many incompletes, the DGS may be obliged to recommend that you take a leave until the problem is resolved and the work completed.

You are entitled to receive your letter from the DGS in a timely fashion after the faculty evaluation meeting. While you are taking courses, you will receive a letter of evaluation at the end of each semester. After that, you receive a letter only at the end of the year unless there is some specific and immediate cause for concern. It is not uncommon for the DGS to ask you to make an appointment to discuss your evaluation in some detail. Of course,
you are also welcome to request such an appointment at your own discretion.

**Language Competence**

Students do advanced work in the original language in at least three literatures as demonstrated by the successful completion of at least two courses in each of those literatures at the 2000 course level. In certain cases, appropriate 1000 level courses may satisfy this requirement with the permission of the Director of Graduate Studies. This requirement is to be satisfied by the end of semester four. Students whose linguistic competence requires them to take language courses below the 1000 level may do so in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, but those courses will not count toward the course requirements for the Ph.D. Normally at least the first foreign language requirement will be satisfied through advanced courses during the first year. A standard of professional competence should be maintained within the area of likely specialization. For example, a student intending to specialize in the medieval period will offer an appropriate language competence, Anglo-Saxon or Middle English for English, Middle High German for German, Old French or Provençal for French, etc. Students concentrating in Classics must offer both Latin and Greek; German is also recommended. For those with specialties in medieval and renaissance, Latin is recommended. Ordinarily two languages from the same group—Romance, Slavic, Germanic (exclusive of English)—will not be selected.

**Related Departments and Programs**

Language and literature departments at Brown include the following: Classics (including Greek, Latin and Sanskrit), East Asian Studies, English, French Studies, German Studies, Judaic Studies, Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and Slavic Languages. Languages taught at Brown, through departments or the Center for Language Studies, include Akkadian (Egyptology), American Sign Language, Arabic, Catalan, Chinese, Czech, Egyptian (Middle), French, German, Greek (Ancient), Greek (Modern), Hebrew (Modern), Hebrew (Biblical), Hindi / Urdu, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Persian (Modern), Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish. Students also sometimes take courses in Africana Studies, American Studies, History, History of Art, Modern Culture and Media, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and TAPS.

**Major Literature Examination**

Students will take an oral examination on their designated major literature (which should correlate to the national literature department in which they expect someday to work) by late September of Semester V.

1. **Timing and Committee**

   Students must declare the major literature on which they will be examined by September 30 of the second year (i.e., Semester III). During the spring semester of their second year, students will take at least two regular courses and may elect one section of COLT 2980 (Reading and Research), an independent study devoted to preparation for the major literature examination, as the required third course. During the second year, the Director of Graduate Studies will form an exam
committee. Committees will be made up of members of the Comparative Literature faculty; a professor who is not a member of the Department may serve on examination committees at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies in those cases where a specialty not covered by departmental faculty is presented. A committee assembled of the same faculty will examine all students examined in a given literature during the same semester. The final reading list, described in the next paragraph, is to be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies by March 1 of the second year.

2. **Scope of the Examination**

The examination will be based on a list of 30 items covering the chronological range of the literature chosen. An item generally consists of several works by the author in question, roughly three novels or prose works, eight to ten plays, or two dozen or so poems. The works for each author are to be chosen in consultation with the examination committee.

Major literature reading lists for Classical Greek, Latin, English, English with American, French, German, Portuguese, Brazilian, Italian, and Spanish are available in the Comparative Literature office as well as on the department website. Students presenting lists in other languages and literatures will consult with the Director of Graduate Studies and appropriate faculty in formulating reading lists.

3. **The Oral Examination**

The three members of the examining committee will administer the examination in English. It will last no more than two hours. Questions will draw on the reading list, and will be of an appropriate theoretical, historical, or textual nature. Passing will be decided by majority vote taken directly after the examination. If a student fails the examination, one further attempt will be permitted, ordinarily during the following semester. Normally students will either pass or fail the examination as a whole, but in the event that the committee determines a student has failed a portion of the examination, the committee may require that the student repeat that portion of the exam at a later date. Ordinarily the re-examination will take place the following semester.

**Comparative Project**

The comparative project provides an opportunity to begin focused research leading to the dissertation, and to gain experience in professional writing, oral presentation, and discussion comparable to a conference situation or job interview.

