

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

French Studies Program

Hispanic & Italian Studies Program

Slavic & Eurasian Studies Program

Guidelines for the Graduate (PhD) Foreign Language Translation Exam

The purpose of this two-hour exam is to assess your ability to use a foreign language as a tool for scholarly research in your major field in your doctoral program. To this end, you will be given a text of approximately 500 words in length to translate from a foreign language into English. To the extent that LLC faculty are able to identify readings appropriate to your field, the text may represent a piece of scholarship you might encounter in your own research. The text may otherwise be more general in nature, but appropriate for demonstrating your ability to understand the foreign language as a research tool.

Please note that current LLC faculty are able to assess reading knowledge of the following languages: Arabic, Dutch, Catalan, French, German, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, and Finnish.

Students who are native speakers of languages other than English may petition to translate a text into their native language. For example, subsequent to a petition, a native speaker of French might be granted permission to translate a German text into French rather than English if an examiner were available to assess that work. Only students who have been given **prior** approval will be allowed to translate into any target language other than English.

The LLC faculty member evaluating your work will be looking for evidence that your knowledge of the structure and vocabulary of the foreign language is sufficient to allow you to understand, with the help of a dictionary if needed, the text you have been assigned. S/he will be primarily concerned with the accuracy of your translation in conveying what the author intended and with your ability to convey the text's meaning in comprehensible English. **To pass the exam you will be expected to complete the translation in the time allotted.**

Your exam will be handwritten. You may bring a bilingual dictionary to the exam. Other aids such as reference grammars are not permitted. **No food is permitted in the exam room.** A beverage is allowed.

IMPORTANT: Please note that the exam must be written legibly. Handwriting must be reasonably neat and legible. If the faculty member assessing your work cannot easily read it, your exam will be marked as failing.

The results of the exam will be mailed to you as soon as they are available, usually two to three weeks after the exam has been completed.