

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PHD PROGRAM

2019-2020



Graduate Student Handbook

1. Introduction

The Comparative Literature Program at the University of Maryland, distinguished by its emphasis on reading in original languages, promotes the rigorous study of multi-disciplinary texts, discourses and media. Students admitted into Maryland's selective Comparative Literature program benefit from interactions with an internationally recognized core faculty with strengths in literatures of the Americas, the Atlantic, Africa, and the African Diaspora, Europe, and Israel, and the Jewish Diaspora, as well as expertise in literary theory, postcolonial studies, digital humanities, film, and LGBT studies.

Students entering our rigorous five-year PhD program may already hold an MA degree either in English or in another language and literature or may be directly admitted with a BA degree either in English or in another language and literature. All admitted students receive support in the form of fellowships, teaching assistantships, or a combination of both.

Since the University of Maryland is located just ten miles from Washington DC, we have easy access to the city's rich cultural and scholarly resources, including the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Folger Shakespeare Library, and the National Archives. By enrolling in our program, Comparative Literature students join an exciting, diverse, engaged and thriving intellectual community.

2. Who to contact

Oliver Gaycken is the director of the Comparative Literature Program. He will be your advisor in relation to policies, procedures, and degree requirements. He will also provide registration permission, which you will need before you sign up for courses. In addition, he oversees students' progress to degree, recruits prospective students, coordinates fellowship awards (see note under Fellowships), and assists in preparing students for the job market. (2116D Tawes, ogaycken@umd.edu)

Heather Dias is the graduate coordinator for the Comparative Literature Program. She provides stamps for graduate courses; keeps track of the various forms you will need and every deadline set forth by the department and the Graduate School; (2116C Tawes, hdias@umd.edu)

Zita Nunes is the Associate Chair of the English department. She is responsible for your teaching assignments. (2119C Tawes, znunes@umd.edu)

Shannon Bobbitt is the Associate Director of Finance and Personnel for English. Her office coordinates payroll, fellowship disbursement, and benefits. Visit the Department's Business Office in 2119 Tawes for paperwork regarding payroll and benefits. (2119F Tawes, sbobbitt@umd.edu)

Scott Eklund is the Academic Writing Office's administrative coordinator. He is in charge of office and desk assignments for all graduate students. Visit him in 1116 Tawes, the Academic Writing Office, for information regarding your office assignment and any concerns related to teaching ENGL 101. He will also explain proper use of the copy machines in 2106 Tawes, the graduate student copy and mail room. See note under "Teaching" for more information regarding ENGL 101. (seklund@umd.edu)

GerShun Avilez is the Director of Graduate Placement. He is available for consultation for how best to approach the academic job market when you reach the dissertation stage of the program. (2116B Tawes, avilez@umd.edu)

3. Registering for Classes

You are required to obtain permission for courses from the Director Graduate Studies before you register. Mandatory advising with the DGS takes place at the beginning of both the Fall semester and the Spring semester. This is an opportunity for you and the Director to evaluate your progress toward degree and to discuss any matters that may require discussion, such as course selection, committee members, examination scheduling, etc.

Course descriptions are located on the English Department website:

<http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/courses>

You can register for classes via Testudo, the main website for student services.

<http://www.testudo.umd.edu> will allow you to register for classes or to be placed on the waitlist if a desired course is full. Please consult the Graduate Coordinator or Director for questions and clarifications.

All graduate students must register for courses and pay associated tuition and fees each semester, not including summer and winter sessions, until the degree is awarded.

4. Satisfactory Progress

You will meet with the Graduate Director at least once a semester during the first year to assess progress and the advisability of your intended degree track. You are also required to meet with the Director once a year until the completion of your degree.

Incompletes: Although we recognize emergencies can occur that may warrant a student's requesting an incomplete, we discourage you from taking incompletes. Your request for an incomplete must include notifying the Graduate Office that you are electing the incomplete option by the end of the semester in which the incomplete is taken (a form for such notification is available from the Graduate Office) as well as an agreement from the instructor of the course.

