

# COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, PH.D.

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## Admission

Applicants should have a minimum 3.00 GPA in their undergraduate major and 3.50 GPA in graduate course work. They should have minimum GRE scores of 500/153 on the verbal section and 4 on the analytical section (or scores of 400/146 and 3.5, respectively, for non-native English speakers). An applicant whose native language is not English is required to submit a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (iBT), or 570 (paper-based). The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5. Applicants are asked to submit a writing sample of 3,000 words and a statement of purpose (300 words maximum).

## Application Procedure

- Students are invited to go to the Graduate School site (<http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>) and apply online (<http://gradschool.sc.edu/prospective/apply-grad.asp?page=apply>). Paper applications are no longer available. All material should be sent to the graduate school in one packet. This material includes the following:
  - 3 letters of recommendation from instructors familiar with the student academic work, each sent in a sealed official envelope with the recommender's signature across the seal
  - an undergraduate transcript
  - a 250 word statement of purpose: explain the connection between USC's programs and your personal goals
  - a writing sample (in the relevant language; English for non-natives of the English language) of between 1000 and 2500 words. This could be a paper written for an undergraduate course or an essay prepared specifically for the application.
- A five-minute sample of your spoken French, German, or Spanish is required of non-native speakers. Non-natives of English must also demonstrate proficiency in this language by a speech sample. The speech sample should be saved as an mp3 file on a CD.
- Applicants who wish to be considered for an assistantship must apply by **January 15**.
- Candidates who do not wish to request financial assistance should complete the application process no later than June 1.
- Applications submitted to the Department after June 1 will not be processed for the Fall semester but for the following Spring.