



**BOSTON COLLEGE**

Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences



**GRADUATE PROGRAM**

# English



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Welcome to the Department of English at Boston College. Under the direction of leading scholars, our graduate programs in English provide students with opportunities to study a wide range of time periods, authors and critical and theoretical streams. With a broad array of courses offered, M.A. and Ph.D. students select from a dozen classes each semester in historical fields ranging from Medieval British to Contemporary American Literature. In addition to courses offered across literary and historical periods, our diverse offerings include courses on genre and form, interdisciplinary and methodological approaches to literature, contemporary research methods, and literary theory.

Aside from the rich offerings for intellectual exchange in the Boston area, students and faculty participate in BC's Lowell Humanities Series, which brings internationally renowned writers and thinkers to campus. Many members of the department contribute to the BC-based journal *Religion and the Arts*. Along with the Department of History, the Department of English is the most active contributor to our thriving Irish Studies Program, and offers institutional support to the refereed journal *Eiré-Ireland*. Our Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities offers an opportunity for students to engage firsthand in project-based digital humanities scholarship, producing their own digital archives, data visualizations, and exhibits, and scholarly websites.

Beyond BC, our faculty members are renowned scholars with books published by the most highly regarded academic presses in the field, including Cornell, Hopkins, Oxford, Cambridge, Minnesota, Duke, and others. They routinely contribute articles to leading journals such as *PMLA*, *American Literature*, *American Literary*

*History*, *Critical Inquiry*, *Studies in English Literature*, *Victorian Studies*, *ELH*, and *GLQ* and anthologies such as *The Best American Essays* and *The Best American Short Stories*. Our faculty routinely win national awards from NEH, NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Humanities Center; edit anthologies, collections, editions, and series in feminist theory, religion and literature, postcolonial studies and psychoanalysis; publish prize-winning novels, short stories, creative nonfiction, and poetry in contemporary journals and series; and serve as officers for professional organizations such as the Modern Language Association and the American Studies Association.

Graduate students are an integral part of the Department of English. We interact not only in graduate seminars, but also through our shared experiences teaching undergraduates, in collaborative research and working toward exams, in the graduate student colloquia and conferences we host regularly on campus, and in the kitchen of our departmental home in Stokes Hall, where we sustain ourselves with coffee, food, and conversation on a daily basis. We hope that you will consider joining our thriving intellectual community.

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Ph.D. Program

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Admission to the doctoral program is normally restricted to four or five students each year. Candidates are provided full-tuition scholarships and stipends for five years and may apply competitively for one further year. The program's small size enables flexibility in designing individualized programs. Three doctoral seminars, an Advanced Research Colloquium, and a pedagogy course are required. The rest of the candidate's work is built around graduate courses, tutorials, and guided research. Each student shapes his or her own program to prepare for (1) a minor field examination by the end of the second year, (2) a subsequent major field examination, (3) a dissertation prospectus examination, and (4) a doctoral thesis.

The Department of English considers preparation in teaching to be a vital part of graduate training. We offer our Ph.D. students unique academic teaching preparation opportunities. After working as a teaching assistant for a faculty mentor and taking a course in composition theory and practice for one semester in the second year, our students design and teach four separate courses in English, ranging from first-year composition to an upper-level English elective of their choice for advanced majors. This range of teaching experience, combined with the careful guidance of individual faculty members and the opportunity to participate in a pre-professionalization seminar in the third or fourth years, affords our graduates an edge in today's very competitive academic job market.

### COURSES

Students plan programs that meet their needs and interests. The following outline suggests what a path of study might look like. Each semester of the first and second years, the student takes a Ph.D. seminar, a graduate elective open to M.A. and Ph.D. students, or a reading course directed by a faculty member for one or more doctoral students preparing an examination. During the third and fourth years, a student will often enroll in a graduate course or reading group to help in preparing for an examination. Following the major field examination, ideally by the start of the fourth year, the student uses a dissertation prospectus exam to explore the groundwork for his or her thesis. Then, a prospectus is written and approved, and the dissertation follows.

### EXAMINATIONS

Candidates design three examinations to prepare for work in their interests. The program is well suited to support student work in a variety of periods, genres, and literary approaches. Students must take their minor field exam by the end of their second year, and should then work continually on their major field and prospectus exams into the fourth year. Exams can take a variety of forms, focusing on pedagogy, theory, mastery of a specific period, a genre, or a group of authors. Some recent minor field exams are medieval saints' lives, American studies methodology, and women, gender, and empire. Some recent major field exams are British Romanticisms, global modernism, and modern poetry and the body. Once a student passes his or her major field examination, he or she begins work on a final dissertation prospectus exam that explores a topical area in which the student's dissertation is likely to take place. Customarily, the board for this third exam becomes the advisory board for the dissertation itself. Submission of the dissertation includes an oral defense.