Coursework related to the incomplete must be finished by the end of the next semester and you may not take your qualifying exams with outstanding incompletes.

You are expected to complete your coursework by no later than the fifth semester in the program.

You are expected to advance to candidacy by successfully passing your qualifying examination by the sixth semester in the program.

You must file an approved dissertation prospectus no later than four months following your qualifying examination.

You must achieve a GPA of at least 3.5 to proceed to the qualifying examination. Likewise, incompletes must be completed before you may proceed to the qualifying examination. Exceptions may be granted by the Comparative Literature Graduate Director only in extreme and extenuating circumstances.

You must keep regular contact with the Comparative Literature Graduate Director and your dissertation committee upon achieving candidacy and submitting an approved prospectus.

You must defend your dissertation by the end of the 5th year (tenth semester) in the program.

For extensions to this schedule, you may petition the Comparative Literature Graduate Director through your dissertation committee.

5. Degree Requirements

1. Coursework

The CMLT Program requires ten courses, completed in four semesters of coursework. These courses will establish coverage in English and one other language's literature. These requirements include ENGL602 (Critical Theory and Literary Criticism), ENGL 611 (Approaches to College Composition), one graduate level course with significant engagement with historical perspectives; two CMLT designated seminars, one of which concerns the history and theory of media (e.g. film, history of the book, digital studies), and five remaining course, selected with Director and Advisor. If appropriate graduate classes are not offered in your non-English language of choice, you may substitute independent studies or 400 level courses, with the Comparative Literature Director's permission.

At the end of each semester of coursework, you must meet with the Director and your advising team to fill out your self-evaluation form, which can be found on the website under Paperwork and Deadlines.

II. Qualifying Exam

By the end of your second semester in the program, you should begin the process of identifying a director (or two co-directors) for the qualifying exam. The director should be able to guide you in a comparative approach to the literatures you intend to work with for your dissertation.

The guidelines for the qualifying examination in Comparative Literature require students to prepare two lists totaling 120-150 works and an examination committee of at least 4 faculty members, including your director. The general list (covering works in all languages you will be working in) is oriented toward primary sources of a field of literature and/or critical theory. The focused/special topic list (also covering works in all languages you will be working in) is for secondary/critical sources on a subject linked to the proposed dissertation topic. In consultation with the examination committee, a scope for both lists will be established prior to establishing the list.

Once the list is drawn up, you must have your committee members sign off on the reading list. Please present a signed copy of this list to the Graduate Office when you come in to schedule your exam, at least one month prior to taking the exam. Please have your examination committee generate possible dates and times for your exam prior to talking with the Graduate Coordinator about reserving a room.

You will be given two questions one week before the examination. These questions, written by the cochairs or the chair and members in consultation with one another, will allow you to answer comparatively between the multiple literary traditions and theory covered on your reading lists. These questions will be forwarded to you one week before the exam by the Graduate Coordinator. You will prepare a twenty-minute presentation on one of them. A question and answer period on the presentation completes the first hour to ninety minutes of the exam. The examiners should be satisfied that you have answered questions satisfactorily in their area[s] of expertise. The second hour of the exam is devoted to a more general consideration of the material on the lists, with opportunities for comparisons between the linguistic traditions and theories.

III. Advancement to Candidacy

Once you pass your qualifying exams, you must submit the Application for Advancement to Candidacy Form to the Graduate Office in 2116 Tawes. Candidacy forms to be submitted can be found on the Graduate School's website under General Forms for Graduate Students. You will receive a step promotion and a small raise in stipend once you have advanced to candidacy. Students generally complete the dissertation in 2-3 years.

IV. Dissertation Prospectus

The prospectus is to be submitted within four months of passing the qualifying exam. The prospectus establishes that you have defined a research question that is worth pursuing and have the knowledge base to pursue it. The prospectus should be developed in consultation with your committee.

