

List of FAQs for Language Examination website

Does everyone have to take the language examination?

Yes. In special cases, such as a student who is a native speaker of a language other than English or whose research plans require special training in a skill comparable to learning a language (such as quantitative analysis), waivers may be granted by petitioning the Graduate Advisory Committee.

Do terminal masters' students need to take the exam?

Yes. For specific requirements check *Path II* under Foreign Language Requirement for Graduate Study in History at UIC: <https://hist.uic.edu/history/programs/graduate/phd/foreign-language-requirement>

Does everyone take the same exam?

No. Students who will be using the target language extensively in their research for their dissertation will take a translation exam (see *Path I*).

Students who will not be using a foreign language regularly (*Path II*) can fulfill the requirement in one of two ways: by taking an examination with an emphasis on paraphrasing rather than translation, or by getting an A or B in a relevant language course (either the graduate-level “reading knowledge” courses or the last semester of the basic language sequence, i.e., FR, SPAN, GER 104).

How do I know which path I'm on?

If you're uncertain which path applies to you, please consult with your advisor.

Can I take the exam more than once?

Students in Path I and Path II can take the exam up to two more times if they have not succeeded the first time.

When should I take the exam?

The language requirement should be fulfilled no later than the semester prior to taking the Comprehensive or Preliminary Exams.

Are there ways to work on my language skills outside of the classroom?

Yes! UIC offers many opportunities to practice your language skills outside of formal coursework. The Language and Culture Learning Center (LCLC), on the 3rd floor of Grant Hall, offers weekly conversation hours and movie screenings for most of the languages taught here at UIC.

In Chicago, you can also take advantage of the resources offered by the consulates or by cultural associations such as the Alliance Française, the Goethe Institute, or the Instituto

Cervantes. Most of the consulates offer a list of events, concerts, films, and other cultural opportunities in the Chicagoland area involving their country or language.

What if the language I want to use is not offered at UIC?

There are many opportunities (and fellowships!) available for the study of lesser-taught languages at other institutions, most of whom have agreements with UIC. The University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison all have summer programs in lesser-taught languages. You may also take language courses at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University through the Chicago Metropolitan Exchange program.

Major fellowships for language study, especially of lesser-taught languages:

The Boren Fellowships (although you must commit to working for the federal government for at least one year after graduation):

http://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/basics.html

The Critical Language Scholarship Program:

<http://clscholarship.org/>

The Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) (offered by the institutions where the language is taught, and therefore accessible through their websites *I'll double-check on this, but I'm fairly sure that's the case- you'd apply for a FLAS when you apply to the language program*)

Specific languages and areas of study often also carry fellowships and study abroad opportunities; for more information, contact your advisor or consult with Ellen McClure in the School for Literatures, Cultural Studies, and Linguistics.