

Research in Modern Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature

The departments of Modern Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature are part of Queen Mary's School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, a large, multidisciplinary School with some 80 PhD students covering a wide range of research specialisms. We are currently inviting applications from highly motivated students who wish to contribute to our productive and dynamic research community.

Research Areas

Comparative Literature

Our research spans antiquity to the present, with particular strengths in the 19th century and contemporary periods. Our supervisory capacity includes Western and Eastern Europe, South and East Asia, the Francophone Caribbean, and Arabic-speaking territories, as well as World Literature, with expertise in critical theory including postcolonial and decolonial approaches and transnationalism. We have interests in: adaptation, translation, reception studies; childhood cultures; environmental humanities; ethics; fashion; history of the humanities; literary theory; mythology; philosophy; history of sexuality and visual media.

You can also align your research with, and benefit from, the work of our Research Centres: the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations, the Centre for Catalan Studies, the Centre for the History of Emotions, and the Centre for the Study of the Nineteenth Century and its Legacies.

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Comparative Literature: **Dr Rachel Bryant Davies**
r.bryant-davies@qmul.ac.uk

Modern Languages and Cultures

Our research interests range from the Medieval period to the present day, and across all the world cultures associated with the Catalan, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, as well as Chinese languages. We have specific expertise in all literary genres as well as Visual Cultures and Translation and Adaptation Studies. Current projects focus on cultural and aesthetic paradigms, the history of emotions, the connections between culture and politics, the history of ideas, gender and sexuality, questions of language policy and language ideology, and the theory and practice of translation.

Modern Languages and Cultures:
Semester One — **Professor Will McMorran**
w.s.mcmorran@qmul.ac.uk
Semester Two — **Professor Else Vieira**
e.vieira@qmul.ac.uk

Application process

1. Identify a potential supervisor.

Before making a formal application to one of the PhD programmes on offer, you should discuss your ideas with a potential supervisor within the School. Use departmental staff lists to find a supervisor.

2. Develop your research proposal.

Your research proposal is an important element of our decision-making process. You should work closely with your potential supervisor to develop this.

3. Gather the necessary documents.

Your application will need to be supported by a number of other documents. Before applying online, make sure you have collected everything, including two academic references.

4. Complete the online application form

qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/subjects/

All applicants to the School are automatically considered for QMUL Principal's Studentships, and no additional application for this studentship competition is required. For other schemes (e.g., LAHP, LISS), an additional funding application may be required. Check the funder's website for details.

Entry requirements

- PhD research proposal that has attracted support of a prospective supervisor
- Bachelor's degree with at least 2:1
- Master's degree with merit (60%) or higher
- IELTS 7.0 overall with minimum of 7.0 in writing if English is not your native language.

Application deadlines

September 2024 entry

- HSS Principal Studentships: **24th January**
- China Scholarship Council: **31st January**
- Self-funders can inquire with prospective supervisors throughout the year.

NOTE: Some external funding bodies require a separate application, with different deadlines.

Please check here for information:

qmul.ac.uk/scholarships/database

Funding

- Mobile People: Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Scholarships
- QMUL Principal's Postgraduate Research Studentships
- London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP)
- London Interdisciplinary Social Science (LISS) Doctoral Training Partnership
- There are also specific international scholarships schemes. These are co-funded and applicants should make an applications to the sponsor as well as to Queen Mary.
- Self-funded applicants are welcome to apply.

More information on each scheme can be found at qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/funding_phd

Student profile

Anchit Sathi, working on: Queer parenthood in European modernism: Reflections on Thomas Mann, Virginia Woolf and Marcel Proust, supervised by Profs Rüdiger Görner (MLC) and Kiera Vaclavik (CL)

"As a mature student who turned to academia after a two-decade-long career in business, and as someone with 2 month-old twins at the start of this PhD, I wanted to make sure that my university of choice was not just academically prestigious but that it was also attentive to my unique needs. With the benefit of hindsight, I can unequivocally confirm that QMUL—whose offer I accepted despite holding a highly selective AHRC fellowship for another UK university—has been the right choice for me."