



LSA

ROMANCE LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

THE POWER

The Department of Romance Languages and Literatures is known internationally for its innovative interdisciplinary approaches to literary and cultural studies. We view the study of language, history, and society as 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. We seek to expand our strengths through our longstanding commitment to research coordinated with a variety of study abroad and experiential opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

In Romance Languages and Literatures, we offer students the opportunity to better understand the world. Our students engage the wide array of cultural differences around the globe through language learning in our elementary French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish classes—where we teach 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, our students use this education in foreign language and culture in a variety of ways. Our graduate students accept faculty positions at colleges and universities all over the U.S., where they define new research paradigms and practice innovative pedagogy. And our undergraduates go on to fulfilling careers in education, law, international relations, business, government, and public health organizations.

THE IMPACT

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 we offer through scholarships, fellowships and support for visiting scholars.

Named Endowed Professorship

\$2.5M endowed

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 our course offerings and research agendas over the long-term and broaden our areas of specialization to benefit the field at large.

Graduate Student Fellowship

\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually

Our status as an internationally recognized leader in romance languages attracts a pool of the best applicants in the field to study in our program. Our ability to get top students to come to Michigan is linked to the competitiveness of our student funding packages, which provide time for these scholars to immerse themselves in study. Fellowships 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.

Summer Research Fellowships for Graduate Students

\$100,000 endowed per student / \$5,000 annually per student

Foreign research is central to our departmental mission and to the professional development of our 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.



Undergraduate Study Abroad Experience Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

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 our students since 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 for a variety of undergraduate study abroad experiences will make it possible for more of our students to grow in language development and cultural awareness and to be able to participate in enriching research opportunities. We have a particular need for funding for programs in Spanish speaking regions of the world.

Guest Speaker Seminar and Lecture Series

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

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 provide resources to host guest speakers and to develop a lecture series.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

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