1. **Timing and Committee**

   After passing the major literature examination, students will begin formulating a topic for the comparative project during Semester V and complete it during the third year. The topic for the comparative project will be worked out in consultation with the student's preliminary doctoral committee, consisting of three faculty members, to be established by the student in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

   Students must declare their intention of fulfilling the comparative project requirement to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Prelim Committee at least eight weeks prior to the oral examination. In Semester VI, students will
submit the comparative project to their examination committee in written form. A revised draft, to be considered by the examination committee for the oral defense, must be submitted by April 15th.

2. **The Comparative Project**
   The comparative project is an article-length essay that may or may not become a part of the dissertation. As stated above, the project provides an opportunity to begin focused research on subjects possibly leading to the dissertation.

3. **Oral Presentation of the Comparative Project**
   Each member of the committee in writing must give approval of the written project to the Director of Graduate Studies before the oral examination can be scheduled.
   In the oral examination, the candidate will begin with a brief presentation, situating the project and where appropriate, indicating how it might relate to a dissertation. Questions and discussion will follow. The examination should be about one to one and a half hours in length. At the end of the examination, the committee will evaluate the student's performance. The student and committee members attend the exam only.

**Dissertation Proposal**

1. Students should submit the doctoral thesis prospectus to their dissertation committee and the Graduate Committee by September 30 of their fourth year (i.e., Semester VII).
2. Typically, the prospectus will include a clear statement of the objective of the dissertation, a discussion of the issues involved, a selective account of the key sources (primary, secondary, and methodological), and a chapter outline. Normally, it may run to about 10 pages; it will not usually exceed 15 pages.
3. After the prospectus is filed, members of the Graduate Committee, and other members of the faculty, may offer comments on it.
4. If a student changes topic or advisor, a new prospectus may need to be filed; this decision falls within the discretion of the dissertation advisor.

**Completion of the Ph.D.**

The requirements stated above are intended to provide both comparators training and preparation in one major literature (to maximize placement possibilities) within a reasonable time (five years) and with financial support. An effort will be made to provide teaching experience not only in Comparative Literature, but also within an appropriate foreign language or English, or Modern Culture and Media. The timetable envisioned allows for the completion of course work, the major literature examination and a comparative project by the end of the third year, submission of the doctoral thesis proposal at the beginning of the fourth, and one or two years of work to complete the doctoral thesis.

The Graduate School offers incoming doctoral students five years of guaranteed financial support. In years two, three and four support is provided through teaching assistantships and proctorships in Comparative Literature and other appropriate departments. Both fellowships and teaching assistantships are contingent on the timely and successful
completion of course work and examinations. Support for students entering with substantial advanced work or an M.A. will normally be three years with the possibility of a fourth year. In the case of a student failing the major literature examination, provision will be made for a second try. Except for that eventuality or in the case of serious illness, this timetable should be adhered to in order for support to continue.

**Master of Arts Degree**
The Department does not admit candidates for a terminal M.A. degree, nor does it require a Master's degree as a prerequisite for the doctorate. Students who are not recommended to proceed in the doctoral program at the end of the first year may take an M.A. by completing one year of full-time course work in residence (normally four courses each semester), satisfying two of the three language requirements for the Ph.D., and completing a Master's thesis consisting of an essay of 50-60 pages on a comparative subject. Alternatively, a student will receive the M.A. upon completion of the comparative project and advancement to doctoral candidacy.

**Library Resources**
The main humanities library at Brown is the [John D. Rockefeller Library](http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=11&task=db). Tours of the library and training sessions can be arranged upon request.

The Comparative Literature Subject Librarian is William Monroe ([William_Monroe@brown.edu](mailto:William_Monroe@brown.edu)). A number of useful research databases have been collected on the Library’s Comparative Literature Resources Guide Page: [http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=11&task=db](http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=11&task=db)

Graduate Student Library Privileges include the following:

- Receive Academic Year and Summer Loans, which are renewable.
- Can recall books from other borrowers.
- Can request books from the shelves and have held for pick up at the circulation desk through Josiah.
- At the dissertation stage can apply for a study carrel at the John D. Rockefeller Library. Apply at the main circulation desk. Available spots can be located at [http://josiah.brown.edu/search/?rCarrels](http://josiah.brown.edu/search/?rCarrels)

Other library resources at Brown include:

1. The [John Hay Library](http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=11&task=db), which houses an eclectic selection of rare and interesting collections.

