

Foreign Language Study: Information for Incoming Graduate Students

Incoming graduate students, especially Ph.D. candidates, may want to get a head start in planning for and satisfying their departmental foreign language requirement(s). Here are two options.

1. Graduate School Summer Language Program

The Graduate School sponsors intensive courses in selected foreign languages during the summer. These courses provide a general introduction to the language and are meant to assist graduate students in acquiring a reading proficiency normally adequate to satisfy departmental language requirements. This means that the student will come away with a basic knowledge of the language and the skills to read it. Certification of successful completion of the course(s) is provided by the Graduate School.

Normally, two classes each of French, German and Spanish and one of Latin are offered, assuming sufficient demand. A minimum of 15 students enrolled is needed for a class to be held. Enrollment is capped at 18 students per section. Classes meet five days a week from 10 a.m. to noon during the six-week periods of June 8-July 17 and July 20-Aug. 28 (2009). Tuition is charged (\$900 per course).

Interested applicants should go to <http://gso.princeton.edu/academics/support/summer/> for additional details and the course registration form.

2. Regular Academic Year Foreign Language Courses

Graduate students may also consider taking regular Princeton foreign language courses during the academic year. To assist the language departments in placing you in the appropriate course in September, when you will sign up for Fall Term courses, we *strongly urge* you to take the appropriate On-Line Placement Test during the period July 15 – August 15. Here is how to go about it.

To access the Princeton Online Language Tests, log into Blackboard <https://blackboard.princeton.edu> using your new Princeton net I.D. during the testing period, July 15 to August 15. Click on the “Courses” tab in the top frame, then on “Language Placement Tests” in the Course Catalog module. A list of the language tests offered will be displayed, with an “Enroll” button. (If there is no “Enroll” button, then you have accessed the site outside of the July 15-August 15 window.) Clicking “Enroll” takes you to the “Self Enrollment” page where you should hit the “Submit” button and then, on the subsequent page, the “OK” button. This will take you to the test site. (If you experience any difficulty in accessing the tests, please send e-mail to blackboard@princeton.edu.)

The language tests are timed; each is one hour long. Timing is automatic from the instant you open the test. The test window will close after exactly 60 minutes.

Second chance: Make-up Placement Tests are normally offered again in September during freshman orientation week. While we *strongly urge* you to take the placement test during the July 15-August 15 summer period, if you missed those dates, please contact the appropriate language department’s office to find out when the make-up test is scheduled.