A Ph.D. Program in German Literature, Media, and Theory

One of the leading programs and largest faculties in German Studies in North America, the Carolina-Duke Graduate Program builds our vibrant intellectual community around three core commitments:

Texts: we emphasize the careful interpretation of literature, film, and other media and discourses.

Theories and Methods: we offer deep engagement with methodologies such as literary theory, philosophy, intellectual history, and science studies, as well as affiliations across the disciplines with Jewish Studies, Literature departments, History, Music, Philosophy, Divinity, Art History, Political Science, Women’s and Gender Studies, and the Center for Philosophy, Arts, and Literature.

Historical Depth: we anchor intellectual development within knowledge of German-language literature and culture from the medieval to contemporary periods.

Through close collaboration with faculty advisors, each student molds their individual research agenda while receiving pre-professional guidance and mentored pedagogical training at both an elite private university and a top public university.

Graduate Funding

The program offers students who remain in good standing at least six years of full funding, including tuition, living stipend and health insurance.

Program

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 the leading edge of 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, 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.

Two Universities
One Program

Earn a German Studies PhD at Carolina-Duke!

The Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies combines the resources of two great universities in a curriculum that joins disciplinary rigor with interdisciplinary flexibility to create an internationally acclaimed center of excellence for graduate training, research, teaching, and scholarly exchange.

http://carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu
The Core Faculty

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

**Jakob Norberg:** 20th Century, Intellectual and Cultural History, Political Theory.

**Cori Crane:** Applied Linguistics, Language Pedagogy and Curriculum Development, Systemic Functional Linguistics, Language Teacher Education.

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

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

**Henry Pickford:** Philosophy and Literature, East German & Soviet Culture & Politics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Paul Roberge:** Historical Linguistics, Pidgins & Creoles, Afrikaans, Language, Ethnicity & Politics, Origin & Evolution of Human Language.

**Richard Langston:** 20th- & 21st-Century Literature, Modernism & Avant-Garde Studies, Critical Theory, Film & Media Studies.

**Gabriel Trop:** 18th-Century Studies, Poetry & Poetics, Romanticism, Philosophy & Aesthetics.

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

**Ingeborg Walther:** Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Pedagogy, 20th-Century Literature.

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

**Christina Wegel:** Pedagogy, 20th-Century Literature, Drama, Performance Studies.

For more about the faculty, their research interests, and their publications, visit the website: [carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu](http://carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu)

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**Applying to the Graduate Program**

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. Application deadlines are generally in mid-December for the following academic year, which begins in August. For details about the required application materials, visit: [http://carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu/apply](http://carolina-duke-grad.german.duke.edu/apply)

To apply to the Graduate Program, visit: [gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/)

Applications are due on **December 18, 2018** for academic year 2019/2020.

**Questions regarding the Graduate Program can be addressed to:**

Dr. Henry Pickford  
Duke University  
[henry.pickford@duke.edu](mailto:henry.pickford@duke.edu)

Dr. Ruth von Bernuth  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
[rvb@email.unc.edu](mailto:rvb@email.unc.edu)

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**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.