2. The [John Carter Brown Library](http://library.brown.edu/gateway/lrg.php?id=11&task=db), internationally known for its collection of early American texts and other historical sources pertaining to both North and South America.

3. The Science Library with holdings of important documents in the history of science such as nineteenth-century medical texts and early works of psychoanalysis.
4. The Orwig Music Library holds music books, scores, periodicals, sound recordings, video recordings, and microforms. Graduate students have access to restricted circulations, but you will also find a huge number of recordings on the Naxos Music Library database.
http://library.brown.edu/about/orwig/

**Computer Services**
We recommend that you activate your Brown and Brown Gmail accounts as soon as you get your Brown I.D. card. You can do this at activate.brown.edu. If you wish to forward your Brown email to another email address, you can do it immediately after activating your Brown and Brown Gmail accounts. Be sure to take note of your Brown username and password. You will need them for the computer clusters, online grades, course websites, and accessing the Brown library from off campus.

Check the CIS website (http://software.brown.edu/dist) or contact them about for an up-to-date list of the specific software’s they support.

Many software systems are available for on-campus use (or off, if you connect via Brown's VPN client)—see the site above for more information. The advantage of using supported software is that you will be able to get assistance from Brown's help desk if you encounter any difficulty with it.

The Department of Comparative Literature has designated two Macs, two PCs, and a printer for the use of graduate students in their office, Room B-20.

**TEACHING**

**Teaching Assistantships**
Training and experience in teaching are major features of our doctoral program in Comparative Literature. The Department makes every attempt to provide its graduate students with teaching experience at Brown in undergraduate courses suited to the graduate student's interest. Teaching assistants work under the direct supervision of members of the professorial staff. At least two years of work as a teaching assistant are required for the Ph.D. The Department will keep students informed of positions as they become available in pertinent departments and at other institutions, and will assist them in presenting their candidacy for such positions.

Advanced graduate students who have made substantial progress on their dissertations, who can document their success in the classroom, and who have the support of a faculty member willing to serve as a classroom mentor are invited to submit a proposal to teach an undergraduate course (below 1000-level) in the department. The proposal consists of a 100-word course description, a syllabus, a C.V. that includes a listing of teaching
experience, and notes of support from the dissertation advisor and faculty mentor. It is
due to the Director of Graduate Studies no later than October 31 of the academic year
before the class is taught. The department’s Graduate Committee on their merits will
evaluate the proposals; no more than two will be approved in any year; final approval will
depend on the curricular needs of the department as determined by the Chair.

See the section on Summer Employment for information on offering credit-bearing and
non-credit-bearing departmental courses in Brown’s Summer Studies Program.

Teaching Evaluations
Teaching Evaluations serve several purposes: to monitor the quality of teaching at Brown,
to help the department make staffing decisions, and to help you improve your teaching.
In this respect, you are no different from the regular faculty, who are required to collect
confidential student evaluations near the end of each course. The department now has a
standard evaluation form for this purpose, which students access online. A section of this
evaluation refers to TA’s, who are strongly encouraged to review their evaluations each
semester. They are available through http://selfservice.brown.edu.

At some point during your graduate career, you may ask a member of the faculty, or the
faculty member lecturing the course you are assisting, to visit one of your classes and
write an evaluation. Prepare him or her with copies of your syllabus, if appropriate, or a
good description of what you have been doing in discussion section and your teaching
objectives in both cases. Such a visit can help jump-start your teaching if you feel you are
not doing as well in the classroom as you would wish. Toward the end of your graduate
career, you might also benefit from inviting a faculty member to visit your class and write
a teaching letter for your dossier in preparation for your venture onto the job market. In
this regard, you might also choose to photocopy samples of student work together with
your comments and grades on them for a teaching portfolio, should one be requested
when you are on the market.

Teaching Resources and Development Opportunities
The Harriet W Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning offers a range of services and
resources to graduate students and faculty seeking to improve their teaching effectiveness.
See the Sheridan Center’s website (http://www.brown.edu/about/administration/sheridan-center/)
and the Departmental Sheridan Representative (page) for additional information.

