Interdisciplinary & Foundational

The Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies places great importance on interdisciplinarity. Faculty affiliations with Comparative Literature, European Studies, Film and Media Studies, Jewish Studies, Linguistics, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Religious Studies, Science Studies, and Women and Gender Studies help shape interdisciplinary dialogue in many of the seminars regularly offered. Graduate students are also encouraged to engage affiliated faculty members with research interests in German Studies at both campuses working in other disciplines (Art History, History, Music, Philosophy, and Political Science). The Graduate Program also values an in-depth knowledge of the foundations of German literary and cultural history. The combined expertise of the core faculty, one of the biggest in German Studies in North America, ensures that every chapter in German literary, cinematic and cultural history, from medieval manuscripts to contemporary cinema, is covered by experts in the field.

Two Universities

Incoming students matriculate fully at both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. Classes are offered every semester on both campuses and students travel via an express bus that departs every half hour. Over the course of the program, students will acquire teaching experience in a private (Duke University) and a public (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) setting.

Course of Study

The faculty offers seminars on a wide variety of topics designed to provide students with a broad foundation in German Studies and to introduce them to cutting-edge research in the field. During the first two years, students complete five core seminars: Pedagogy; Foundations in German Studies I (1200-1800) and II (1800-present); Middle High German; and German Linguistics. Students take seven electives in the program and two additional interdisciplinary courses outside the program. Prior to the dissertation, students will take a preliminary exam, and an oral defense is required upon submitting the dissertation. Both UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University offer graduate students ample study and research opportunities in Berlin, Duisburg-Essen, Potsdam and Tübingen.

The Degree & The Profession

Students graduate with a diploma bearing the names of Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The faculty’s students have secured jobs in German Studies at public and private colleges and universities big and small throughout the United States.

Graduate Funding

All students who matriculate to the Carolina-Duke Program in German Studies will receive funding that covers tuition and health insurance and provides a stipend for five consecutive years. See website for details.
The Core Faculty

Ruth von Bernuth: Early Modern Literature and Culture, Yiddish Studies, Folly Literature, Disability Studies.

Aleksandra Prica: Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture, Media Studies, Literature and the Bible, Literature and Knowledge, Poetology and Hermeneutics.

Eric Downing: 18th-20th-Century Narrative Fiction, Literary Theory, Realism, Aestheticism, Ancient-Modern Relations, Modernism.

Jakob Norberg: Postwar Literature & Society, 20th-Century Austrian Literature, Political Theory, the Public Sphere.

Stefani Engelstein: 18th-19th-Century Literature and Science, Transnational Romanticism, Gender Studies, Aesthetics.


Kata Gellen: Modernism, Film, Fin-de-siècle & Post-War Austrian Literature, German-Jewish Studies.

Thomas Pfau: 18th- & 19th-Century Literary & Intellectual History, Philosophical Theology, Phenomenology, Aesthetics.

Bryan Gilliam: Modern Aesthetics and Music, Opera, Weimar Republic.

David Pike: 20th-Century Literature, East German & Soviet Culture & Politics.


Inga Pollmann: Film & Media Theory & History, Early Cinema, German Cinema, Film & Science, Aesthetic & Critical Theory.


Clayton Koell: Modern Literature (Thomas Mann & Franz Kafka), Literary Theory, Philosophy & Aesthetics, History of Criticism.


Priscilla Layne: Film & Music, Subculture Studies, Gender Studies, Afro-German History & Culture, Multiculturalism.


Laura Lieber: Jewish History, Ancient History, German & Jewish Relations.

For more about the faculty, their research interests, and their publications, visit the website:
carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu

Admissions
The Graduate Program seeks prospective students who demonstrate academic excellence. We welcome applicants from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds from the U.S. and abroad. A bachelor’s degree or the equivalent is required in German Studies or a related field. Applications must include a statement of purpose and a writing sample. For details about the required application materials, visit: carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu/application
To apply to the Graduate Program, visit: gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/

Applications are due on December 8, 2015.

Contact Information
Questions regarding the Graduate Program can be addressed to either of its two directors of graduate admissions:
Dr. Stefani Engelstein
Duke University
stefani.engelstein@duke.edu

Dr. Jonathan M. Hess
UNC-Chapel Hill
jmhess@email.unc.edu

Life in the Research Triangle
Chapel Hill and Durham occupy the western half of central North Carolina’s Research Triangle. Home to roughly two million residents, the Triangle is a growing cosmopolitan hub for education and research, culture and sports, business and government. Historically and culturally rich, Chapel Hill (as well as Carrboro to the west) and Durham have been repeatedly lauded as university towns that take pride in their diversity and openness. Both cities are thriving with venues for live music, theater, the performing and the visual arts, and both enjoy a nationally renowned food scene. A short distance to the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Chapel Hill and Durham are superbly linked via air and rail to regional, national and international destinations.