

COMPARATIVE LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Explore how stories shape the way we understand the world, connect with others, and imagine the future. Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at Franklin examines storytelling and culture as dynamic forces that shape societies, identities, and everyday life.

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

FRANKLIN SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

MAJOR OVERVIEW

The Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies major examines the nature, function, and impact of narratives and storytelling in contemporary cultures. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students explore literary and filmic texts, cultural practices, and the connections between storytelling and fields such as law, psychology, environmental studies, politics, marketing, and media. The curriculum combines cultural and narrative theory with critical thinking, creative and analytical skills, and practical applications.

Through experiential learning, creative writing, internships, and topic-based courses, students develop strong writing, communication, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. A capstone experience offers the choice of an internship or thesis, while stackable credentials provide additional opportunities for professional development. Graduates pursue careers in fields including education, publishing, law, diplomacy, media, government, health, and business, as well as advanced study in related disciplines.

YOUR DEGREE

A 120-CREDIT DEGREE DESIGNED AROUND YOUR INTERESTS

To earn a Bachelor's degree at Franklin, students must complete 120 credits across university-wide core requirements, major requirements, and elective courses. The curriculum combines a shared liberal arts foundation with specialized study in your chosen major, giving you both breadth and depth throughout your undergraduate experience.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Courses and academic experiences shared by all Franklin students, designed to build essential skills and knowledge across disciplines.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Courses specific to your chosen major, including foundational, required, and elective courses within the discipline

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES

Courses selected from across Franklin's curriculum to explore additional interests and complement your major.

Shared by all Franklin students

66 CREDITS

CORE REQUIREMENTS	WHAT IT DEVELOPS
First-Year Seminar, 3 credits	Introduces students to Franklin's liberal arts approach and develops critical thinking, academic research, and communication skills.
Academic Travel, 12 credits	Connects classroom learning with experiential study across different cultural and geographic contexts.
Academic Writing, 12 credits	Develops written and oral communication skills for academic and professional contexts.
Global Responsibility, 18 credits	Examines intercultural competencies, international engagement, and social responsibility.
Modern Language, 15 credits	Builds language skills and cultural literacy, with a focus on Swiss languages.
Quantitative Literacy, 6 credits	Develops the ability to interpret, analyze, and communicate numerical information and data.

Please note: in some cases, courses may fulfill both a Core Requirement and a Major Requirement.

COMPARATIVE LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS — 48 CREDITS

REQUIRED COURSES — 9 credits

CLCS 100	The Stories We Live By
CLCS 110	Reading Cultures: Approaches to Cultural Studies
CLCS 222	Theories and Methods in Interdisciplinarity

MAJOR ELECTIVES — 21 credits

Three of the following - 200-level courses

CLCS 200	Gender and Sexuality in a Global Context
CLCS 204	Story-Making Material: Creative Commerce in Switzerland
CLCS 205T	Paris Protagonist: Lost in Translation
CLCS 206T	Reading Film on Location: Visual Storytelling, Creative Industry
CLCS 207	AI, Cinema, and Philosophy: Critical Perspectives
CLCS 220T	Inventing the Past: The Uses of Memory in a Changing World
CLCS 230	Science / Fiction: Envisioning the Possible
CLCS 236T	Prague on the Page
CLCS 238T	Reading the Postcolonial City: Berlin and Hamburg
CLCS 241	Forbidden Acts: Queer Studies and Performance
CLCS 242	Representations of Poverty in Literature, Film and the Media
CLCS 247T	French Cultural Institutions: Power and Representation
CLCS 250	Ecocritical Approaches to Film
CLCS 251T	Reading Moroccan Culture
CLCS 253T	On Refugees: Representations, Politics and Realities of Forced Migration: Greece
CLCS 254	Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures and Theories
CLCS 275	Literature and the Land: Aotearoa-New Zealand

