

MA AND PHD PROGRAMS IN FRENCH STUDIES

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

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I. MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

I.1 Program Types

- A. There are two MA streams: **MA with thesis** (course- and research-based) and **MA without thesis** (course-based only).
- B. Studies can be full-time (normally, 4 credit hours, or 8 half-courses per year) or part-time (max 2 ½ credits per year).
- C. Duration of studies:
 - 1 year full time or 3 years part time for MA with thesis
 - 1-2 years full time and a maximum of 5 years part time for MA without thesis
- D. In some cases, a qualifying year/term may be required, with courses taken at the undergraduate level, in order to improve French proficiency and/or build up broad competence in the future area of study.

I.2 Admission Requirements

I.2.1 Regular Admission requirements

- B.A. degree in the area in which graduate work is to be done or an area relevant to the graduate work
- An average of at least B+ overall, or a B+ in all French classes
- A very good oral and written proficiency in French
- **FOR THESIS STUDENTS:** Interest in research in one of the three broad areas of specialization:
 - French and Francophone Literature and Culture
 - French and General Linguistics
 - French Second-Language Studies

I.2.2 Qualifying Year/Term Admission Requirements

- B.A. degree with completion of at least four undergraduate credits in French, with an average standing of B+ or higher
- Good oral and written proficiency in French
- **FOR THESIS STUDENTS:** Interest in research in the broad area of French and Francophone studies

I.3 Requirements after Admission

I.3.1 Qualifying Year/Term Requirements—for both MA with and without Thesis

- Completion of all qualifying courses, the number and type of which is specified by the Department on admission, with a minimum grade of B- (70%).

I.3.2 MA with Thesis Requirements

- 15 credit hours (corresponding to 5 one-term courses) at the graduate level, including a Research Methods course.
- When necessary in order to improve French proficiency or strengthen the research area, up to 6 additional credit hours, undergraduate or graduate, may be required.

- The MA thesis (equivalent to 12 credit hours) written in French, in the broad area of specialization
- 1 year of residency (classes spread out over 1 year) for full time students or three years of residency (classes spread out over 3 years) for part time students

I.3.3 MA without Thesis Requirements

- 27 credit hours (corresponding to 9 one-term courses) at the graduate level, distributed as follows:
 - Required Course: FREN 5996: Independent Studies, serving as an integrative capstone course.

CREDIT HOURS: 3

FREN 5996 is an integration of the learning and competencies developed in earlier courses. The Capstone Course is for students who are enrolled in an MA without Thesis. It normally is the last course that the student is taking. Based on individual learning objectives, Capstone Studies might be theoretical, interpretive, descriptive/analytical, or translational in character and can be centred on literature, linguistics, or culture.

PREREQUISITE: 18 credit hours at the 5000 level

EXCLUSIONS: Not open to students undertaking the MA with Thesis or the PhD programs.

The student will work under the supervision of one or more professors, and they will meet regularly (for example every two weeks) during a term. They agree on a topic together.

The topic can be for example an application of the knowledge the student acquired to an analysis (literary or linguistic). It could also be an application of what the student has learned to the area of his/her work (outside of Academia); how what they have learned could/would be relevant to their work. Finally, the student could bridge at least two topics from completed seminars (and the two professors who taught the courses would be the supervisors)

At the end of the course the student will produce a paper, written in French, and which will include a summary, a bibliography, end notes, etc. The length of the paper will be a minimum of 20 typed pages.

This paper will be read (corrected, approved and graded) by the course instructor as well as by one more member of the PhD committee (who will also make suggestions/corrections).

- Required Elective Courses: 3 credit hours in Literature; 3 credit hours in Linguistics; 3 credit hours in culture or "bridging" courses (e.g., Contemporary Culture, Linguistics and Literature).
 - General Elective Courses: 5 courses from regular calendar offerings.
- When necessary in order to improve French proficiency, up to 6 additional credit hours, undergraduate or graduate, may be required.
 - 1-2 years of residency (courses spread out over 1-2 academic years) for full time students and no more than 5 years of residency (courses may not be spread out over a period of time longer than 5 years) for part-time students.