The prospectus should demonstrate that you:

- have defined and delimited an interesting research question
- can explain the importance of the research question and the contribution that it will make to the field
- are familiar with the existing scholarship related to the research question and can describe the relationship of the dissertation project to that scholarship
- have developed a theoretical framework for the argument and a methodology for your project.

The prospectus should be between 8-12 pages in length. It should be written in clear prose and include a bibliography. A binder with past prospectuses is available for consultation in the Graduate Office. The prospectus, including a one-page abstract and the completed prospectus form (signed by the first three committee members, available online), should be turned in to the Comparative Literature Graduate Director.

V. Dissertation

Students at this stage of the program have successfully passed the qualifying exam and have advanced to candidacy. PhD candidates are expected to file an approved dissertation prospectus within four months of passing the qualifying exam. At least three of the four members of your dissertation committee are expected to meet annually with you to review progress. A successful defense of dissertation is the final requirement for your degree.

Dissertation Committee: You should begin to think about assembling a Dissertation Committee while identifying areas of specialization for your Qualifying Examination. A Dissertation Committee consists of four faculty members, who advise you on your dissertation. One member serves as your dissertation director. In many cases, the dissertation committee is the same as the Qualifying Examination committee. You should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies and your advising team/Qualifying Exam committee concerning the selection of the Dissertation Committee.

Dissertation Workshop: We urge you to take the Dissertation Workshop (1 credit of ENGL 898) in the semester following successful passage of your Qualifying Examination. Taught by members of the department's faculty and convened weekly as a seminar, usually during the fall semester, the Workshop concentrates on helping students advance their work on the dissertation, whether they are developing a prospectus or writing individual chapters.

Dissertation Oral Committee: When the dissertation is nearly complete and the major advisor has approved moving on to this penultimate step, you 1) submit to the Graduate School a request to appoint the Dissertation Oral Committee and 2) schedule the dissertation defense. Consisting of five faculty members, this Committee normally includes the four members of the candidate's Dissertation Committee; an additional member of the University's graduate faculty serves as the Graduate Dean's representative. In accordance with Graduate School regulations, that representative must be from outside the department. All members of the Oral Committee appointed by the Graduate School must attend the defense. You should discuss with your directors the format of the defense. Typically, the defense is a two-hour discussion of the dissertation. The defense usually begins with a statement from you on the experience of writing the dissertation (key discoveries, important changes in critical perspectives, main critical contributions, etc.). Four of the five members of the Dissertation Oral Committee must approve the dissertation in order for you to pass. Students are frequently asked to make revisions to the dissertation before submitting it to the Graduate School. Upon satisfactory completion of the oral defense and the electronic submission of the dissertation to, and its approval by, the Graduate School, you will be awarded the PhD.

Submission of Dissertation: The approved dissertation must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School by the deadlines posted for graduation in a given semester (see the Graduate School Deadlines). Information about all aspects of electronic submission of the dissertation is available on the Graduate School's Information for Current Students under Thesis and Dissertation Resources.

Sample Course of Study

Year 1	Semester 1	Semester 2
	ENGL602: Critical Theory and Literary Criticism FREN649G: Special Topic in Eighteenth Century French Literature ENGL621: Readings in Renaissance English Literature	ENGL611: Approaches to College Composition FREN898: Independent Study ENGL749T: Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature
Year 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
	CMLT 679Z: Topics in Comparative Studies; Nuclear Futures: Theorizing Environmental Humanities for the Post Fukushima Age FREN649G: Special Topic in Eighteenth Century French Literature	FILM469E: Special Topics in Film Theories II; Representing the Holocaust FREN699V: Ecocritical Approach to French Enlightenment Literature
Year 3	Semester 5	Semester 6
	Prepare to take Qualifying Examination during the summer before fifth semester; schedule and take exam at the end of fifth semester. File Candidacy paperwork after passing qualifying exam.	Write prospectus during the semester, to be finished and approved by 4 months after passing qualifying exam.
Year 4	Semester 7	Semester 8
	Begin researching and writing dissertation after turning in prospectus. Students will be encouraged to enroll in ENGL 898 (Dissertation Workshop) either this semester or the next semester.	Continue researching and writing dissertation. Research and apply for outside summer funding during the Winter Break.
Year 5	Semester 9	Semester 10
	Continue researching and writing your dissertation. Submit job materials.	Schedule dissertation defense and attend job interviews. Dissertation defense.

