

# MASTER OF ARTS IN SPANISH



## Why a master's degree in Spanish?

The United States is currently the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, second only to Mexico. By the year 2050, it is projected that the United States will become the country with the highest Spanish-speaking population in the world at 132.8 million (U.S. Census Bureau).

The ability to communicate complex ideas in Spanish and understand Hispanic cultures from Latin America to the Caribbean, and including the United States, is an asset. A Master of Arts in Spanish will greatly improve your language fluency and vastly expand your knowledge of Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean through the diverse study of culture and literature.

## Why a Spanish graduate program at BGSU?

The MA in Spanish at BGSU is widely recognized nationally and internationally and has attracted students from all over the US and many other countries over the past four decades. Students benefit from small classes and individual attention, allowing for the development of close student-faculty working relationships. In addition, students have the opportunity to study abroad in Alcalá de Henares, Spain for up to one full academic year to acquire cultural and linguistic skills in an immersion context.

## Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MA in Spanish will be able to:

- Communicate fluently in Spanish and achieve a level of advanced language proficiency.
- Gain an understanding of Spain, Latin America and US Latino/a/x communities through a critical analysis of cultural practices from literature and film to food and language use.
- Familiarize themselves with the most relevant theories and research questions in the fields of Spanish Sociolinguistics, Latin American Cultural Studies and Spanish Literary Studies.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Amy Robinson,  
College of Arts & Sciences, World Languages & Cultures,  
at [ma-spanish@bgsu.edu](mailto:ma-spanish@bgsu.edu) or call 419-372-7693.

## Program strengths and uniqueness

- Wide range of courses varying from second language acquisition and Spanish in the US to popular culture in Latin America, Hispanic literatures and Caribbean studies.
- Experiential learning in the US (with the local Latina/o/x Community) and abroad (Puerto Rico, Cuba, Panama, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic).
- Teaching Assistant Program: students gain valuable working experience as instructors of introductory Spanish language classes.
- BGSU's Own Study Abroad Program in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, where students may spend up to one academic year.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement within El Centro-BGSU: a space on campus for Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx studies.
- We support student research as co-organizers for several conferences (Latino Issues Conference, Ohio Latin Americanist Conference) and editors of an academic online journal, La BloGoteca de Babel.

## Professional opportunities

Spanish graduates are prepared for work in a variety of service-oriented fields including teaching careers at the high school, community college, and university levels, international careers like study abroad administration and teaching English abroad, and more business tracks in areas such as banking, economics, and international business.

Many of our graduates have also pursued service opportunities with organizations including US Latino/a/x serving organizations, AmeriCorps, and the Peace Corps. Others have enrolled in Ph.D. Programs in Literature, Linguistics, 2nd Language Acquisition, and Cultural Studies.



*"This program really opens doors. The study abroad opportunity, the one-on-one interaction with engaging and distinguished faculty, and the push to pursue individual academic interests all made for excellent training."*

— Dr. Matthew Barrile '11  
Associate Professor  
Ohio University

## Admission requirements

Applicants to the MA or Dual MA programs should have an undergraduate major in Spanish or have a Spanish minor with at least 20 semester hours of credit beyond the intermediate level and have a record of study in a Spanish speaking country or be heritage or native speakers of the Spanish language. Note: Applicants who do not meet these requirements may be admitted in exceptional circumstances.

The program strongly recommends that applicants have a minimum of a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA). Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted. Applicants to the MA program are also required to submit official scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

All applicants must submit a personal statement in Spanish, a writing sample in Spanish, and three (3) letters of recommendation. Optional additional materials are accepted, such as a resume/CV.

International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

## Cost of tuition

Please refer to [www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar](http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar) for current information on tuition and fees.

## Financial assistance

Full-time graduate students are eligible to receive a scholarship package including (up to full) tuition waivers to cover tuition costs and non-resident fees, plus a stipend for on-campus study and study abroad, if applicable.

Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## Curriculum

A total of 36 credit hours of coursework at the graduate level are required, as well as a two-part comprehensive exam.

### Sample Course Offerings (3 credit hours each)

- SPAN 6010: Teaching College Spanish
- SPAN 6200: Contemporary Spanish Civilization
- SPAN 6210: Contemporary Latin American Cultural Discourses
- SPAN 6260: Issues in Contemporary Mexican Literature and Culture
- SPAN 6270: Spanish American Cinema
- SPAN 6290: Latin American and Caribbean Music, Art, and Literature
- SPAN 6350: History & Identity in Spanish American Literature & Film
- SPAN 6360: Spanish American Women Writers
- SPAN 6550: Hispanic Linguistics
- SPAN 6800: Postcolonial Latin America
- SPAN 6800: Heritage Language Pedagogy
- SPAN 6800: Second Language Acquisition

### Comprehensive Exam

**Part I:** Over the course of the first year, all Spanish M.A. students take a Qualifying Examination related to key fields and issues within "Spanish Studies": Spanish linguistics, literary criticism, and cultural studies. Specific instructions regarding the format of the exam are distributed prior to the first semester of study.

**Part II:** During the second year, beyond regular coursework, all students choose between writing a master's Thesis option or a "Final Project" option. Either option will be completed under the guidance of one faculty member director and will culminate with an oral presentation of the thesis or final project to a committee of three professors (including the director) by the end of the second year.

### How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://www.bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions).

**For fall admission and funding consideration,** the priority application deadline is February 15. Applications received after that date will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