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Students must demonstrate reading ability in two foreign languages or apply their working knowledge of one foreign language and its literature to a critical paper or translation project.

## M.A. Program

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The Master of Arts serves the goals and needs of a variety of students: those who wish to extend and consolidate their knowledge of the field before moving on to work at the Ph.D. level, and those oriented toward careers in secondary education, publishing, media, or related fields who desire a challenging, rigorous, and up-to-date academic program. We provide solid grounding in both traditional and expanding canons of literatures written in English as well as introductory and advanced work in more recently developed interdisciplinary fields. In addition to a wide range of seminars in which students are trained in rigorous scholarly methods and cutting-edge theoretical approaches, we offer specially designed courses in pedagogy and in the theory, practice, and teaching of composition.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates pursuing the M.A. are expected to complete courses granting at least 30 credits (10 courses at three credits each). Three credits must be in a theory course from among the department's regular offerings and three must be in the Introduction to Advanced Research or equivalent.

# FACULTY PROFILES

We offer a wide variety of courses to M.A. students and limit most classes to 15 students or fewer. Students may devote up to six credits to independent work under the supervision of department faculty, resulting in one or more longer papers. Students wishing to pursue this option should consult with the program director early in their graduate careers.

## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

The comprehensive exam requires students to demonstrate knowledge about literary periodization and to use close reading skills. It is three hours in length and can be taken in the second year of study. Although the exam will be offered at the end of both the fall and spring terms, we highly recommend it be taken in the fall.

The comprehensive exam asks students to complete three of five questions—each one addressing a different major literary period. For each question, students are provided with a passage from a work of literature; the name of the work's author; the date of the work's publication; and some prompts about the work and a keyword relevant to it, such as lyric or Transcendentalism. Students are asked to address one or more of these prompts through a close reading of the passage. The objective is to demonstrate mastery of a wide range of skills in answering each question.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The language exam is offered at the same time as the comprehensive examination, and may be taken at any point in the degree program. A wide range of languages will be accommodated. The requirement may be waived if 1) the candidate supplies an undergraduate transcript showing two upper-level foreign language courses with grades of B or above (taken within three years of entering the M.A. program); 2) the candidate earns a grade of B or above in a 12-week intensive language course administered by the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences; or 3) the candidate has native-level proficiency and completed a university degree using that language.

## M.A. IN IRISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Irish Literature and Culture candidates are required to complete 30 credits of course work: at least 12 in Irish Studies courses within the Department of English, and three in other departments such as History, Music, and Fine Arts. In addition, students take nine credits in other electives and six credits in the Irish language. At the end of the course of study, candidates take an oral examination, focusing on a specific period, genre, or theme they have chosen in consultation with Irish Studies faculty. Irish Literature and Culture M.A. students are eligible for all Department of English fellowships.

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## ANGELA ARDS

Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Princeton University

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Professor Ards teaches African American and contemporary American literature, with special interests in cultural studies, literary journalism, and narratives of place. She is the author of *Words of Witness: Black Women's Autobiography in the Post-Brown Era*, and her current book project uses oral histories to chronicle the lives of Black Americans who bypassed the Great Migration to remain in the South. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research.

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## AMY BOESKY

Professor and Director, Minor in Medical Humanities, Health, and Culture

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Ph.D., Harvard University

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Professor Boesky works in several fields: early modern literature and culture, health humanities, and disability studies. She's the author of *Founding Fictions: Utopia in Early Modern England*; articles on Milton, early modern technologies of timekeeping and other 17<sup>th</sup>-century subjects, as well as a memoir, *What We Have*, about her family's experience with hereditary cancer. She edited a collection of personal essays on genetics and identity for Johns Hopkins (*The Story Within*), and has published and lectured on contemporary breast cancer narratives. Currently at work on a series of linked essays on memory, time, and the body, she teaches courses on medical humanities, disability studies, and creative nonfiction.

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## MARY CRANE

Thomas F. Rattigan Professor

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Ph.D., Harvard University

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An expert in English Renaissance literature and culture, 1500–1660, Professor Crane is the author of *Losing Touch with Nature: Literature and the New Science in Sixteenth-Century England*; *Framing Authority: Sayings, Self and Society in Sixteenth Century England*; and *Shakespeare's Brain: Reading with Cognitive Theory*.

# FACULTY PROFILES

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## ALLISON CURSEEN

Cooney Family Assistant Professor

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Ph.D., Duke University

Professor Curseen teaches African American and 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature and culture. Her interests include performance, child studies, and unruliness. Her current project examines how antebellum depictions of childish physical movements emerge out of and respond to anxieties about unregulated movement, Blackness and national development. Her most recent work appears in *American Literature* and *Theatre Survey*.

