

## **Frequently asked questions for graduate students applying to DML programs:**

### **How long is the Masters program?**

The MA in Spanish is 2 years long. Students attend for 4 semesters and take up to 4 classes each semester with a minimum of one class in Latin American Literature, one in Peninsular Literature and one in Hispanic Linguistics. During the fourth semester, students take comprehensive exams.

### **Is there an age limit?**

No. Anybody can apply for the program and be eligible to receive funding (in the form of Teaching Assistantships)

### **I am not American, and finished my undergraduate students in another country. Can I apply?**

Yes. Students who completed their undergraduate studies elsewhere are welcome to apply. If the native language is other than English, students must take the TOEFL exam (IBT) and obtain a score of 80.

### **I am unable to pay tuition and fees. Does the department offer scholarships?**

All applicants are automatically considered for funding in the form of Teaching Assistantships.

### **What is the stipend amount I will be receiving if I am granted a TAship?**

The stipend for 2016-17 is \$6300 per semester/\$12,600 per academic year plus a tuition waiver.

### **As a TA I get a stipend and I don't have to pay tuition. Do I have to pay anything?**

Yes, you will be required to pay fees. Fees differ according to whether you are an international or domestic student. Some fees are optional but provide useful services such as the legal and wellbeing fee. You may waive out of optional fees before registering for classes during orientation in August in your MyOhio Student Center under the finances tab. Students generally are charged an instructional fee, a general fee, a non-resident surcharge (if applicable), a technology fee, a network fee, student health insurance, WellBeing plan fee (optional) and student legal service fee (optional). You may find estimated costs for attendance listed on these sites:

International Students: <http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/tuition.cfm>

Domestic Students: <https://www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/tuitionfees.cfm>

### **What does the tuition waiver cover? What amount will be credited toward my fees?**

For full-time students, it waives the cost of tuition, plus the non-resident surcharge if you are not from Ohio. It also covers part of the general fee in the amount of \$134 and it pays for a health subsidy. For more information, see:

<http://www.catalogs.ohio.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=850>

**I am an international student and I will be getting an F1 visa. How much money must I have in my bank for visa purposes?**

The U.S. government requires that you demonstrate sufficient funds to pursue the proposed course of study in the U.S. to qualify for a student visa. You fill out a Financial Support Form obtained from this site in order to get an I-20/DS-2019:

<http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/international/upload/FinancialSupport4m.pdf>

After figuring in the amount of your stipend, non-resident surcharge (covered by your tuition waiver) and tuition scholarship for the year, you must document, with a bank statement, approximately \$4,000 on the day the statement is printed. (You should plan for \$4,100, and you will know the exact amount prior to filling out the Financial Support Form.) The amount will be higher if you are bringing dependents with you. For more on this please see:

<http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/international/newi2019.cfm>

**Does my TAship include housing?**

No, you are responsible for finding a place to live and paying your own rent. The stipend you receive should cover your expenses such as rent, utilities, and personal expenses. You can find housing information here: <http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/arrival/housing.htm>

**Does my TAship include travel costs?**

No. Students are responsible for covering their own travel expenses.

**What will I do as a TA?**

Those with assistantships are responsible for approximately 15 hours of work per week. You will teach one class per semester (four hours per week). Preparation for teaching and assessment of student work requires at least another 11 hours. For a complete description of what is expected of TAs, please download the latest Graduate Student Handbook from the Department of Modern Languages website/Graduate Spanish.

**What are the policies regarding health insurance coverage?**

You are required to have health insurance coverage. Ohio University provides health insurance for \$1907.00 per year (2016). Domestic students who already have coverage are eligible for a waiver if they provide proof of insurance by a specified date, usually early in the first semester of each academic year you enroll in the program. If you are eligible, the waiver option will be available on your **My OHIO Student Center** once your registration charges have been assessed for the term. You may find more information about waiving this fee here:

<http://www.ohio.edu/registrar/enrollcert.cfm#verification>

International students enrolled for one or more credit hours are automatically enrolled in and billed for the International Student Health Insurance plan. International students **cannot waive** the major medical insurance offered by the University unless **they are being sponsored by their home country**. Only the Office of International Student & Faculty Services can grant permission to waive the insurance.

**How will I get paid? How can I sign up for direct deposit?**

You can either receive a check or use direct deposit to your bank account. You will have the option of signing up for direct deposit of your stipend when you complete OU employment paperwork prior to the start of classes. For more informatio, see:

<http://www.ohio.edu/finance/bursar/directdeposit.cfm>

**I am an international student and I would like to make some extra money, can I look for employment?**

No. International students who enter the country on a student visa (F1) are NOT allowed to be employed. Students who are granted an assistantship will earn a monthly stipend during the academic year.

**I am an international student and I have dependents (spouse, children), can I bring them with me?**

Yes, spouses or children of F1 visa holders (student visa) will be given an F2 visa. For information about visas and the restrictions that apply to each case, please visit

<http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/immigration/visa.htm#type>

**Is my spouse eligible for benefits?**

Yes, if you have an assistantship. **Spousal Tuition Scholarship Benefits** are available to spouses of graduate students who hold an RA, GA, or TA appointment. The benefit pays half of the instructional fee (not the general fee) up to six credit hours per semester during the period or period(s) in which your appointment is in effect. The Spousal Tuition Scholarship cannot be used to pay for OPIE courses or courses taken for Audit. Application forms are available in the Graduate College or can be downloaded from [www.ohio.edu/graduate/gradappts\\_docs.cfm](http://www.ohio.edu/graduate/gradappts_docs.cfm). Applications must be completed and returned to the Graduate College prior to the 15th day of the semester for which the student is seeking the benefit.