Note:

Program fee students must register for REGN 9999 in all three terms. This is a general registration for the courses, necessary to be recognized as a full or part time student and be eligible to receive funding. REGN 9999 is listed in the [Academic Timetable Subject Listings](#) as "Registration Course—Graduate". Thesis students also need to register for FREN 9000 (Master's Thesis).

I.4 Suggested Schedule for 1-Year Full Time Thesis Students

1st term of study [normally starting in September]

- New graduate students will meet with the Graduate Coordinator. The Program requirements will be confirmed, and the Graduate Coordinator will advise regarding class selection.

- Canadian MA students should begin preparing their SSHRC fellowship application. The deadline is the first week in November, and the application requires considerable thought. For more information on scholarships and bursaries, please visit <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/finance-your-studies/scholarships-bursaries.html>
- Students should have found a thesis supervisor **by the end of their first term of study** and must notify the Graduate Coordinator of the supervisor's name. For administrative and practical reasons, students should ensure that they select a thesis director who will be readily available from the beginning to the end of their particular program.

Note:

For new students, the *Graduate Student Program Form* must be filled out to send to Graduate Studies. The *Graduate Student Program Update Form* must be filled out for returning students whose original program has changed (i.e., class adds/deletes, new supervisor, etc.).

2nd term of study

Students should be working with the thesis supervisor to define the thesis topic and do bibliographic research required for the preparation of the thesis proposal.

3rd term of study

Work on the thesis, with regular feedback from the supervisor.

Note:

It is the student's responsibility to obtain format requirements for the thesis from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

II. DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

II.1 Thesis Areas

A. LITERATURE

- French literature from the Middle Ages to the 21st century
- Canadian, Quebec and African literatures
- Popular literature, mass culture & ephemeral literature
- *Écriture féminine*, travel & contact literature, literature of the self
- Culture, in particular Francophone cinema, *bande dessinée*
- Discourse analysis, deconstruction, mythocriticism, post-modernism, post-structuralism, sociocriticism, postcolonial theories.

B. LINGUISTICS

- Semantics and lexicology, syntax, morphology
- Sociolinguistics
- Translation and terminology
- Linguistics applied to language teaching

II.2 Admission Requirements

- An MA thesis degree in French Studies or in Linguistics
- An excellent oral and written proficiency in French
- A scholarly interest in one of the PhD thesis research areas

II. 3 Requirements after Admission

- Two years of Dalhousie residency
- Four full graduate credits (corresponding to 8 one-term courses) from the departmental offerings in the years of residency
- Second-language examination (a language other than French or English), written before the end of the student's final year
- Preliminary and comprehensive written and oral examinations, taken not less than one year prior to submission of thesis)
- PhD thesis, written in French, and its oral defense

Note:

Program fee students must register for REGN 9999 in all three terms. This is a general registration for the courses, necessary to be recognized as a full or part time student and be eligible to receive funding. REGN 9999 is listed in the [Academic Timetable Subject Listings](#) as "Registration Course—Graduate". In addition, all students need to register for FREN 9530 (Doctoral Thesis).

