

Information for prospective applicants for the academic year: 2009-2010

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE
GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HISPANIC STUDIES**

MAILING ADDRESSES

Department of Spanish/FIP
Graduate Section - Att. Ms. Rocío García
601 S. Morgan St. (M/C 315)
Office 1729 U.H.
University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, IL 60607-7117
U.S.A.

Office of Admissions and Records
Att. Ms. Erin Fagan
Office of Graduate Admissions
Box 7994 (M/C 018)
University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, Il 60680-7994
U.S.A.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Spanish, French, Italian & Portuguese offers coursework leading to degrees in

Master of Arts in Hispanic Studies
Doctor of Philosophy in Hispanic Studies

The M.A. program includes two options: Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies, and Hispanic Linguistics (descriptive and applied). The Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies offers two areas of specialization: Hispanic Literatures and Cultures, and Hispanic Linguistics (descriptive and theoretical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and second language acquisition). Students may also earn a Graduate Concentration Certificate from the Latin American and Latino Studies Program or from the Gender and Women's Studies Program. Additionally, a Graduate Certificate in Language Teaching is available to students who do not concentrate on applied linguistics.

For detailed information on our programs check: www.uic.edu/depts/sfip

Program Requirements

Master of Arts: 37 semester hours required.

Doctor of Philosophy: 96 semester hours required from the B.A. Students who have received and M.A. degree or its equivalent may receive up to 32 hours of semester credit toward the 96 hours.

PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION TO THE M.A. for ALL applicants

Please note: UIC has a general university application/fee deadline for domestic applicants and a separate one for international applicants; however, some departments have established an earlier deadline. The Department of Spanish/FIP is one of those departments. We have **ONE** deadline for both groups of students (domestics/internationals), which is **January 1st, 2009 (the online system closes on this day, and beginning this academic year, paper applications are no longer accepted at UIC)**. Also, the university has set guidelines/deadlines for submitting university requirements, but again, some departments have established their own guidelines. The Department of Spanish/FIP requires that **ALL** application materials (with the exception of the

online processes such as application/fee) be submitted directly to us, the department, and **NOT** the Office of Admissions & Records (as it's stated in the Office Admissions & Records webpage).

Therefore, we urge you to follow 2 important online steps **BEFORE January 1st deadline**:

University Requirements - Fill out completely AND submit **1) ONLINE APPLICATION** and **2) PAY the Application Fee**, please visit On-line Application link: http://www.uic.edu/depts/oar/grad/apply_grad.html

Other informational links:

Admissions Home Page <http://www.uic.edu/depts./oar/grad/index.html>

Frequent Answers/Questions for Graduate Applicants http://www.uic.edu/depts./oar/grad/grad_faq.html

Admissions Requirements (Office of Admissions & Records)
http://www.uic.edu/depts./oar/grad/admission_requirements_grad.html

Forms & Documents (including the Declaration and Certification of Finances Form)
http://www.uic.edu/depts./oar/grad/forms_grad.html

Residency Guidelines and Policies <http://www.usp/uillinois.edu/residency.cfm>

PLUS submit the following **Departmental Requirements**, preferably **ALL** in one envelope also by **January 1st deadline**:

A). One-page Curriculum Vitae, including: complete name, address, phone number and email address, educational history, degrees and academic honors, and detailed GRE results (if you took the exam), and TOEFL results (if you are an international student). If you have written an honors and/or MA/MS thesis/es, include the title(s). Include relevant professional experience.

B). A Statement of Purpose in Spanish or English approximately 300 words in length.

C). Official transcripts in a university-sealed envelope of all academic work completed for the B.A. or equivalent degree.

D). One (1) sample research paper written in Spanish.

E). Three letters of recommendation by upper-division professors on official university letterhead. Each should come in a sealed envelope signed by the professor, as well as the e-mail address of the recommender (in case we need to contact them).

F). Print and fill out to its entirety an Application for Graduate Appointment, which can be found at the following address: https://grad.uic.edu/pdfs/grad_appt.pdf

***G).** Applicants are strongly urged to take the GRE. If they do so, send us (the department), an unofficial copy of the scores. The original scores should be sent from the GRE testing office directly to the Office of Admissions and Records.

The following are **ADDITIONAL University Requirements** that pertain **ONLY** to **FOREIGN** applicants:

H). Official translations of ALL transcripts to be done either by a translation agency, an ATA certified translator, court-appointed translator or the consulate (translations that are simply notarized will not be accepted by the university).

I). Bank statement (on letterhead from bank institution) stating that the applicant or her/his sponsors have a minimum of \$26,000 dollars in a savings account. If the statement is not in English, the applicant needs to submit an official (notarized) translation.

J). Form: Graduate and Professional Declaration and Certification of Finances which must be notarized and have a seal, can be found at the following link: http://www.uic.edu/depts./oar/grad/forms_grad.html

***K).** This last requirement (TOEFL) must be sent to the **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS directly from the TOEFL institution --- we ask that applicants please provide us (the department), with detailed scores, that may be included in your CV.** The Office of Admissions & Records accepts 3 types of results. Here are the minimum for each (internet based, computer based, or written). Internet based MAIN scored of 80 with the following minimum sub-cores: Reading – 19, Listening – 17, Speaking – 20, Writing – 21 or a Computer Based minimum score of 213, or finally, a Written Score of minimum 550.

How to submit:

ALL items must be sent to Spanish/FIP in **ONE** envelope. Your name should appear on the front page of every document with the *exceptions G & K (GRE & TOEFL), for these official documents should go directly to the Office of Admissions & Records (unofficial copies or written results should be sent to the department).

