

Romance Languages And Literatures

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

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Overview

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL) offers undergraduate majors and minors in French, Italian, and Spanish. It also offers courses in Humanities.

Fluency in foreign languages is a vital skill for today's university students, whether for professional, intellectual, or social reasons. Whatever their chosen career, the need for intercultural and linguistic competencies is widely recognized. The cognitive benefits of language learning are well known, and the cultural opportunities open to linguistically competent students will enrich their lives immeasurably. Accordingly, the programs in RLL develop in students a high level of linguistic proficiency in the Romance languages and deepen their knowledge of and interest in Romance literatures and cultures.

About our Degrees

The RLL department offers the B.A. degree, and minors, in [French](#), [Italian](#) and [Spanish](#). The department also offers a minor in [Latina/Latino Studies](#), and courses in other humanities fields. Further information can be found on the pages describing those programs.

Applications to the majors and minors are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are available at the department office or on the RLL website.

About our Courses

Courses are offered under the individual languages ([French](#), [Italian](#), and [Spanish](#)).

Students seeking teacher certification need to plan their curriculum with particular care. Information about teacher certification may be obtained from the Teacher Education Institute, Graduate School of Education, 367 Baldy Hall.

Acceptance Information

Acceptance into majors or minors is based on completing a designated number of 200-level courses with a minimum GPA in those courses. Students who do not meet the criteria for acceptance into a given program may be admitted on a provisional basis while they work to fulfill requirements. Application to the majors and minors in French, Italian, and Spanish is made when the student brings a copy of her/his current UB DARS report directly to the department, or when she/he applies online at the department website. Consultation with the department and completion of a formal application for acceptance into the program are required.

Transfer Policy

Transfer students are welcome in the majors and minors in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. To facilitate the evaluation of courses completed elsewhere, transfer students should submit course materials (catalog descriptions, syllabi, reading lists, papers, or exams) to the department. The number of transfer credits applied toward a major or minor is determined on an individual basis.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

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Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Study Abroad

One of the most effective and rewarding ways to master a foreign language and to learn about another culture is to live abroad. In an increasingly global economy, today's students recognize the crucial importance of international and cross-cultural experience, whether their field is in the humanities, business, science, or engineering.

Traditionally, students have participated in study abroad programs to improve foreign language skills, gain experience applicable to a variety of internationally-oriented careers, and expand their personal horizons. Today, new programs also allow UB students to tailor the study abroad experience of another culture to their degree curricula and career plans.

Students have the opportunity to study for the full academic year, a semester, or summer in such countries as Canada, France, Senegal, Italy, Cuba, Mexico, and Spain. Those who are eligible for financial aid keep that eligibility during the period in which they study overseas. The department offers a small number of study abroad scholarships. For more information about study abroad opportunities through UB and other institutions, contact the Study Abroad Programs office, 210 Talbert Hall, (716) 645-3912.

Career Information and Further Study

The Department of Education reports that U.S. corporations are beginning to place greater value on second language proficiency and awareness of other cultures in potential employees. Proficiency in another language as well as the research and analytical skills developed through the study of foreign languages and cultures are also assets for individuals who enter a variety of careers.

The following job titles are possible job opportunities for those who have a background in Romance languages. Further training, coursework and/or education may be necessary to obtain these positions:

Ambassador
Announcer (broadcast)
Attorney
Buyer/buyer's assistant
Caseworker
Consulting
Diplomat
Editor/editorial assistant
Employment interviewer or Affirmative Action officer
Financial planner
Foreign correspondent
Foreign language teacher or ESL/EFL teacher
Foreign service officer
Foreign student advisor
Importer-exporter
Journalist
Librarian
Media sales
Passenger service representative
Performer
Professor
Public relations
Sales representative
Translator/interpreter
Travel agent
Travel guide administrative assistant
Tutor
Urban/community planner
Wholesaler

Work Settings Include:

Advertising/communications
Arts management
Banking
Diplomacy
Education
Entertainment/theatre
Government
Human service agencies

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Law
Library science
Medicine
Sales and marketing
Science
Social work
Travel and tourism

Post-undergraduate opportunities

Many students who complete the department's undergraduate programs routinely continue their studies in graduate and professional schools with financial support in the form of Fulbright awards, prestigious fellowships, and teaching assistantships.

Degree Options

Students majoring in French, Italian, and Spanish are encouraged to add a second major or a minor in another Romance language. The director of undergraduate studies assists students in the planning of joint and double majors. Some popular double majors combine language study with English, geography, international trade, linguistics, mathematics, media study, and psychology.

Applications to the majors and minors are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are available at the department office or on the [RLL website](#).

Degrees Offered

There is no undergraduate degree offered in Romance Languages and Literatures itself. Rather, bachelors degrees, graduate degrees, and/or minors are granted in the languages ([French](#), [Italian](#), and [Spanish](#)) administered by the department.

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Romance Languages and Literatures](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#); 6 Executive Boulevard, Yonkers, New York 10701
- [American Society of Travel Agents](#); 1101 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314
- [American Translators Association](#); 109 Croton Avenue, Ossining, New York 10562
- [Modern Language Association](#)

- [U.S. Department of State - Languages Services Division](#); Washington, DC 20001
- [U.S. Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics](#); Washington, DC 20212
- [Modern Language Association](#)