6. Funding and Fellowships

Departmental Funding/Fellowships

Travel Funds. All students are encouraged to apply for travel funding. The English Department provides financial assistance to graduate students presenting their research at academic and professional conferences. In order to receive departmental travel funds, students must be delivering a presentation/poster at a regional, national, or international conference, including no more than one Graduate student conference.

For PhD students, the department offers funding of up to \$400 in a given Academic Year (AY) for 5 years. Unused funds may roll over into another academic year. While these funds are intended primarily for presenting research at professional meetings, they may also be used for supporting travel to a conference for the purposes of a job interview or for necessary research expenses (such as photography, transcription, language study, etc.). If a student would like to use these funds for purposes other than conference travel, she/ he will need to obtain the prior approval of the DGS. In addition to

these funds, the department will provide up to \$1600 in matching funds for external travel awards, such as the ARHU Travel Award, the Graduate School's Goldhaber Travel Award, and the International Conference Student Support Award (ICSSA). Students who have exhausted their nonmatching funds and who have applied for, but did not receive one of these awards, should contact the Business Office.

For more information, please see

<http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/graduate/current/financial/travelresearch>

Continuous Enrollment

All graduate students must register for courses and pay associated tuition and fees each semester, not including summer and winter sessions, until the degree is awarded.

Pre-candidacy Doctoral students who will be away from the University for a semester or a year may request a waiver of continuous registration and its associated tuition for the semester or year. Waivers of registration will be granted only if you are making satisfactory progress toward the degree and can complete the degree requirements within the required time limits. Permission for non-registration is obtained from the Graduate Director of Comparative Literature and the waiver must be filed with the Graduate School. A request for a waiver of registration should be filed 30 days before the beginning of the semester or year for which the waiver is sought. Tuition waiver requests will be granted only when you affirm in writing that you will not be using any University resources, including the time of faculty members, during the waiver period.

Doctoral Candidates are not eligible for Waivers of Continuous Registration. Each doctoral Candidate must maintain continuous registration in 899 (Doctoral Dissertation Research) until the degree is awarded. Waivers of Registration may be granted only under the University's policy for Leave of Absence for Graduate Students for Childbearing, Adoption, Illness or Dependent Care (see below).

A waiver of Mandatory Fees may be granted to any graduate student, including Doctoral Candidates, if you will be away from the University for a semester or a year. An application for waiver of Mandatory Fees must be submitted to the Graduate School 30 days before the beginning of the semester for which the waiver is sought. The waiver may be granted for a semester or a year.

Leave of Absence for Childbearing, Adoption, Illness or Dependent Care

In recognition of the effects that childbirth, adoption, illness, and caring for incapacitated dependents (such as children, ill or injured partners, or aging parents) may have on the time and energy that graduate students have to devote to their educational programs, the University allows students in such circumstances to apply for a leave of absence of up to two semesters during which time they do not intend to make academic progress toward the completion of their degree. The time taken on an approved leave of absence is not included in the time limitations for degree completion and advancement to candidacy.

Application for a leave of absence may be made on a one- or two-semester basis. A leave of absence ordinarily will not be granted for more than one academic year. A leave of absence must be requested

and approved prior to the beginning of the academic term for which it is being requested. A letter of request should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School and should provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances leading to the request and a justification of the time requested (one semester or one year). The request must be approved by your faculty advisor and Graduate Director prior to submission to the Graduate Dean.

Students on approved leaves of absence are not registered at the University and, therefore, do not have the rights and privileges of registered students. You must be registered during a semester in which you fulfill a University or departmental degree requirement, such as taking qualifying exams or submitting a dissertation/thesis. In addition, you must also be registered in order to be eligible for any form of University financial aid (e.g., a teaching or research assistantship) and to be certified as a full-time student.