New TA Orientation
The Center offers a full-day event of panels and workshops just prior to the fall
(and sometimes spring) semester. Students in the Comparative Literature
Department may find it helpful to participate in their 4th semester, in addition to
attending the Department’s own TA Orientation.

Consultation Services
A range of consulting services is available to all graduate students, regardless of
whether they are involved in Sheridan Certificate programs. There is no cost and no limit to the number of consultations one may request. The most popular services are Teaching Observations and Presentation Consultations.

**Certificate Programs**
The Center offers four yearlong programs. Completion of Certificate I (offering a groundwork on Reflective Teaching) required in order to take part in Certificates II, III, and IV, but these certificates may be earned in any order. Certificate II may be especially useful for students interested in proposing a course to the department, as it guides participants through the design of their own course. Certificate III in Professional Development is especially relevant for students in their fourth and fifth years that will be entering the academic job market. Certificate IV encompasses the Teaching Consultant Program, in which participants receive training and part-time employment as consultants and Certificate I discussion leaders.

International graduate students require English language certification before serving as teaching assistants in their departments. Graduate students who have been awarded teaching assistantships and whose native language is not English will be tested upon their arrival for English proficiency before they begin teaching. To schedule an English proficiency evaluation, please contact Jill Stewart (Jill_Stewart@brown.edu) According to Graduate School policy, if a student’s English language skills do not meet the minimum standards for certification, provisional approval of the teaching assistantship appointment may be made on condition that the student enroll in an English-language course during the first semester of the appointment and be assigned to other duties that will prepare him or her for teaching. **Students who have not been certified at the appropriate level for the classroom or laboratory will not be supported as teaching assistants past the first year.** See the Center for Language Studies website for more information, including evaluation request forms: http://www.brown.edu/Departments/CLS/courses/english.html

**Guidelines for Faculty Use of Teaching Assistants**
The Graduate School’s policy is that Teaching Assistants spend no more than 15-20 hours a week on teaching.

1. While you may have more work during some weeks than in others, the average hours you put in over the semester should not exceed this limit. It is your responsibility to ask the faculty member running the course when the heavy-duty periods of the semester come and to plan your work accordingly.
2. You are not expected to do all of the grading. This work should be divided equitably between the TAs and the faculty member in charge.
3. You are not expected to lead more than one section.
4. It is perfectly within the faculty member’s rights, in keeping with your training as a university teacher, to ask you to deliver a lecture or two, help plan the syllabus, enter into dialogue with him or her in the classroom, participate in a planned panel or debate, or develop some new material for the course.
5. The final grades are ultimately the faculty member’s responsibility, and there should be a clear understanding between you and your supervisor as to how your authority is supposed to interact with his or hers.
Exceptions to the Teaching Requirement
On rare occasions, a student is supported by an outside source that prefers that they finish the degree program as quickly as possible and take a degree without training in teaching. In such instances, the Graduate Program in Comparative Literature does not waive the teaching requirement, but may consider reducing it. The armed forces, religious orders, or foreign governments may support you. Under this category fall those supported by the Mellon Foundation or by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), which offer full-time support for part of the time required to complete the degree. Mellon and SSHRC recipients teach during the rest of their training and in no case for less than one year.

You may, for a limited time during your period of study, hold a teaching assistantship in another department or program. Even where teaching in other fields is important to your training, we ask you to do a significant portion of your teaching in this department.

Grievance Procedures
Students having trouble with a faculty member should consult the DGS. The Graduate School has adopted a university-wide grievance procedure, to which you may turn if these less formal and local measures fail. These procedures are available at http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/grievance-procedures. If you want to discuss your situation with someone outside the department, contact the Dean of the Graduate School.

If one of your students complains about your teaching and you cannot resolve the problem yourself, you should consult with the course supervisor or faculty evaluator. If the issue cannot be resolved at that point, you should take the matter to the DGS. In cases where there is some disagreement between you and the faculty member or between either and the DGS, the Chair will review the evidence, discuss the matter with everyone involved, and report his or her conclusions in writing to you. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of this process, you are always free to pursue the Graduate School’s grievance procedures.

Summer Teaching
Graduate students are eligible to propose courses for Brown Continuing Education’s Undergraduate and Pre-Collegiate Summer Session. Proposals are due to BCE by early November. More information and forms are accessible on the website http://www.brown.edu/ce/faculty/course-proposal.php.