II.4 Suggested Schedule for Full Time Students

Year 1

1st term of study [normally beginning in September]

- Students will meet with the Graduate Coordinator. The program requirements will be confirmed, and class selection will take place. The *Graduate Student Program Form* will be filled out and sent to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- All eligible PhD students (Canadian citizens and permanent residents) MUST apply for SSHRC doctoral fellowships to be eligible for continued funding. Also, Isaac Walton Killam Memorial Scholarships are open to Canadian/permanent resident students in the first three years of a doctoral program. Since these are very competitive scholarships and the applications require a lot of time to be prepared, you should start working in them as early as possible. You are encouraged to seek advice from your thesis supervisor and/or graduate coordinator on drafts of your proposal.
For more information on scholarships and bursaries, please visit <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/gradstudies/finance-your-studies/scholarships-bursaries.html>

2nd term of study

Students should have found a thesis supervisor by the end of the 2nd term of study. **For administrative and practical reasons, students should ensure that they select a thesis director who will be readily available from the beginning to the end of their particular program.**

3rd term of study

- The PhD Supervisory committee will be proposed to the Graduate Coordinator by the student's supervisor, after consultation with the student. The proposed members of the supervisory committee must be communicated to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for formal approval.

Note:

It is required by the Faculty of Graduate Studies that the Supervisory Committee meets with the student at least once per term.

- Early in the 3rd term the student will prepare a **reading list for the general exams** (written and oral), in consultation with the supervisor and/or supervisory committee. The proposed reading list will be conveyed by the supervisor to the Chair of the PhD Committee, who will circulate it to members of the PhD Committee for information.

1. The Reading List is to be drawn up by the Student, in consultation with the Supervisor and Supervisory Committee. Once approved, it is submitted to the Ph.D. Committee, for information.
2. For literature students, the Reading List will consist of forty titles, divided into three categories, to be chosen as follows: **1)** Literary theory, principally as it relates to the Student's chosen area of research; **2)** Chosen area of research, considered broadly (e.g. 18th century French literature, or 19th century French literature, or Quebec literature, etc.); **3)** One related theoretical and/or thematic and/or periodical topic, as chosen by the student. All categories may include substantial articles as well as book-length works.
3. For linguistics students, the Reading List will consist of forty titles. Up to ten of these may be substantial journal articles. At least ten titles will be outside of the Student's principal area of research.

- The rest of the 3rd term will be devoted to reading and preparing for the general exams.

Year 2

- General exams take place: **written exam in mid-October** (for students who began their program in September the previous year), **and the oral exam, based on written, one or two weeks after written exam.** Students are required to pass both components.

General exam: written

1. For students of literature, the written part of the General Exam will consist of three separate take-home essays, corresponding to the three categories chosen.
2. There will be two shorter literary essays (eight to ten pages, typed and double-spaced, plus bibliography) and one longer one (twelve to fifteen pages, typed and double-spaced, plus bibliography), the latter to be based on the Reading List category corresponding to the Student's principal area of research, i.e. category **2**.
3. Literature students will be given one week for each of the shorter essays, and two weeks for the longer essay.
4. For students of linguistics, the Written exam will be in two parts, both to be written at home
5. The first part of the linguistics exam will consist of a number of precise questions corresponding to everything covered by the Reading List.
6. The second part of the linguistics exam will be an essay (twelve to fifteen pages, typed and double-spaced, plus bibliography) on a topic closely tailored to the Student's principal area of research.
7. Linguistics students will be given one week for the first part of the exam and two weeks for the second part.
8. The exam questions are prepared by the Supervisory Committee (coordinated by the Supervisor) and made available to the Ph.D. Committee, at least one week prior to the exam period, for information.
9. The essays/answers are marked by the Supervisory Committee, who assess them individually, then meet to discuss them. Pass/fail results are made available, for information, to the Ph.D. Committee, via the Committee Chair.
10. The pass/fail result is communicated to the Student by the Chair of the Ph.D. Committee (or, if s/he is a member of the Supervisory Committee, by the Graduate Coordinator or the Department Chair).
11. Contact between Supervisor and Student will be minimal during the written examination period. Should questions of a technical nature arise during this period, the student will contact the Ph.D. Committee Chair. If the Ph.D. Committee Chair happens to be the Supervisor, an alternate will be named.
12. At the end of the Written exam period, and after the assessment meeting of the Supervisory Committee, the Supervisor will give the Student limited feedback on the Written exam.
13. The Student must pass the Written exam in order to qualify for the Oral.

