

WORLD LANGUAGE AND CULTURES

# Applying to Spanish MA/MALP Programs

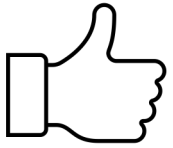
- with some practical advice



# Recommended Application Timeline

- September-October
  - Check out our website
  - **Decide which program is right for you**
  - Do you know what you're getting yourself into?
  - Check requirements
  - Consult dept grad advisor, ask questions
- October - November:
  - Gather materials: writing samples, audio, written statement
  - **Request letters of recommendation – ask professors before Thanksgiving!**
  - **Send them your CV and statement**
  - Request ALL transcripts
  - Start working on the application – at least open it and check it out!
- November – December
  - Write and polish your statement; **FACT CHECK** your statement
    - Revise writing samples
    - Record audio sample
  - Get feedback on your application
- December – January
  - Submit your application by the deadline – preferably at least a week in advance in case of errors/problems
- March/April--Decision time!
  - If you get accepted, look over the offer carefully and respond by the deadline
  - If you didn't get accepted, read the feedback and consider steps you need for a stronger application next year

# Which program is right for me?



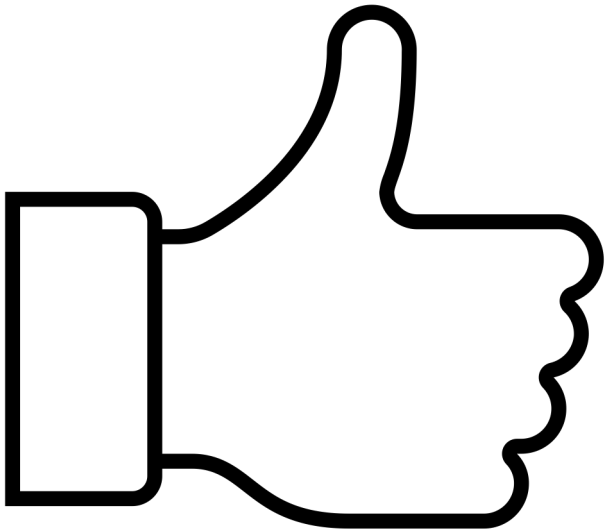
A good application tells us clearly why the specific program aligns with your goals. Tell us why you are perfect for the program too! Since our programs are very different, this is not a time to show your flexibility!

Applications that are unclear or trying to apply to both MAs are usually rejected.

# Grad Programs we offer in Spanish

1. **WLC – MA in Spanish Literature: 90% courses in Spanish**
  - ▶ Skills and knowledge developed in this program prepare students for continued graduate work in the humanities and other professional disciplines.
2. **MA in Language Pedagogy (MALP) for Spanish: 40% courses in Spanish and 60% in English (Linguistics dept & School of Ed)**
  - ▶ This program prepares students to pursue licensure or further a teaching career in secondary or post-secondary institutions, or to continue graduate work in second language acquisition, research and pedagogy.
3. Discontinued WLMA program > see MALP
4. PhD in Comparative Literature (Spanish + an additional language)

# GRAD APPLICATION is NOT the same as UNDERGRAD APPLICATION



WHEN YOU APPLIED TO UNDERGRAD, you may have chosen based on location, size of school, degrees available, school's extra-curriculars, where your friends went, etc.

- ▶ Undergrad is a time to explore different career paths. Social life is very important.

GRAD SCHOOL is much more career-focused. The program itself and professors are key to choosing.

- ▶ Is this your career goal for the foreseeable future? Is this the step you need for PhD/next step?
- ▶ Are the professors of this program the experts in the areas you are interested in? Think specific subfields and topics!



# Facts about us and our programs

- ▶ Our Spanish grad students are usually TAs for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Spanish.
  - ▶ Teach with supervisor in the first semester and then teach alone.
  - ▶ TA-ship is how you get a tuition waiver for your degree and a modest stipend.
- ▶ Your cohort will be small (less than 10 students). Maybe some classes with undergrads but mostly grad seminars.
- ▶ You'll have 5-8 professors over the next 2 years. SEE WEBSITE for expertise.
- ▶ Since we are small, we offer 1-2 options for Span courses per semester. You'll have at least 1 linguistics class and at least 1 literature class over the 2 yrs, regardless of your MA program.
- ▶ Your grad life will probably revolve around our building "LNCO".



# Talk to the Dept. Grad Advisor!



EMAIL [WLCGRADUATESTUDIES@UTAH.EDU](mailto:WLCGRADUATESTUDIES@UTAH.EDU), OR CLICK APPT LINK ON WEBSITE BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.

ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SPECIFIC DEPT AND PROGRAMS.  
DO NOT ASSUME ALL SPANISH PROGRAMS ARE BASICALLY THE SAME!

# Application Materials



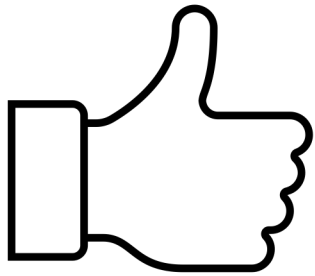
# Application Reqts

- ▶ For our MA programs > a BA in related field (but talk to advisor if yours isn't. NOT a deal breaker!)
- ▶ COMPLETE FILE – incompletes do not get reviewed
- ▶ Transcripts
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ 2 Writing and 1 audio samples
- ▶ Statement of purpose (NOT personal statement)

# Your materials: Transcripts

- ▶ Request **TRANSCRIPTS** from your undergrad degree-granting institutions
- ▶ Make sure to order these well in advance of the deadline! If they're not in by the deadline, your file is incomplete.
- ▶ Transcripts can be delayed for a variety of reasons such as (1) name changes, (2) unpaid fees to your BA university, (3) rules about how official transcripts are handled, etc.
- ▶ Remember that most Universities charge for official transcripts, and sometimes the links expire! So find out first!

# Recommendation letters



- ▶ Required: “3 letters of RECOMMENDATION; At least 2 from professors” who can speak to your grad school potential
  - ▶ Ideally all 3 letters from professors, but 1 may be an employer if you’ve been out of school for awhile.
  - ▶ DO NOT send letters from personal references such as friends, family, co-workers, etc. - This is not a job application.
  - ▶ Grad school recommendations are intended to tell us that you are capable of handling GRADUATE level coursework and research.
  - ▶ Professors from upper division Spanish content courses are ideal
  - ▶ Our application deadline is in January just after the winter break, so the best time to ask for letters is in October or November – BEFORE the holidays.
  - ▶ Best practices – send the recommender an individual email with your statement/CV attached. Remind them which class you took from them and why you are asking them.
  - ▶ PLEASE talk to our advisor if you have questions about this requirement.

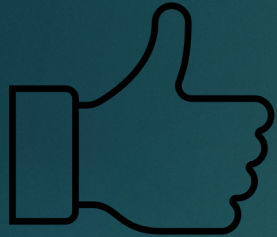


# Writing and audio samples

- ▶ WRITTEN SAMPLE of academic writing is required in both English and Spanish
- ▶ Writing samples must be 5-10 pages in length. Examples include a research paper or academic book review, a piece of written work which shows your ability to work with primary and/or secondary resources and ability to develop an argument. You will upload the writing sample as part of the online application.
- ▶ For the Spanish paper: We recommend choosing a well-written research paper from an upper division Spanish class. Choose a literature paper if you're applying to the MA program and a linguistics (or literature paper) for the MALP program.
- ▶ For the English-language paper: a well-written research paper from an upper division class on a topic that interests you and/or showcases your research abilities.
- ▶ AUDIO SAMPLE: record yourself talking about your academic interests and reason for pursuing degree, in your non-native language.
- ▶ PLEASE talk to our advisor if you have questions about these requirements or need a writing prompt.



# Statement of purpose



- ▶ Be specific about why you are applying to THIS program.
- ▶ What are your academic/research interests?
- ▶ Your career goals and how they align with this program.
- ▶ Keep this statement to the purpose at hand – only content to convince us you'd be a successful student in this program.
- ▶ **Avoid personal info/stories – this is not a “personal statement”**
- ▶ Ideally 1-2 pages
- ▶ If you search examples online, be sure you're using GRAD school “statement of purpose” NOT undergrad applications and not “personal statements”

# Application Process & dates



# The Process

Application deadline for applicants is **January 15th** ...

1. When you submit your application, it goes through the University Admissions Office review first for eligibility and completion.
2. Files that are Incomplete don't get sent to the department. Not reviewed beyond this step.
3. Files are reviewed by Department to check that our requirements are met.
4. In **February**, eligible files are then sent to Spanish admissions committee for in depth review
5. Spanish committee decides acceptance and funding.
6. Decisions sent to University Graduate School for final approval.
7. Admission decisions are sent to applicants **in March**.
8. Applicants must decide if they accept the offer by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
9. Academic & TA Orientations are **in August**, just before school begins.



¡Suerte y Ánimo!