Teaching Exchanges
1. Brown University graduate students in their fifth and sixth years may apply to teach courses at Wheaton College through the Brown/Wheaton Faculty Fellows Program. (See http://brown.edu/academics/gradschool/teaching-fellowship-opportunities-6th-year-students). Applications must be submitted to Wheaton
College by February 15.

2. Brown graduate students may apply to teach for one semester at Tougaloo College through the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership. Deadlines are February 15 (for fall) and October 15 (for spring). For more information see http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Brown_Tougaloo/programs/Brown-TougalooFacultyFellowsProgram.html

3. There are also a limited number of teaching exchanges with universities abroad administered through the various language departments, including our department’s exchange with Université de Paris-Est Créteil (consult the DGS for details).

FUNDING

The Tuition Requirement
Brown counts “tuition units” as well as academic credits: A full year’s tuition equals 8 tuition units. It is important to note that tuition units are not the same as academic units. As a Ph.D. student, you are required to enroll in and complete 13 courses for academic credit, but 24 tuition units must be paid for whether you take further courses or not (fellowship support and teaching assistantships pay for 4 tuition units per semester or 8 per year). Candidates for the Ph.D. must have tuition fees for the equivalent of 3 years of full-time study paid, unless they receive credit for work done at another institution. A Ph.D. candidate may transfer up to one year’s coursework. You must, therefore, have 16-24 units paid in order to fulfill the tuition requirement for the Ph.D. degree.

How to Pay for Tuition Units
If external fellowships do not pay for 8 units of tuition credit for each year awarded, the Graduate School generally does. For information on external fellowship opportunities, view the Graduate School’s website at http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/external-funding. Information on the Incentive Policy in relation to external funding is available in the Graduate School’s Handbook.

The Office of Sponsored Projects provides access to the Sponsored Programs Information Network, a database of funding opportunities designed to assist faculty and graduate students seeking external support for research, education, and development projects. SPIN’s main focus is research funding opportunities, and sabbatical and publication support. For further information, go to http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/office-sponsored-projects.

Summer Support
All doctoral students admitted to the graduate program are guaranteed summer funding (refer to your letter of admission for the number of years of support). This funding is intended for students to conduct research, study for their qualifying examinations, work
on their dissertations, or to advance toward their degrees in other ways.

**Part-Time Work Inside Brown**

The Graduate School recommends that students on stipend-based appointments avoid or minimize time spent on paid activities unattached to these appointments, although they may undertake such activities, if related to their professional training, for up to twelve hours per week. Please refer to the Graduate School Handbook for further details on this policy.

Students not on stipend-based appointments may find hourly work through the board maintained by the Student Employment Office [http://www.brown.edu/about/administration/student-employment/](http://www.brown.edu/about/administration/student-employment/). In the past many of the department’s graduate students have found part-time work during the semester and during the summer at the Writing Center, Women Writers Project, and Modernist Journals Project. The Graduate School currently mandates a maximum of 20 hours of part-time work per semester. On an individual basis, it is possible, in extenuating circumstances, to petition the Graduate School for an increase of this limit.

**Taxes**

Graduate students should be aware that teaching assistantships as well as other forms of employment at Brown are taxable. The University does not withhold taxes from fellowship awards. Students who receive fellowships are responsible for reporting their income accordingly. It is your responsibility to determine your tax liability.

**Conference Travel**

1. **Graduate School Funding**

   Graduate students in their first through fifth years of study who have been invited to present papers at academic conferences can apply to the Graduate School for funding up to $500 to cover related travel expenses. Students will be reimbursed for only one conference per academic year; reimbursement will not be granted for merely attending a conference. See [http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/conference-travel](http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/conference-travel) for information on reimbursement procedures, which should be submitted through the Department Manager.

   Students must submit a Travel Expense Report (accessible through the link above) to the Department Manager, with appropriate documentation of expenses, no later than 30 days after completion of travel; travel reports submitted after 45 days will not be reimbursed. Original receipts are required for reimbursement of all travel expenses. The Graduate School makes every effort to process reimbursement within 30 days, but it may take longer during the summer or busy times of the year. Information on conference travel and instructions on reimbursement of travel-related expenses can also be found in the Graduate School Handbook. Review the expense report in advance for guidelines on what
receipts to save during your trip.

