

## **Foreign Language**

The department will no longer have a formal, one-size-fits-all foreign language requirement, but we strongly encourage graduate students who do not have reading proficiency in at least one foreign language to undertake such study while at UC, whether in modern or ancient languages, computer coding, American Sign Language, etc. Learning a foreign language can be immensely valuable to students in helping them become citizens of the wider world (or more rounded job candidates); moreover, such study teaches important lessons about our own language and culture, and about the assumptions built into our ways of thinking by structures like grammar and syntax. The department will do all it can to help students for whom foreign-language study is personally or professionally important to gain access to such training, and to make sure that students on graduate assistantships continue to have access to up to six hours of such coursework per semester for free (always outside the departmental course count). We will also continue to build intra-university alliances and collaborations with the Department of Romance Languages & Literature and with other departments, and we'll offer occasional translation workshops, bilingual poetry readings, opportunities for peer training, and the like.

Students beginning the first semester of either the MA or PhD will be asked by the Director of Graduate Studies to share their history of language study, and to have a conversation with the DGS (who will coordinate and consult with the student's area director) about what additional language training, whether classroom work or translation projects or summer immersion programs or something else, might be relevant/helpful to the student. The department will work with students to put together a tentative plan based on the student's individual preferences and needs and to provide whatever support and mentorship is needed. This informal "plan" may be revisited, of course, as the student proceeds through the program and her or his aims/needs evolve.