Requirements & regulations – PhD in English

Requirements for admission

To be accepted for the PhD program the student must possess:

a) An MA in English from Université de Montréal or its equivalent from another university with a cumulative average of at least 3.30. Outstanding MA candidates may be admitted to the PhD program after completion of MA course work.

b) Aptitude for advanced literary studies, which the Department will evaluate in the light of letters of reference, transcripts, a letter of intent, a 10-20 page writing sample, and a research proposal which should be sent with the application.

Regulations for the PhD Degree

Time Limit

A full-time student must complete all requirements for the degree in 15 terms (5 years). A student who registers at half time for part of his studies is allowed 18 terms (6 years). Upon request, a student may be granted an extension of 1 year. Also, students are permitted to suspend their registration for a maximum of 3 terms; time spent in suspension is not part of the 15 or 18 terms time limit.

Registration

Two years of full-time registration, or 1 year of full-time registration and 2 years at half-time, during which students must complete 15 credits of course work, including a course in literary theory. The passing mark for each course is C; a minimum grade-point average of 2.7 must be maintained for course work as a whole. Failure in any course terminates the candidacy of a PhD student. If the Graduate Studies Committee considers that a student's performance is unsatisfactory for any reason, it may recommend to the dean that the student be dismissed from the programme. Upon the completion of all required course work and examinations, a student is registered en rédaction de thèse, for which the fees are substantially lower.

Thesis

A thesis director is appointed at the beginning of a student's enrollment. Before the end of the 3rd term, the student must submit a 2-page, single-space research proposal (prepared according to SSHRC requirements), accompanied by the Faculté des études supérieures et postdoctorales (FESP) form Enregistrement du sujet de recherche, a 5-8 page preliminary bibliography and the reading lists for the comprehensive examinations. A PhD thesis normally consists of about 200-250 pages. For correct formatting of the thesis, please consult the University's guidelines in the Guide de présentation des mémoires et des thèses.

Upon completion, it is evaluated by a jury consisting of 3 professors from the Department, and 1 from outside the University. The final step is a public oral defence.

Consult the Graduate Student’s Guide for more information.