On a case-by-case basis, students in their sixth year may request approval for conference travel reimbursement. Prior approval from the Graduate School is required. Please review the guidelines in the Graduate School Handbook before consulting with the Director of Graduate Studies and Department Manager regarding your funding request for conference travel.

2. Departmental Sponsorship
   If funding from the Graduate School has been exhausted, students in the first through fifth years may apply for departmental funding of conference travel and academic purposes approved by the DGS of up to $1,500 (for FY2017-18: July 1-June 30). For travel during the Fall semester, you should submit requests to the Department Manager, Tracy Miller, by October 30. For travel during the Spring semester, please submit your requests by February 15. These requests will then be evaluated and prioritized, and you will be notified whether the Department will be able to assist you. Although there can be a delay of several months between the submission and acceptance of a conference paper proposal, you are urged to submit a request for funds if there is a possibility that you will need them, so that the Department can allocate accordingly. In the event that you do not need the funds, the Department will retain them. The procedure for reimbursement is the same as that listed above.

3. International Travel Fund
   The Graduate Student International Travel Fund is available to full-time Brown graduate students who are conducting research abroad or delivering a paper at an international conference. The ITF is a supplementary allowance (ranging from $200 to $1,000) to assist with travel expenses for one professional trip per academic year.
   Application requirements and the online application form can be found at: http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/international-travel-fund

4. Graduate Student Council Travel Funds
   If you have exhausted the sources of funding above on other conference trips or are ineligible for them due to your 6th-year status, you may request support of up to $200 from the GSC. See the following link for details on the application procedure: http://students.brown.edu/GSC/static/conference-funding

5. Other Sources
   Organizations sponsoring conference events (the MLA, for instance) often have funding available to graduate student’s to reduce their cost of travel.

**Graduate Student Sponsored Lecture**
Each year, the graduate students in the department invite a speaker to campus. The graduate students shall decide as a group whom they would like to invite. You are encouraged to consider emerging voices in literary criticism and to consult with the
Director of Graduate Studies and other faculty before submitting your proposal to the Chair. This effort is spearheaded by that year’s Graduate Student Representatives (see below under Committees); however, all graduate students are strongly encouraged to take an active role in the nomination and voting processes and to participate in the events surrounding the visit. The lecture is usually scheduled for sometime during the spring semester and should be held at a time when broad participation can be expected (i.e. not Friday afternoon). Customarily, organizers write and deliver the speaker introduction (ask speaker for a CV or a biographical summary), arrange the dinner with graduate students that follows the lecture, offer to facilitate meetings with faculty members and graduate students with similar research interests, publicize the event campus-wide, and, if applicable, arrange a visit to one of the university’s archival collections. Contact the Department Manager for assistance with the logistical components of the visit well in advance of the date on which the event is to take place.

**Graduate Student Colloquium**

Each semester, faculty and graduate students are encouraged to share their current research in the department’s colloquium series. The Graduate Student Representatives are responsible for inviting faculty and graduate students to participate, introducing or arranging for someone else to introduce presenters (based on the presenter’s CV), coordinating with the Department Manager to reserve space and order refreshments, and publicizing each event well in advance of the date on which the event is to take place. Ordinarily the colloquium meets monthly.

**REPRESENTATION**

**Graduate Student Representatives**

Two graduate students (usually one 2nd-year and one in the 3rd- or beyond) serve as graduate student representatives. As such they have several responsibilities: 1) Attending monthly faculty meetings, taking their own set of minutes, which they report to the rest of the graduate students by email; reporting any major news or concerns on behalf of the graduate students to faculty assembled at the meeting. 2) Organizing the Graduate Student Sponsored Lecture, facilitating the nominations and vote, communicating with the speaker, publicizing the lecture, serving as their contacts during the visit, and introducing or arranging for someone else to introduce the lecturer (based on his or her CV or other biographical document). 3) Organizing events for prospective student visits and for the fall dinner meant to welcome their arrival. 4) Organizing the Departmental Colloquium.

The representatives for 2017-18 are Dennis Hogan and Brendan Lambert.

