

LLC FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION EXAM FOR PHDS

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What aids are permitted during the exam (e.g., dictionary, laptop, etc.)?**
You may bring your own dictionary, but no grammar books, vocabulary lists, or dictionaries with grammar sections are allowed.
- 2. Would it be possible to type up the translation rather than write it?**
No, laptops are not allowed. Handwriting must be legible or the exam will be failed.
- 3. What kind of text are we required to translate (e.g., fiction, non-fiction, news article, article related to area of study, etc.)?**
To the extent possible, texts will be appropriate to your field of study and representative of scholarship you might encounter in your own research. They are selected as suitable for demonstrating your ability to understand a foreign language as a research tool.
- 4. What are the criteria used for evaluating the translation?**
To pass the exam you will be expected to complete the translation in the time allotted. The faculty member evaluating your work will be looking for evidence that your knowledge of the structure and vocabulary of the language is sufficient to allow you to understand, with the help of a dictionary, the text you have been assigned. You are expected to accurately convey in your translation the text's meaning in comprehensible English.
- 5. I have scheduling conflicts, can I take it at another time?**
No, while we are sensitive to student needs, we regret that we cannot offer the exam more than twice a year. It is currently offered once each semester, usually in April and November.
- 6. Can I take it in a language not on the initial memo?**
Not unless there is a full-time faculty member in LLC able to grade it.
- 7. How many times can I take the exam?**
As many times as you wish; it is offered each semester.
- 8. I'm an MA student. Can I take the exam?**
No, the exam is only offered for PhD students who need to demonstrate reading ability in a foreign language as a tool for research within their PhD programs. We regret that we cannot accommodate MA students who wish to take the exam at this time.
- 9. Can I bring food into the exam room?**
No, food is NOT permitted. Other than a beverage, the only things allowed in the exam room are a dictionary (which the student provides) and pens or pencils. Students are advised to have a meal/snack before or after the exam if needed.
- 10. Does my program require this exam and what requirements for my PhD program does it fulfill?**
LLC cannot advise you on any PhD program requirements other than our own. You will have to check with your Graduate Advisor or Director for that information. Program requirements are specific to

the degree you are pursuing and as such should be checked with the department that awards the degree.