

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive qualifying examination must take place after the confirmation of course work during the third year of residence. The examination is designed to demonstrate the student's familiarity with the Italian language and literature.

In order to reflect the realities in the Department's study of Italian (which is normally integrated with other disciplines) the graduate faculty has devised the following guidelines for all students who are in the process of preparing for the comprehensive examination. The reading list is also attached for your reference,

### Structure of examination

The examination is both written and oral. The written part consists of two sessions to be taken in successive days. The first session will range from the origins to 1600. You have two hours to complete. The second session will cover the period from 1600 to present. You have three hours to complete. The oral session will last two hours. All the aspects of the examination will be conducted in Italian.

### Written Examination

The Medieval-Renaissance examination consists of two questions, which the candidate will choose from a set of four questions. The modern and contemporary examination also consists of two questions from a set of four. In addition, this portion of the examination will have a prose or poetry selection the candidate is expected to identify and discuss.

### Oral Examination

The oral examination is administered only if in the judgment of the faculty has passed the written examination, the students admission to the orals will be announced with forty eight hours after the written exam.

### Format of the Oral Examination

The Graduate Faculty of the Department and the members who have taught graduate courses will be present at the examination. The candidate, after consultation with the Department's DGS, can arrange to have one faculty member from outside the Department attend as examiner. The oral examination will focus for 15 minutes on various aspects of the written examination. In the remaining 105 minutes the examination will address topics (20 minutes each) to be selected by the student.

### Topics

There are solid intellectual reasons for arranging the oral examination through topics. A topic, for instance, can cut through historical or geographical boundaries, or it can be conceived as a genre, i.e., general problem or as a theoretical approach. A topic—which the student is expected to plan and develop in advance with the Graduate Faculty and the other members of the Department—must have coherence and breadth. The student is discouraged from arranging topics out of regular coursework.

One topic can be arranged with an outside examiner, approved by the DGS. On all the other topics the student will be examined by the Faculty of the Italian Department.