**Sheridan Center Representative**

The representative for AY 2017-18 is Elsa Charlety.
**Graduate Student Council Representative**

Usually a graduate student from the department in his/her first year of study represents the Department of Comparative Literature to the GSC and, in turn, distributes minutes of the monthly GSC meetings as well as other announcements to students in the department. By sending a representative to at least two meetings per academic year, the department becomes eligible to receive its rebate from the Student Activity Fund. The money ($5 per enrolled graduate student) should fund a collective social or professional event that benefits all of the students in the department. The 2017-18 Graduate Student Council Representative for AY2017-18 is Nicholas Kahn.

**APPENDIX A: Change in Status**

Any changes in a student’s status (leave of absence, withdrawals, part-time, changes in degree program) should be communicated in writing to the DGS. The DGS in turn submits notification of any change to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the Graduate School. The Associate Dean of Student Life, however, processes medical leaves.

**Leave Policy**

The department grants the following kinds of leave to our graduate students.

1. **Childbirth Accommodation:** A student in a graduate program at Brown who anticipates giving birth or adopting an infant during the academic semester, or during the period covered by stipend support, is eligible for an academic accommodation period, normally **eight weeks**. This period will typically cover late-stage pregnancy, delivery, and post-natal recuperation, and may also cover the process of adoption. The student should initiate discussions with the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) at least four months prior to the anticipated birth in order to make arrangements for the childbirth accommodation period. This will provide the time necessary to rearrange teaching duties for those students supported by teaching assistantships, or to adjust research schedules.

2. **Family Leave of Absence:** A student in a graduate program at Brown may take an unpaid family leave of absence for the birth or adoption of a child, for childcare, or for care of an immediate family member (spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent) with a serious health condition. Students may take a family leave of absence for **one or two semesters**.

   Complete information on the Childbirth Accommodation and Family Leave of Absence is available in the Graduate School Handbook:
   http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/graduate-school-handbook.

3. **Medical or Psychological Leaves of Absence:** A student experiencing a serious physical or psychological problem that affects his or her academic performance may be granted a leave for treatment and recovery. Complete information on the
Medical or Psychological Leaves of Absence is available in the Graduate School Handbook.

4. Professional Development Leave of Absence: A graduate student may take a one or two semester leave for an approved educational or professional development opportunity that advances the student’s pedagogical goals. Examples might include full-time professional internships or short-term teaching or research appointments at another institution. Complete information on the Professional Development Leave is available in the Graduate Handbook.

5. Academic Probationary Leave of Absence: A graduate student may take a one or two semester academic leave at the recommendation of the department for problems related to academic performance. Probationary leaves must be accompanied by a plan of action that describes what the student needs to accomplish during the leave in order to be considered for reenrollment in the program. Complete information on the Probationary Leave is available in the Graduate School Handbook.

6. Personal Leave of Absence: A graduate student may take a one or two semester leave for personal reasons, with the possibility of an extension for up to one additional year. Complete information on the Personal Leave is available in the Graduate School Handbook.

Readmission
Student’s who are away more than one year are no longer considered by the Graduate School to be actively enrolled in a degree program at Brown and must therefore apply to be reinstated. The procedure is basically the same as taking a leave of absence: you write a letter to the Dean of the Graduate School requesting readmission and notify the DGS that you are seeking permission from the department to return. If the DGS agrees, s/he will write a letter to the Graduate School in support of your request. You should keep in mind that there is a limit of five years between the date you submit your dissertation prospectus and when you complete your dissertation. A leave of absence counts as part of that time. If you pass the time limit and still wish to finish your dissertation, you will need to get the support of the DGS and the Graduate School that your dissertation topic has not become obsolete, that there are still faculty qualified and willing to serve on your committee, and that you now have the means and motivation to finish the degree. Additional information on readmission is available in the Graduate School Handbook, http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/graduate-school-handbook.

Partnerships with Other Institutions
Exchange Scholar Program
Advanced graduate students may apply for the opportunity to spend one or two semesters at participating universities. For more information, see http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/exchange-scholar-program
Cross-Registration at Harvard University
Brown students may enroll in courses at Harvard without paying tuition. Students in Comparative Literature have often taken advantage of this opportunity when Harvard offers the equivalent of 2000-level courses in a field of study that Brown does not. If interested, inquire about the appropriate forms at the Registrar’s Office, which require the signatures of your DGS and a dean in the Graduate School, as well as the DGS of the appropriate department at Harvard and a dean from its graduate school.