Four of the following - 300-level courses

CLCS 300	Masculinities in Literature and Film
CLCS 310	The Culture of Cities: Sustainability
CLCS 320	Culture, Class, Cuisine: Questions of Taste
CLCS 322	Translation Theory: Staging the Page
CLCS 330	The Politics of Mobility: Exile and Immigration
CLCS 331	Narrative Ecologies: The Uses of Environmental Humanities
CLCS 335	Hauntings
CLCS 350	Culture and Human Rights
CLCS 360	Critical Race Studies in a Global Context

CLCS 370	Topics in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies
CLCS 371	Law and Culture
CLCS 372	Tales of Catastrophe

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT — 6 credits

Option I: Thesis

CLCS 497	Thesis Development and Research
CLCS 499	Capstone: Thesis in CLCS

Option II: Internship

CLCS 3XX	Any 300-level Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies course
CLCS 498	Capstone: Internship in CLCS

*The remaining credits required to complete the degree are fulfilled through **interdisciplinary electives**, allowing students to explore courses across Franklin's academic offerings.*

CLICK HERE TO **LEARN MORE** ABOUT THE MAJOR

3-YEAR OPTION

This major is also available as a three-year accelerated bachelor's degree for students who qualify for advanced standing based on their high school academic credentials. Students admitted with 30 U.S. credits of advanced standing receive a head start on their university studies, allowing them to complete their degree in three years.

GET TO KNOW OUR FACULTY



CAROLINE WIEDMER
Professor and Program Director, Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies



PATRICK SAVEAU
Professor, French and Cultural Studies



HRISANTA TREBICI MARIN
Adjunct Professor, Music History



KATE ROY
Instructor, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

ACADEMIC TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLACES YOU STUDY

Academic Travel courses allow students to learn beyond the classroom by exploring real-world environments alongside knowledgeable and passionate professors, turning travel destinations into immersive, living classrooms.

EXPLORE SOME MAJOR-RELATED ACADEMIC TRAVELS



CLCS 251T READING MOROCCAN CULTURE
Explore Morocco's rich cultural tapestry and discover how identity, family, and faith shape everyday life.

CLCS 205T PARIS PROTAGONIST: LOST IN TRANSLATION
Experience Paris as a living story, where the city inspires your creative writing.

CLCS 238T READING THE POSTCOLONIAL CITY: BERLIN AND HAMBURG
Trace the legacies of colonialism in Berlin and Hamburg through streets, museums, and urban life.

CLCS 253T ON REFUGEES: REPRESENTATIONS, POLITICS AND REALITIES OF FORCED MIGRATION – GREECE
Connect classroom study to real-world experiences in Greece, exploring the politics and human stories of forced migration.





LEARN MORE ABOUT ACADEMIC TRAVEL AND EXPLORE OUR COURSES

WHY CHOOSE FRANKLIN?

Dual Accreditation
United States (MSCHE) & Switzerland* (AAQ)

Residential Campus
with 6 residence halls

350+ Students representing
55+ Countries
8K+ Alumni Community

Academic Travel
once a Semester for Experiential Learning

19 Majors
1 Master
(Master of Arts in Sustainability and Transformation)

Language
Programs fully taught in English

Small Class Sizes
with 16 students on average; 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

Career-Ready Graduates
75% secure full-time employment within 6 months of graduating; 95% within 12 months



HOW TO APPLY

1. **Online Application**
   Apply online through our **website** or **Common App.**
2. **Academic Transcripts**
   Submit at least 3 years of High School transcripts.
3. **Personal Statement**
   Share what motivates you, the experiences that have shaped you, and the goals you hope to achieve.
4. **Recommendation Letter**
   The recommendation letter can come from a teacher, counselor, or other staff member who is well acquainted with your academic profile.
5. **English Proficiency (if required)**
   If your studies were not in English, submit a TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.
6. **WELCOME TO FRANKLIN**

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Write to our counselors at **admissions@fus.edu** or visit **www.fus.edu**