FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

All graduate students in the department receive financial support in the form of renewable teaching assistantships or fellowships, each carrying a generous stipend ($21,150 in 2014-2015) and full tuition scholarship. Doctoral students receive a very competitive funding package: six years of funding, with a total of four semesters funded free of teaching. All new students receive two semesters of fellowship without teaching in their first year, and students in good standing also receive two semesters of Dissertation Fellowship, also without teaching, at or near the end of their program. Qualified candidates may compete for multiyear graduate fellowships awarded by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences: the Olin Graduate Fellowship for Women and the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship.

Additional sources of funding include widely available summer support (research assistantships or fellowships of about $3,000 per summer). Our faculty actively assists students in applying for external funding in national competitions. Our students also may use a portion of their fellowship support to fund research abroad.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Washington University offers an outstanding exchange program that allows interested students to spend one year at the prestigious École Normale Supérieure in Lyon. There they improve their language and teaching skills while taking classes, conducting research, and acquiring invaluable cultural experience.

— Antoine Krieger, PhD 2013
Assistant Professor of French, College of William and Mary

After graduating I worked as a sports translator in London, a financial news reporter for Market News Service in Frankfurt, and a newswire correspondent for Agence France Presse before making the switch to academia. Recommendations from internationally known professors outstanding in their specialties was key in landing my first tenure-track position. Whether you plan to work in the corporate world or in academia, a French degree from Washington University is a highly valuable asset.

— Christa Jones, PhD 2006
Assistant Professor of French, Utah State University
Our Department of Romance Languages and Literatures is one of the most active in the country. In the French section at Washington University, we are deeply committed to a dynamic program of excellent quality. In and out of classes, professors try to create an open and supportive environment for the development of graduate students in diverse fields. The program studies literature in an interdisciplinary and multicultural context, with attention given to all periods and genres. The program therefore gives you and your advisor considerable freedom to plan a course of study that responds to your needs and interests. Our faculty’s fields of expertise combine the study of French literature (including Francophone regions of Africa, the Caribbean, and North America) with the arts and sciences as well as with theory, politics, and film. We encourage students to take a certain number of courses outside the department that complement the French program. You also have the opportunity to work with members of other departments and programs by participating in our research and reading groups for faculty and graduate students (http://rll.wustl.edu/research) and by attending the lectures of our many prestigious guest speakers.

With us you have the possibility of pursuing a doctoral degree in French or jointly in French and Comparative Literature. You may, in addition, earn a graduate certificate in language instruction; translation studies; film studies; or women, gender and sexuality studies. Students who hold appointments as teaching assistants receive exceptional pedagogical training in the methods of communicative language teaching, with an emphasis on writing, and teach at all levels in an undergraduate language program recognized widely as one of the most successful in the United States.