Spanish/FIP mailing address (please do not omit any part of the address):

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DEADLINE to submit **ALL** requirements (University, as well as, Departmental -including online application and fee): **January 1st 2009**

PREREQUISITES FOR ADMISSION TO THE Ph.D.

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B). A Statement of Purpose in Spanish or English of approximately 500 words in length.

C). Official transcripts in a university sealed envelope of all academic works completed for the B.A. and M.A. or equivalent degrees.

D). Two (2) sample research papers, at least one of them written in Spanish.

E). Three letters of recommendation by upper-division professors on official university letterhead. Each should come in a sealed envelope signed by the professor, as well as the e-mail address of the recommender (in case we need to contact them).

F). Print and fill out to its entirety an Application for Graduate Appointment, which can be found at the following address: https://grad.uic.edu/pdfs/grad_appt.pdf

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APPLICATION TIPS

1. **Be informed.** Make sure the program you are applying for meets your needs. You can check our web site, the university course catalog and/or request information from us directly. Read the faculty profiles in our web page and see if their interests mesh with yours. It is not a bad idea to write to a faculty member directly with questions.

2. The **statement of purpose** is an extremely important document. It must be written and presented professionally: it must convince us that you are prepared to undertake graduate studies. It must tell us why you want to study the field you are applying for and why you want to come to UIC. If you are switching fields, explain to us why and whether you'd be willing to be admitted as a "Limited Standing" student. If you are applying for the PhD, the statement of purpose should include a research project in some detail. The statement of purpose should be clear, specific and to the point. We are not interested in vague or grand statements (I want to study linguistics because of my thirst of knowledge...). Biographical details are rarely relevant.

3. Sample **research papers** must be written and presented professionally. They must include a 200-word abstract right underneath the title. Make sure you revise them thoroughly so that they highlight your abilities. If you have them proof-read by a native speaker you might increase the chances of being accepted, but if your Spanish is inadequate for graduate school you will end up regretting it.

4. **Recommendation letters** can only be accepted if they are written in an official letterhead. For MA applicants, at least one of the letters should be written by an upper-division professor of Spanish and address your Spanish competence. For PhD applicants, at least one of the letters should address your competence in Spanish, at least two of the letters should be from professors of Spanish and at least two of the letters should be from the applicant's MA program. If you have been out of school for over five years, please contact us to discuss who could be a good recommender. Please ask your recommenders to be specific and to the point. General statements are not helpful. Compare: "she is a good student" with "she is in the top 10% of a class of 100 students".

5. **GREs.** Having high GREs greatly increase your chances of being admitted. Moreover, they may make you eligible for University Fellowships or external fellowships.

If you have questions regarding our Non-degree seeking status option or any other inquiries please do not hesitate to get in touch with us:

mexotic@uic.edu (Att. Ms. Rocío García) (312) 996-0254

A Brief Description of UIC

UIC is the largest institution of higher education in the Chicago area, and one of the 80 Research 1 universities in the United States. UIC's commitment to research is balanced by a commitment to provide a first-rate education to its 25,000 students: 65% undergraduate, and 35% graduate and professional. There is no ethnic majority on campus; UIC considers its diverse student population among its greatest strengths. The total holdings of the UIC Library include nearly 1.78 million books and bound periodicals. Students also have borrowing privileges at most academic libraries in Illinois. The Library has cooperative arrangements with other libraries and holds membership in the Center for Research Libraries. Valuable research collections in the Chicago area include the Newberry Library and the Chicago Historical Society.

UIC's park-like campus includes 100 buildings on 200 acres, with a growing residential development for students, staff, and faculty. The campus is surrounded by the historic ethnic communities of Greektown, Little Italy, and Pilsen, once a Bohemian enclave and now a vital Mexican-American neighborhood. UIC is within easy reach of the Loop, Chicago's business center, as well as of numerous cultural institutions, such as the Art Institute, the Chicago Cultural Center, the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and the Cervantes Institute. The city's many festivals-music, film, dance, and art-celebrate its numerous Latino and Hispanic populations. Chicago's famous "L" trains stop one block from the department, and offer inexpensive and efficient transportation to all parts of the city.

HISPANIC STUDIES FACULTY

Hernández-Pecoraro, Rosilie, Associate Professor, director of undergraduate studies and Interim Head. Ph.D., University of California, Irvine. Medieval and Golden Age literature, literary theory, gender studies.

Cameron, Richard, Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania. Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis.

González-Vilbazo, Kay-Eduardo, Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Universität zu Köln (Germany). Code-switching and bilingual grammars, semantics and pragmatics.

López-Carretero, Luis, Associate Professor. Ph.D., Cornell University. Syntax, comparative Romance linguistics.

Marsh, Steven, Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of London. Peninsular Literature.

Morgan-Short, Kara, Assistant Professor. Ph.D., Georgetown University. Second language acquisition with focus on neurolinguistics.

Niebylski, Dianna C., Professor. Ph.D., Brandeis University. Hispanic and Comparative literature.

Núñez-Cedeño, Rafael, Professor. Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Contemporary phonology and morphology, Hispanic dialectology.

Potowski, Kimberly, Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Spanish applied linguistics; second and heritage language acquisition.

Riera, Gabriel, Assistant Professor. Ph. D., University of California , Irvine. Hispanic and Comparative literature, Literary Theory.

Roa-de-la-Carrera, Cristián, Associate Profesor. Ph.D., Princeton University. Colonial Latin American literature and historiography.

Saona, Margarita, Associate Professor and director of graduate studies. Ph.D., Columbia University. Contemporary Latin American literature, gender studies, cultural studies.

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