



ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Providing a world of opportunities to students and opening doors around the world

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures is known internationally for its innovative interdisciplinary approaches to literary and cultural studies. The study of language, history, and society is an integral component for the development of an educated citizenry. Undergraduate and graduate students prepare themselves professionally in any combination of the fields of French, Francophone, Italian, Linguistics, Mediterranean, Spanish, Latin American, Caribbean, Portuguese, and Luso-Brazilian studies. The department seeks to expand their strengths through its longstanding commitment to research coordinated with a variety of study abroad and experiential opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

In Romance Languages and Literatures, students have opportunities to better understand the world. They engage the wide array of cultural differences around the globe through language learning in our elementary French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish classes—nearly 6,000 students a year—or through advanced courses on the literatures and cultures of regions from Africa to Canada. Once they leave the university, students use this education in foreign language and culture in a variety of ways. Graduate students from the department accept faculty positions at colleges and universities all over the U.S., where they define new research paradigms and practice innovative pedagogy. And undergraduates go on to fulfilling careers in education, law, international relations, business, government, and public health organizations.

In order to continue its innovative, engaging program of study and to recruit and retain leading scholars, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures needs generous support from alumni and friends. Gifts will increase the variety of learning experiences it offers through scholarships, fellowships and support for visiting scholars.

GUEST SPEAKER SEMINAR AND LECTURE SERIES

Faculty and graduate students in romance languages are active in bringing exceptional and world-class scholars to the University of Michigan. This provides an excellent opportunity for students to meet with national and international scholars, artists, and writers in the context of romance studies, often providing students with additional opportunities to meet these scholars in smaller venues. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually provide resources to host guest speakers and to develop a lecture series.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE FUND

The very best way a student can gain a thorough knowledge of a language and a culture is to spend time studying abroad to experience full linguistic and cultural immersion. Internships, volunteer grants, and research grants are particularly valuable for students because they provide opportunities to improve practical language and cultural skills, gain work experience, and develop pedagogical sophistication by interacting with people on a daily basis in a variety of settings. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually, for a variety of undergraduate study abroad experiences, will make it possible for more students to grow in language development and cultural awareness and to be able to participate in enriching research opportunities. There is a particular need for funding for programs in Spanish speaking regions of the world.

SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Foreign research is central to the departmental mission and to the professional development of graduate students, the majority of whom are future teachers and researchers at the college level. Funds for graduate program summer research fellowships allow graduate students to advance their research agendas and complete their degree in a timely fashion. An endowed gift of \$100,000 per student would provide the support that is needed.



“Because [Spanish and French] were so fascinating to me, I originally wanted to double minor in them. However, with the help of RLL advisors, I discovered the Romance Languages and Literatures major—something that was perfect for me. The university also helped me find my calling in psychology and the environment; I wanted to combine [them], and use social science to motivate people for collective actions that will benefit the planet earth and human earth. And, to realize my dream to work and live in foreign countries, my language skills will help me better interact with the local communities.”

—Daicy Hexiao Yu, A.B. '21,
*2021 Chiara Maria Levin Award for
Breadth and Excellence in the Romance
Languages*

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

The department's status as an internationally recognized leader in romance languages attracts a pool of the best applicants in the field to study in our program. The ability to get top students to come to Michigan is linked to the competitiveness of student funding packages, which provide time for these scholars to immerse themselves in study. Endowed fellowships of \$1M or \$50,000 annually help offset the sometimes marked difference between the funding packages that heavily endowed private institutions are able to offer their prospective graduate students and those available from a large, public institution like ours.

NAMED ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

A named endowed professorship is an excellent way to bring recognition and prestige to a department, thereby improving its ability to compete for premier faculty in the discipline. The possibility of hosting a named endowed professorship will strengthen department course offerings and research agendas over the long-term and broaden areas of specialization to benefit the field at large. A professorship can be named with an endowed investment of \$2.5M.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.



for what's next ▶

Look to Michigan

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