Effective AY 2014-15, the Graduate Studies Office (GSO) may permit deferment of TAsip funding due to an approved Leave of Absence (LOA) in cases of childbirth and serious illness for a maximum of one semester. Students may request a LOA with deferment of funding due to childbirth for a maximum of one semester only if they have not already availed themselves of the Graduate School's Parental Accommodation policy. The GSO shall not consider for approval any requests for deferments of TAsip funding due to a LOA without being provided with official documentation by a licensed medical authority in support of the request of a LOA. In addition, no deferment of TAsip funding shall be granted for any LOA approved during the first semester of a student's graduate program. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) may consider requests for a LOA with deferment of funding for a subsequent semester filed no later than half-way into that given semester. Any deferment of TAsip funding must be taken immediately, continuously, and entirely following the last semester of the student's original funding package. If a graduate student is granted a LOA after the beginning of the semester, only the number of pay periods not yet completed on the TAsip stipend can be deferred to a later. During the semester to which funding is deferred, the student may apply for a partial lectureship to cover the remainder of the semester if benefits are required for the entire semester. Any departmental fellowship money supplementing the TAsip stipend but not yet disbursed during the semester of a LOA can be deferred for the semester immediately following the regular expiration of the student's departmental financial aid package and will be paid out only to students who return and claim the accompanying deferred TA funding. Students currently enrolled in the PhD program who have lost their TAsip funding for the period of a LOA, or students who have been informed that they would lose their TAsip funding for the period of a LOA, can request a retroactive deferment. The same standards shall apply to the DGS's approval of retroactive requests for deferments of TAsip funding as do to the approval of current requests.

You are advised to consult with all sources of funding to determine whether a leave might involve a long-term financial loss. Because Comparative Literature financial aid packages are constructed and sequenced over a period of years, taking a leave of absence may result in a loss of future funding. Whenever a leave of absence is being considered, you should meet with your advisor to develop a plan for resumption of study. International students are advised to consult with the staff of the Office of International Educational Services for additional considerations before deciding to take a leave of absence.

7. Teaching and Professionalization

An important part of your five years' work at Maryland is teaching. Your funding package is structured so that you will not have to teach during your first year in the program. You will TA or teach (depending upon availability of teaching opportunities and need for TAs) two courses through your second and fifth year.

ENGL 611, Approaches to College Composition, is a required course and will help prepare you to teach your first English 101 course. The best option for finding your way through the curriculum and getting prepared is by talking to fellow graduate students. Many of them will be happy to meet with you several times before and during the semester to discuss teaching. The Academic Writing Office also assigns you a mentor for the semester, and she or he observes your class twice during the term, providing at the end an assessment of your work and progress for your record. During your first semester as a 101 instructor, the Academic Writing Program will require that you attend weekly discussion sessions in which program mentors address teaching strategies and questions, as well provide guidelines for ensuring your adherence to the established curriculum.

Once you have gained experience as a 101 instructor, you will have the chance to request a position in a literature course. The associate chair will coordinate teaching requests and your assignment will have you lead either a discussion section as part of a larger lecture course or a free-standing 200 or 300-level literature course. Literature courses that past CMLT students have taught include ENGL262, The Hebrew Bible: Narrative; ENGL263, The Hebrew Bible: Poetry and Prophecy; CMLT270, Global Literature and Social Change; CMLT275, World Literature by Women; CMLT277, Literature of the Americas; CMLT280, Film Art in Global Society.

The University's Teaching and Learning Transformation Center in 4120 McKeldin Library (<http://tltc.umd.edu>) also organizes workshops, round tables, and lectures, as well offers several programs for enrichment. For example, the two-and-a-half day Graduate Teaching Assistant Portfolio Retreat encourages students to write their statement of teaching philosophy in the company other graduate students who seek to enter the job market. International students might also be interested in The International Teaching Fellow Program, a one-year program that pairs first- and second-year International Graduate Teaching Assistants with a faculty mentor outside of their departments to foster their teaching skills and help them build their teaching portfolio.

