

The Ohio State University

Graduate Program in German

One of the largest and most distinguished German programs in the United States

Committed as part of a public university to bringing the humanities to all people



<https://germanic.osu.edu>

Intellectual Community

Our graduate program covers all areas of German Studies, from medieval studies to contemporary film. The diverse theoretical approaches of our faculty and our active program of conferences, guest speakers, reading groups, and visiting scholars ensures that students are exposed to the rich variety of research in the field. Beyond scholarly monographs and articles, the faculty collaborate with living writers and artists as co-authors and translators. And they write for popular audiences in venues like *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *LA Review of Books*, *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and the BBC.



As part of one of the largest public universities in the United States, we are dedicated to preserving and expanding the role of the humanities for all people in higher education and society by pursuing cutting-edge interdisciplinary and transcultural work in German Studies.

Teacher Training at OSU

Ohio State is home to a thriving German program, with more than 1,000 undergraduate students enrolling in German courses every year. This means our graduate students have ample opportunity to teach at different levels including advanced courses of their own design. Our rigorous teacher training ensures our graduate students grow professionally and become seasoned practitioners.

Course of Study

Our students are required to complete four proseminars covering literary history, film, applied linguistics and linguistics, and cultural and intellectual history. This provides a thorough knowledge of German Studies and a complete methodological toolset. Otherwise, students are free to pursue a course of study tailored to their needs and interests.

Recent topic seminars:

- Transcultural Literary Studies
- Environmental Humanities
- Queer Literature
- Marx and Western Marxism
- Histories of Family and Self
- L2 Interactional Competence
- Fan Fiction
- The Icelandic Saga
- Post-War Film
- Vergangenheitsbewältigung

Students may complete coursework outside the department and pursue specializations and certificates in: Bioethics, Comparative Literature, Film, Folklore, Disability Studies, Literacy Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Second Language Studies, Sexuality Studies, Theater and Performance Studies.

Opportunities abroad

Thanks to partnerships with the TU Dresden and Uni Bonn, our students have the option to pursue study and research abroad as part of their course of study.

We also help our students apply for prestigious fellowships like Fulbright and DAAD, and to design their own research abroad, for instance working with migrants in Hagen and Dortmund.

Our Faculty & Research Interests

Matthew Birkhold: Law and literature, ecocriticism, German opera, Goethezeit, gender

Katra Byram: Narrative theory, ecocriticism, gender and cultural memory, post-war literature

John Davidson: film aesthetics and history, German feature and avant-garde, adaptations

Bernd Fischer: Aesthetics of recognition, transculturality, nation, German-Jewish thought

Anna Grotans: Paleography, philology, Eastern Franks, language contact in the Middle Ages

Robert Holub: Heine, Nietzsche, Marx, Habermas, intellectual history



Merrill Kaplan: Old Norse-Icelandic literature, folklore on and off the internet, legend

May Mergenthaler: Romanticism, poetry 1750-present, literary theory, ecocriticism, gender

Paul Reitter: German-Jewish culture, history of higher education, fin-de-siècle Europe; theory and practice of translation

Kevin Richards: Science fiction, gender and national identity, cognitive cultural studies

Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm: Applied linguistics, conversation analysis, interactional competence

For a list of recent faculty publications, visit our website: <https://germanic.osu.edu>

Mentoring & Placement

Careful mentoring and small classes ensure that our students are supported throughout the graduate program, from coursework through the dissertation to the job market.

We are proud of our academic placement record and publish a full list online. Our graduates work across the country at large universities and small colleges. We also actively support students who seek opportunities outside the academy. In 2017, our graduates started positions at the University of New Hampshire and Google.

Funding

Graduate students without an M.A. are guaranteed funding for a minimum of six years. Those holding an M.A. are guaranteed four years of funding. Our competitive funding packages are composed of health insurance, tuition and fee waivers, and teaching fellowships.

Our department also offers our graduate students a separate study abroad fellowship to attend the TU Dresden. And we provide ample support to ensure that our graduate students can present at conferences.

Our generous package, combined with the low cost of living in Columbus, makes our graduate students among the best-funded in the United States.

In the most recent NRC ranking, the German program at the Ohio State University was rated #1 for students based on funding and completion rates.

How to apply

The Ohio State University welcomes students from across the world with strong academic records and an established interest in German. Applicants must hold a BA or international equivalent and must be proficient in English and German.

Applications must include:

- CV or resume
- Statement of purpose
- Scholarly writing sample
- 3 letters of recommendation
- TOEFL iBT, if outside the US

To join the department in August, 2019, apply by **January 15, 2019**

To be considered for an additional campus-wide extra fellowship competition, apply by **December 15, 2018**

[Apply on-line](#)

Contact

Have questions? Our Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Bernd Fischer, would be happy to discuss our program with you.

Contact him at: fischer.5@osu.edu

Contact any faculty member to learn more about research, collaboration, and mentoring!

