

PhD Fellowships/Promotionsstipendien, Columbia University in the City of New York

For the fall of 2027, the [Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures](#) at Columbia University offers competitive **six-year doctoral (PhD) fellowship packages** in the field of German literature and culture.

The Department

Columbia's Germanic Languages and Literatures department is one of the leading programs in the US and Canada. The course of study incorporates a strong literary and theoretical component with additional strengths in film and media studies, intellectual history, gender studies, literature and science, as well as German-Jewish culture and Yiddish language and literature. The program has a historical focus of roughly 1750 to the present and a flexible emphasis on theory and methodology. Beyond coursework and dissertation writing, we aim to foster a collegial intellectual community. Department colloquia and workshops provide opportunities for faculty and students to share ideas and connect. We also regularly welcome distinguished scholars and speakers from across the United States and Europe to share their work at our dedicated event space, Deutsches Haus.

Interdisciplinary Coursework, Certificates & Campus Culture

Students are encouraged to combine their study of German literature and culture, literary theory, and intellectual history with coursework and research beyond the department. Comparative and cross-disciplinary work can be pursued in conjunction with other graduate programs and numerous specialized institutes. The department has strong ties with [the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society](#), [the Institute for the Study of Sexuality and Gender](#), the [Center for Comparative Media](#), the [Department of Art History and Archaeology](#), and the [Department of Archaeology](#), as well as other language departments such as [French](#) and [Slavic](#). One of Columbia's greatest assets overall is its vibrant cross-departmental intellectual culture, including a broad range of [University Seminars](#) that facilitate ongoing intellectual pursuits bringing together faculty and graduate students over many semesters.

International and Inter-University Study

Strong ties to our international partner institution, the Free University in Berlin, along with the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research, Humboldt University and a range of institutions and colleagues in other locations (including Zurich and Vienna) allow students to engage in study abroad. We are also part of the [Inter-University Doctoral Consortium](#) that allows students to take individual classes at other leading universities in the region.

Mentorship

Our PhDs receive excellent training in teaching pedagogy, close mentoring in academic writing, grant applications, or the organization of conferences and events. We are proud of preparing them for successful careers in and outside the academy. The department's [placement record](#) has consistently been among the very best in the country.

Location New York

With its unique cultural offerings, vast library system, museums, and vibrant cultural life, New York is an ideal place to study German literature and culture in a transnational context.

Surrounded by three parks, life in Morningside Heights is quiet and comfortable by New York standards (and Metro North takes you to some of the area's greatest hiking destinations in just about an hour). At the same time, Harlem nightlife is very close and the downtown scene but a 20-minute subway ride away.

Fellowship and Application Detail

The fellowship offers six years of full financial support, including summer funding, tuition fees, and health insurance. While training and practice in language instruction and pedagogy are important parts of the fellowship, actual teaching obligations are limited, facilitating timely progress towards your degree. Columbia provides affordable housing opportunities close to campus.

Prerequisites for application: BA or MA in German Studies or related fields; high academic achievements; advanced proficiency in English.

Applications are to be submitted online at:

<https://apply.gsas.columbia.edu/apply/#main-content>

Submitted documents should include: Online application form; three letters of recommendation; coursework transcripts; diplomas (or official letter confirming the date of degree); Curriculum Vitae; statement of purpose and plans for further study; 20-page writing sample; and results of the TOEFL or comparable language test if your prior university study was not in English.

For further information, please contact Professor Claudia Breger, Director of Graduate Studies, at: cb3328@columbia.edu. We also invite you to join us on zoom for an open Q&A on November 4, 2026, noon EST/New York (= 18 Uhr MEZ; 9am PST); <https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/94223353823?pwd=jHQZZJVqb01KpQgcbe0QXziLJgKtEa.1>.

Deadline for applications: January 7, 2027

Notification about admission: February/March 2027