8. Seminars and Symposia

The program offers a yearly Comparative Crossings Lecture and Seminar Series. Recent topics have included: "the History of the Field of Comparative Literature," "Comparative Methodologies," "The Archive: Reception, Influence, Memory," "Haiti in Philosophy and Literature," and "Ethnographies in Transit: Comparative and Cultural Crossings." You are encouraged to register for the 1 credit Practicum in Comparative Studies (CMLT788E/SLLC689J), which is held every fall and counts toward the critical theory certificate.

Students interested in film also have the opportunity to participate in the Film Studies Curriculum, organized by the Graduate Field Committee in Film (<http://film.umd.edu>). The Committee supports

student research through its Graduate Colloquium in Cinema and Theory each spring and film-related events such as symposia, screenings, and seminars throughout each year and its faculty are also available to advise graduate students on their research in Film Studies.

You are also eligible to complete certificates in Critical Theory and Women's Studies, the former administered by the English Department and the latter by the Department of Women's Studies. Every semester, the English Department offers a one-credit Critical Theory Colloquium as part of the Graduate Critical Theory Certificate Program. For more information about the Certificate Program, please visit the website <https://www.english.umd.edu/academics/graduate/current/certificates/critical>.

Other means of becoming involved in areas of interest include the Department's lecture and reading groups. Represented areas include Digital Studies, LGBT Studies, Eighteenth Century Studies, Language, Writing, and Rhetoric, Local Americanists, Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Studies, Renaissance Reckonings and Transatlantic Poetics. See the Department's website for more information (<http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/clcs/lectures>).

9. Campus Resources

Academic Collaboration

The School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, located in Jimenez Hall, houses various departments and programs. PhD degrees are offered in Germanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature, Modern French Studies, and Second Language Acquisition. It also offers courses in Portuguese, Italian, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, and Russian. The SLLC's courses, programs, and study centers help CMLT graduate students engage in interdisciplinary work.

The SLLC houses the Roshan Center for Persian Studies (<http://slc.umd.edu/persian>) and the Center for East Asian Studies (<http://www.ceas.umd.edu>), which help foster collaboration, research, and scholarship in these areas. They also promote graduate research through fellowships and awards.

Outside the SLLC, CMLT graduate students interested in Latin American studies can find a community of support at the Latin American Studies Center (<http://www.lasc.umd.edu>), located in 4112 H.J. Patterson Hall. The Center offers funding for qualified students interested in field research in Latin American or the Caribbean.

Other interdisciplinary programs on campus include Women's Studies (<http://wmst.umd.edu>), LGBT Studies (<http://www.lgbts.umd.edu>), American Studies (<http://amst.umd.edu>) and Jewish Studies (<http://www.jewishstudies.umd.edu>). All of these programs welcome collaborative projects with faculty and fellow PhD students, as well as sponsoring talks, conferences, and film series which may be of interest to your research and professional development.

The Graduate English Organization

The Graduate English Organization (GEO) serves all of the graduate students in the English Department, including those pursuing MA, MFA, and PhD degrees in English, Creative Writing, and Comparative Literature, by developing, managing, and overseeing programs that enhance their social, intellectual,

pedagogical and professional interests. Major GEO programs include the annual GEO conference, professionalization events, reading and study groups, and social gatherings. GEO represents the interests of graduate students on matters of policy in governing bodies of the English Department, including the Departmental Assembly. GEO fosters ties between graduate students and other important campus organizations, including the English Undergraduate Organization. GEO acts primarily through an elected executive committee, each of whose members has a specific role in its governance and programs. Students in all degree programs administered by the English Department, including Comparative Literature, are welcomed to participate in GEO events and to serve on the executive board.

