

# FRANCOPHONE, ITALIAN AND GERMANIC STUDIES, PHD: ITALIAN STUDIES

The Graduate Program in Italian Studies in the Department Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania offers students a range of curricular options that provide a broad academic base in Italian literature, intellectual history, film, cultural studies, and critical theory, as well as the most current pedagogical theory and practice. Students are encouraged to shape a curriculum that will prepare them in a primary period of interest as well as a secondary focal area. Students may complement their studies with up to four courses outside the Italian Studies section—for example, in another Romance language, Comparative Literature, English, and History. Certificate programs in the areas of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, Global Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Cinema Studies and Urban Studies, for example, are also available. Interdisciplinary study is encouraged through participation in the wide range of seminars, lectures, and colloquia sponsored by the various Graduate Groups and affiliated research institutes and centers at Penn, including the Center for Italian Studies, and at the many cultural institutions in the Philadelphia area.

Great resources are available to the graduate students in Italian, including the world-renowned Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. The Program in Italian Studies collaborates actively with the Kislak Center to provide students with hands on experience with rare material in conjunction with classes, talks, conferences, and book exhibits. Additionally, individual dissertation research abroad is encouraged and summer research funding is available competitively through the Salvatori Fund or other sources.

Finally, the Center for Italian Studies coordinates scholarly activities among faculty and students across the humanities, organizing research groups, visiting lectures, film screenings and major academic conferences.

All students admitted to the program are awarded full financial support through the University's Benjamin Franklin Fellowships. Students who enter the program with previous graduate work may be eligible to transfer some credits toward the Ph.D.

**For more information:** <https://figs.sas.upenn.edu/italian/graduate-program> (<https://figs.sas.upenn.edu/italian/graduate-program/>)

## Curriculum

The Ph.D. program in Italian Studies is planned as a five-year sequence. Requirements for the Ph.D. include:

Code	Title	Course Units
FIGS 7770	Francophone, Italian and Germanic Proseminar <sup>1</sup>	1
FIGS Topics Course <sup>2</sup>		1
FIGS 5000	M.A. Exam Preparation <sup>3</sup>	1
ITAL 5990	Teaching and Learning <sup>4</sup>	1
<i>Literary Theory Course</i>		1
COML 5010	Comparative Literature Proseminar	
COML 6050	Modern Literary Theory and Criticism	

COML 6820	Seminar on Literary Theory	
COML 6090	Global France	
FREN 6050	Modern Literary Theory and Criticism	
GRMN 6050	Modern Literary Theory and Criticism	
ITAL 6050	Modern Literary Theory and Criticism	
SPAN 6820	Seminar on Literary Theory	
Italian Studies Electives <sup>5</sup>		12
Up to 3 courses outside Italian in another field pertinent to the student's area of specialization		

### Additional Requirements

#### M.A. Examination

At the end of the first year, in order to continue in the program, students must pass an oral M.A. exam, focused on a reading list of 25 titles. Students will attend a course in the second semester of their first year to prepare for the exam.

#### Foreign Language Requirement

A translation exam in two foreign languages appropriate to the student's prospective field of specialization (N.B. students specializing in Medieval or Early Modern studies must choose Latin as one of their two languages). To fulfill the requirement, aside from a translation exam, students may otherwise opt to take a summer reading course at Penn. The student's performance in the course will be evaluated by the course instructor together with the FIGS Graduate Chair.

#### Teaching Requirement

Four semesters of undergraduate teaching are required, one course per semester of the second and third years.

#### Dissertation Proposal

Following successful fulfillment of the Ph.D. Examination, the candidate will shape a dissertation project and writing schedule at the end of their third year, or at the beginning of their fourth year.

**Total Course Units** 17

## University PhD Benchmarks

In addition to Program requirements, the following milestones must be completed:

Code	Title	Course Units
Qualifying Evaluation		
Candidacy Examination		
Dissertation Defense/Oral Exam		
Dissertation Deposit		

For more information view the University's Academic Rules for PhD Programs (<http://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/academic-rules-phd/>).

<sup>1</sup> The FIGS Proseminar, FIGS 7770 Francophone, Italian and Germanic Proseminar, an introduction to graduate life—a course taken in the first semester of the first year.

<sup>2</sup> A content course usually taken in the second semester of the first year. Topic varies every year.

<sup>3</sup> Taken in the second semester of the student's first year.

<sup>4</sup> Teaching and Learning—a course taken during the first semester of the student's second year to support and implement their service as teaching fellows.

<sup>5</sup> A minimum of 9 electives in Italian studies is needed (cross-listed courses included). Courses will be chosen in consultation with the Graduate Chair. Depending on their content, courses from other departments may also count, with the approval of the Graduate Chair.

<sup>6</sup> Students are permitted to continue coursework past 17 course units with Graduate Chair approval.

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The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

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