APPENDIX B: Summary of Ph.D. Requirements with Typical Timeline

1: Semester I: 1 COLT; 3: (Select from *)
1: Semester II: 1 COLT; 3: (Select from *)
2: Semester III: 1 COLT; 2: (Select from *)

TA Assignment
Consult with DGS regarding Major Lit Exam

2: Semester IV: 1 COLT; 1-2 (Select from *); (Optional: COLT 2980: Major Lit Prep)
TA Assignment
March 1: Submit Major Lit Exam final reading list
By the end of the 4th semester all distribution requirements in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd literatures must be fulfilled (*see below)

3: Semester V: 1 Seminar fall or spring
TA Assignment
Major Lit Exam: September

3: Semester VI: (1) fall or spring
TA Assignment
Complete Comparative Project
April 15: revised draft due
Schedule oral examination 8 weeks in advance

4: Semester VII:
September 30: submit dissertation prospectus
Begin dissertation
Fellowship Year/ No TA Assignment

4: Semester VIII:
Fellowship Year/ No TA Assignment

5: Semester IX
TA Assignment
Enter job market or apply for external funding/teaching fellowship

5: Semester X
TA Assignment
File dissertation and apply to graduate by May 1

The Graduate School makes some provision for 6th-year funding for students in good standing making good progress on their dissertations. Applications for this funding are

∗Select from a minimum of 4 courses in your major literature and 2 courses in your 2nd and 3rd literatures, considering the guidelines outlined in the Course Requirements section of the handbook regarding genre, period, and methodology.
due in January of the fifth year.
APPENDIX C: Summary of Important Dates, 2017-18

Please see also the calendars of the Registrar and the Graduate School: [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Registrar/calendar.html](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Registrar/calendar.html) and [http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/important-dates-deadlines-students](http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/important-dates-deadlines-students)

**Dates**

**Fall 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24-25</td>
<td>Pre-Orientation for International New Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Beginning of Graduate School Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Opening Convocation at 4:00 p.m. Registration of new students for the first semester (7:00 p.m. to midnight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Classes of first semester begin. Web registration begins at 8:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Last day to add a course without a fee (5:00 p.m. deadline). The web will be taken down for approximately one hour. Once re-launched, all course adds require instructor override and will be charged late fee of $15 per course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Last day to add a course (includes late fee), change from audit to credit, or change a grade option declaration (5:00 p.m. deadline).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples’ Day. No University exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Mid-semester deadline. Last day to change from credit to audit in a course (5:00 p.m. deadline).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Deadline for students currently on leave to apply for readmission for Semester II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7-14</td>
<td>Registration for Semester II.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deadline to request travel funding from the Department for Spring Conferences.**

**Departmental course proposals for the following AY (Fall and Spring) are due to DGS.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>End of pre-registration period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22-26</td>
<td>Thanksgiving recess beginning Wednesday at noon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Classes Resume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8-12</td>
<td>Reading Period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13-21</td>
<td>Final Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 1</th>
<th>Last day for payment of charges.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Classes of second semester begin. Web registration begins at 8 a.m. Theses of candidates for Masters and Ph.D degrees in May (on Semester I registration fee) are due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Last day to add a course without a fee (5 p.m. deadline). The web will be taken down for approximately one hour. Once re-launched, all course adds require instructor override and will be charge late fee of $15.00 per course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 17-20</td>
<td>Long weekend. No University exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Class resume. Last day to add a course, (include late fee), change from audit to credit, or change a grade option declaration (5:00 p.m. deadline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Mid-semester deadline. Last day to change from credit to audit in a course (5:00 p.m. deadline).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24-April 1</td>
<td>Spring Recess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Classes resume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>End of pre-registration period.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deadline for students currently on leave to request readmission from Graduate School (or with medical leave to Office of Student Life) for Semester I.

Deadline for students to submit application to graduate via Banner deadline for students to register to participate in Commencement.

April 27 – May 8  Reading Period.

May 1  Theses of candidates for Masters and Ph.D. degrees in May due.

May 8  Classes end for courses not observing the Reading Period.

May 9 – 18  Final Examination Period.

May 27  Commencement

Directory

Department of Comparative Literature

The department is housed in 346 Brook Street, Marston Hall, 20 Manning Walk, (Box E), Providence, RI 02912.

Administrative Positions
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Chair
Marc_Redfield@Brown.edu
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Room 109

(Updated 6/22/16)