Libraries

McKeldin Library is the University's main library (<http://www.lib.umd.edu>). The Library provides a wide range of services for graduate student research, including several librarians who specialize in individual areas and information sessions on how to use library sources on and off campus. You enjoy the same lending privileges as faculty members. The Library also participates in a consortium—the Chesapeake Information and Research Library Alliance (CIRLA)—that extends lending privileges to graduate students in all participant universities. In order to gain lending privileges at the university libraries in the consortium, graduate students should apply for a CIRLA card at the Library's Information Desk.

Due to the University's strategic location around various universities and research centers, graduate students enjoy access to a wonderful network of sources for research. The Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Folger Shakespeare Library are all in close proximity to College Park. For more information about the partnership between the University's Library and the Library of Congress, visit <http://www.lib.umd.edu/PUB/lcpartnership.html>.

Maryland Institute for Technologies in the Humanities

The Maryland Institute for Technologies in the Humanities (MITH), located in McKeldin Library, was founded in 1999 as collaboration among various camps in the College of Arts and Humanities, the Libraries, and the Office of Information Technology. MITH has grown to become one of the leading institutes of its kind in the country. The Institute is the University's primary support center for scholars and practitioners of digital humanities, electronic literature, and cyberculture, as well as the home of the Electronic Literature Organization, a well-known international group devoted to the writing, publishing and reading of electronic literature.

Graduate students interested in digital studies will find a vast range of materials and intellectual support through MIT, including fellowships that help students advance their research and dissertation work. For more information about the interest and research areas supported by MITH, visit their website (<http://mith.umd.edu>).

International Students

This past academic year, more than ten percent of students who enrolled in the University came from outside the United States. International students who have questions about visa requirements and other practical matters should contact the International Student & Scholar Services

(<http://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services>). Among other things, the OIS organizes a graduate student orientation that helps student transition to life in Maryland. Please check their website for more details about this year's orientation. The OIS website also provides access to their Arrival Guide (<https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/offices/international-students-scholar-services/arrival-guide>), which offers more information about life off and on campus, including local attractions, religious services, child care and schools, and campus activities.

Ombuds Office for Graduate Students

The Ombuds Office for graduate students is located in 2130 Lee Building. The Office provides confidential and informal assistance in resolving problems and conflicts within the university community, and promotes fair and equitable treatment. For more information see <http://gradschool.umd.edu/about-us/ombuds-office>.

Campus Health and Counseling Services

The University Health Center has been nationally accredited for over 30 years by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care and is available to graduate students as well as undergrads. See <http://www.health.umd.edu> for more information.

The University's Counseling Center (<http://www.counseling.umd.edu>), located in Shoemaker Building, offers several services intended to help students through a variety of challenges. Contact their office or call 301-314-7651 for more information.

The University also provides a free resource center and referral service for families in need of child care. The Family Care Resource and Referral Service has specialists available to meet one-on-one with students (https://uhr.umd.edu/benefits/family_care). Another important source for information about family life and childcare is the Office of International Services' "Arrival Guide." See section under "International Students" for more information.

Housing

There are several options in and around the area that are affordable and easily accessible via the university's shuttle bus service. The university's Off-Campus Housing Services, located in the Stamp Student Union, has a helpful database that connects students in search for housing. See their information under <https://ochdatabase.umd.edu/>.

There several apartment buildings designed for student living springing around campus, many of which offer discounts for graduate students. For more information on graduate housing visit http://thestamp.umd.edu/gh/campus_resources/off-campus_housing

Transportation

The university's shuttle bus service is a great means of traveling to and from campus and is included in your mandatory student fees. Shuttle routes and schedules can be found under <http://www.transportation.umd.edu/shuttle.html>. Public transportation is also available; the UMD 104 shuttle runs frequently from campus to the College Park Metro Station and many Metro Buses stop on

or near campus, including the C2, C8, F6, J4, 86 and 83 buses. For more information about DC's public transportation system, visit <http://www.wmata.com>.

If you plan to drive to campus and want to park your car in a lot close to Tawes Hall, be sure to register your car's tag number with DOTS, the university's transportation services (<https://www.dots.umd.edu/parking>). Registration is online, and you are given the option of semester or year-long parking privileges.