Admission

Admission to the program is based upon the applicant’s potential for scholarship, research, and teaching, along with evidence of a commitment to the advanced study of language, literature, and culture. Decisions on admission and financial awards are based on all available information, including undergraduate record, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, GRE scores (recommended but not required), and a writing sample to be submitted with the application. Whenever possible, the department will arrange for campus visits. A preliminary consultation with the graduate advisor is encouraged. Please contact Professor Goldstein at cbgoldstein@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-3716.

For applicants who wish to be considered for fellowships or financial aid, the deadline is January 15. Otherwise, the deadline is May 31.

Teaching Assistantships

A limited number of teaching assistantships are available to qualified students starting in the first year. Students who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships in French or any other department or program should complete and return the TA Application (available on the French Department website) as soon as possible, but in no case later than March 1.

Scholarships and Fellowships

University scholarships and fellowships are available to students with exceptional academic qualifications. Applications are available online once the admissions application is complete. The deadline to apply is January 15 for awards beginning the following academic year.

Other Financial Aid

Information concerning grants, loans, and work-study assistance is available from the Financial Aid Office. Inquiries concerning housing costs and availability should be directed to Student Family Housing or the Community Housing Office. Correspondence should be mailed to the appropriate office at the university postal address:

University of California, Davis
One Shields Avenue
Davis, California 95616

The graduate program in French at UC Davis offers rigorous programs leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in both French literature and French linguistics.

The program is distinguished by individualized study and intensive collaboration between faculty and students.

The faculty prides itself on its strong tradition of mentorship and encourages students to develop a truly unique course
Jeff Fort
Professor Fort works on twentieth-century French literature, critical theory and philosophy, with an emphasis on philosophical readings of fiction and questions of narrative voice. His teaching interests include autobiography, texts dealing with memory, and the merging of testimony and fiction in first-person narratives, as well as contemporary critical theory, aesthetics, and the literature of transgression/transcendence. He has written a growing number of happily unpublished poems.

Claire Goldstein
(Graduate Advisor) Professor Goldstein specializes in early modern French literature and material culture. She is the author of Vaux & Versailles: The Appropriations, Erasures, and Accidents that Made Modern France. Her current project, Comets in the Sun King’s Cosmos: Circulation and Epistemology in Early Modern France, examines the culture of spectacle and observation in Louis XIV’s France. She enjoys Davis’s farmer’s market and bike-friendly lifestyle.

Noah Guynn
Professor Guynn has research and teaching interests in medieval literature, philosophy, and theology; gay and lesbian studies; and literary and critical theory. He is currently writing a book on the ethics and politics of late-medieval and early-modern theater. A talented amateur pianist and choral singer, he is especially passionate about early music (from ars antiqua to the baroque).

Eric Louis Russell
Professor Russell’s research interests include theoretical linguistics, phonology, the phonology-phonetics interface, grammar theory, grammatical change, and creolization. His teaching interests are in these same areas, but with a particular focus on French, Romance, Creoles, and dialectology (including, for instance, the history of French and Romance). He is also an active competitor in triathlons.

Julia Simon
(Chair) Professor Simon works in the field of eighteenth-century studies, including literature, philosophy, music, and the history of ideas. In addition to eighteenth-century studies, her teaching interests include critical theory, the history of French culture, and social and political theory. On most weekends you can find her playing bass in her blues band.

Tobias Warner
Tobias Warner specializes in francophone literature. His current book project traces the emergence of the Senegalese literary field through a history of its friction with other cultures of textuality. He has published on modes of translation in the francophone African novel. Other interests include postcolonial and critical theory, and world literature. A recovering music journalist and DJ, he wrote the liner notes for a compilation of Senegalese Hip-Hop.