General Exam: Oral

1. The Oral will be based on the Written Exam essays and answers and will last from sixty to ninety minutes.
2. All members of the Ph.D. Committee constitute the Examining Committee for the Oral.
3. Ideally, there should be at least five Examiners (Supervisory Committee plus two). Under no circumstances will there be less than four.
4. The Examining Committee is normally chaired by the Chair of the Ph.D. Committee or the Graduate Coordinator or the Department Chair (or a delegate), but not by a member of the Supervisory Committee.
5. Only the Student and the Examining Committee will be present at the Oral.
6. Copies of Written exam essays (made before marking, by a designated staff or faculty member) will be made available to members of the Ph.D. Committee intending to participate in the Oral. Extra copies are also brought to the Oral. The Student will receive fresh copies at that time, as will any Examiner needing

them. All copies are to be treated as confidential by Examiners and returned to the Department once the Oral is over.

7. The Student will not bring notes to the Oral.

Failure of Exams

1. Students are required to pass both the Written and the Oral components of the General Exam.
2. Any exam in which a Student is unsuccessful may be retaken once.
3. For each unsatisfactory essay result a new essay topic will be given, and the essay written under the same conditions as before.
4. Written exams and Orals can be retaken 3-4 months after the first attempt.

- After the exams are completed, attention must be turned to the preparation and writing of the **detailed thesis proposal**, to be submitted **before the end of Student's second year**.

1. The Proposal, including the title of the thesis, will consist of at least twenty double-spaced pages, plus a bibliography of at least forty titles.
2. In the Proposal, the Student will a) explain the subject, its relevance and importance, b) describe related questions which have already been studied (references to be included in the bibliography), c) propose new questions, explain them, and d) explore various possible approaches and justify the chosen approach.
3. The Proposal is submitted to the Supervisory Committee for approval, and, once approved, is made available for information to members of the Ph.D. Committee, who may wish to make suggestions to the Student individually.
4. If the proposal is rejected by the Supervisory Committee, the candidate must withdraw from the programme.

- Preparation should start for the second-language reading exam. The language requirement must be completed **by the end of the student's final year**.

1. What is being tested is passive knowledge of the language, such that it is sufficient for a review of literature relevant for the thesis preparation.
2. The task consists of a translation of a text (3-5 pages) in the chosen language, related to student's thesis area, and a 500-700 word summary thereof, in English or French.
3. Exam conditions: the maximum duration of 3 hours, no computers, access to paper dictionaries.
4. The exam is marked PASS/FAIL.
5. In the case of a student whose mother tongue is neither English nor French, the relevance of the mother tongue to the thesis area will be discussed by the Ph.D. Committee. If deemed appropriate, the Second Language Exam requirement may be waived in such a case.

Note:

The Annual Progress Report is due if you are finishing your second year or beyond; you will receive a reminder about this.

Year 3

Work on the thesis.

III. MEET THE FRENCH DEPARTMENT

Department phone: +1 902 494-6816
Department fax: +1 902 494-1626
Department e-mail: french@dal.ca
Department website: www.dal.ca/french

III.1 Departmental Administration

Dr. Raymond Mopoho is the Chairperson of the French Department. He represents the Department on all university-related matters and oversees the Department.

rmopoho@Dal.Ca

(902) 494-2018

McCain Building Room 3105

Dr. Jasmina Milićević is the Graduate Coordinator. She represents the Department on all graduate program-related matters and is your point of contact for advising.

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(902) 494-1720

McCain Building Room 1005

Mr. Kenneth Hervey is the Graduate Program Administrator. He is your first point of contact for all administrative questions (registration, funding, forms, etc.)

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III.2 Faculty Research Areas and Contact Information

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17th and 18th century literature, autobiography.

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For a comprehensive list of all members of the Department, see <www.dal.ca/french>.