**LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

MA students must demonstrate basic proficiency in one language other than English. PhD students must demonstrate basic proficiency in two languages other than English, or advanced knowledge of one.

**Basic proficiency** can be demonstrated as follows:

- a minimum grade of **2.7 in a full-year intermediate level language course**. Two half courses at the 200 level will satisfy the requirement. Often students have satisfied basic proficiency requirements during their undergraduate program. Consult the Associate Chair (Graduate Studies) to be sure.

- a challenge exam in the language requested. MLCS runs exams twice per year (see below). Only do the challenge exam if you do not have or will not acquire a full year of language courses at the 200 level on your transcript.

Examples of courses that satisfy the requirement for basic proficiency are the following full year intermediate courses: Modern Languages and Cultural Studies: FREN 211 and 212, GERM 211 and 212, GERM 265, ITAL 211 and 212, RUS 211 and 212, SPAN 211 and 212, and UKR 211 and 212. Department of History and Classics: GREEK 101 and GREEK 102, and LATIN 101 and 102. Native Studies: 152 and 252. Courses in other departments may satisfy the requirement as well.

PhD students must demonstrate either basic proficiency in two languages other than English, or advanced knowledge of one. **Basic proficiency** can be demonstrated as follows:

- a minimum grade of **2.7 in a full-year intermediate level language course**. Two half courses at the 200 level will satisfy the requirement. Often students have satisfied basic proficiency requirements during their undergraduate program. Consult the Associate Chair (Graduate Studies) to be sure.

- a challenge exam in the language requested. MLCS runs exams twice per year (see below). Only do the challenge exam if you do not have or will not acquire a full year of language courses at the 200 level on your transcript.

Often students have satisfied basic proficiency requirements during their undergraduate program. Consult the Associate Chair (Graduate Studies) to be sure.

Advanced knowledge may be demonstrated by passing a full-year (or 2 half year), upper-level (300-level or equivalent) language course with a minimum grade of 2.7 or by providing evidence of fluency.

**Computer Languages**: If a PhD student is working in a research area that involves computing, the demonstration of proficiency in a computer language may be used to fulfill one (but not both) of the language requirements. Basic proficiency in a computer programming language will be considered to have been achieved after one full year of study. Students may take courses in computer programming languages from the Computer Science department at the University of Alberta, or from another institution. If you think that you have basic equivalency in a computer programming language but do not have the courses on your transcript, you can complete a project, equivalent to a language challenge exam in length and scope. Contact the Graduate Program Administrator for more details.
Computer languages that can fulfil the requirement include Python, PerlScript or Java. Coding and GIS design courses cannot be used to fulfil the language requirement.

If you do not or will not have on your transcript the required courses, proficiency can also be demonstrated by taking a written examination with a member of the appropriate language division; MLCS offers periodically scheduled examinations for this purpose. Students will be provided with a written passage (approximately 1200-1500 words in length) and a series of reading comprehension questions. With the help of a dictionary, the student must read the text and provide written answers in English. The time allowed for the examination is two hours. If the student does not pass the exam, he or she may attempt writing it a second time. This year, the examination dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Exam</th>
<th>Winter Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am or 1:30 pm</td>
<td>9:30 am or 1:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room 200</td>
<td>Room 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Convocation Hall Building (A)</td>
<td>Arts and Convocation Hall Building (A)</td>
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</tbody>
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Registration Deadline: Nov 16, 2016  Registration Deadline: March 15, 2017

Contact mlcs@ualberta.ca to make your appointment to write the exam. You must register at least one week in advance.

PhD language requirements should be satisfied before sitting the candidacy exam.

The Rationale:
The capacity to read and study in languages other than English is a crucial component of graduate study in English. Virtually every project that students undertake in our department involves content that draws upon languages other than English. More generally, training in a language other than English offers crucial insights to the way that language generally and the English language in particular work. Finally, the ability to communicate in more than one language is an indispensable component of global citizenship.

Advice:
The language requirement should be fulfilled in a responsible way with respect to the student’s research project and career goals. The PhD requirement of basic proficiency in two languages other than English, or advanced knowledge of one should be considered the minimum. We recommend advanced knowledge of one language and at least basic proficiency in another. Students should ideally learn at least one of the languages most central to their research. Any students planning on a career in Canada should consider learning a Canadian language other than English. The department encourages students to begin their language training early on in their program. Ideally, the requirement should be met before the candidacy exam. If this is not the case, then an agreement between the student and the graduate chair’s office about how to fulfill the requirement should be outlined before the candidacy. The department encourages all students to continue their language training throughout their program.