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## RHONDA FREDERICK

Professor

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Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Professor Frederick is a professor of English and African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) and former director of AADS at Boston College. She teaches courses on Anglophone Caribbean and African diaspora literatures, and on popular fictions (fantasy, science fiction, romance, mystery/detective, horror, thriller) written by Black writers. Her research interests include Caribbean and postcolonial studies, cultural studies, and narratives of migration. She is the author of *“Colón Man a Come”: Mythographies of Panama Canal Migration*, which examines Caribbean literature's recurrent figure of the Panama Canal worker, and *Evidence of Things Not Seen: Fantastical Blackness in Genre Fiction*, a book about how Blackness is depicted in popular novels and short stories by Black writers.

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## ELIZABETH GRAVER

Professor

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M.F.A., Washington University, St. Louis

Professor Graver teaches fiction and creative nonfiction workshops as well as courses on contemporary fiction with a particular interest in immigrant literatures, gender studies, and place. She is the author of five novels: *Kantika*; *The End of the Point*; *Awake*; *The Honey Thief*; and *Unravelling*. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, *Best American Essays* and *Prize Stories*, *The O. Henry Awards*. Her short story collection, *Have You Seen Me?*, won the 1991 Drue Heinz Literature Prize, and *Kantika* is the recipient of numerous prizes, including the 2023 Edward Lewis Wallant Award, one of the oldest and most prestigious Jewish literary awards in the United States.

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## MARJORIE HOWES

Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Princeton University

Professor Howes focuses on 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Irish literature, late Victorian literature, Anglo-American modernism, feminist studies, and postcolonial studies. She is the author of *Yeats' Nations: Gender, Class, and Irishness* and *Colonial Crossings: Figures in Irish Literary History*. She is co-editor of *Semicolonial Joyce*, *The Cambridge Companion to W.B. Yeats* and *Yeats and Afterwords*, editor of *Bram Stoker's Dracula* and a contributing editor of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing, Volume 4*. She is also series editor of *Irish Literature in Transition* (6 volumes).

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## AERON HUNT

Associate Professor

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Ph.D., University of Chicago

Professor Hunt teaches Victorian literature and culture, with particular interests in economics and literature, gender and sexuality, and Victorian popular and mass culture. She is the author of *Personal Business: Character and Commerce in Victorian Literature and Culture*, and of articles in journals such as *Victorian Studies*; *Victorian Literature and Culture*; *Journal of Victorian Culture*; *Victorian Review*; and *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. She is currently working on a book about veterans in the Victorian imagination.

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## JOVONNA JONES

Assistant Professor

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Ph.D., Harvard University

Professor Jones teaches African American literature and culture in the long 20<sup>th</sup> century. She specializes in visual culture and media, spatial aesthetics, and Black feminist criticism. Her writing has appeared in *Aperture*; *Southern Cultures*; *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*; *Callaloo*; and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Her current work examines Black women's creative responses to housing insecurity from the Great Depression to the Great Recession. She was previously a Thurgood Marshall Fellow at Dartmouth College and is now an ACLS Fellow.

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## CHRISTINA KLEIN

Professor and Director of the Ph.D. Program

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Ph.D., Yale University

Professor Klein specializes in American studies methodology and classical Hollywood cinema and her areas of research include transnational American

studies, the literature and culture of America's encounters with Asia, and East Asian cinemas. She is the author of *Cold War Cosmopolitanism: Period Style in 1950s Korean Cinema* (2020); *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945–1961* (2003); and numerous articles on postwar and contemporary East Asian film.

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### ROBERT LEHMAN

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Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Cornell University

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Professor Lehman specializes in British and American modernism, continental philosophy, and visual culture. He is the author of *Impossible Modernism: T.S. Eliot, Walter Benjamin, and the Critique of Historical Reason*. His articles have appeared in such journals as *New Literary History*; *Diacritics*; *Modernism/Modernity*; *Modern Philology*; *Postmodern Culture*; *Substance*; *Journal of Modern Literature*; *Angelaki*; and *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*. He is co-chair of the Mahindra Humanities Center's Seminar in Dialectical Thinking at Harvard University, and his current project examines the transformation of traditional aesthetic categories—such as “beauty,” “genius,” and “pleasure”—in the context of literary and visual modernism.

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### PAULA MATHIEU

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Associate Professor

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Ph.D., University of Illinois, Chicago

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Professor Mathieu teaches composition, rhetorical studies of public culture, and nonfiction writing, and directs BC's First-Year Writing Program. She is author of *Tactics of Hope: The Public Turn in English Composition*, and articles on issues of homelessness, composition pedagogy, dissident press writing, and mindfulness. She is co-editor of three essay collections: *Circulating Communities: The Tactics and Strategies of Community Publications*; *Writing Places*; and *Beyond English, Inc.*

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### SUZANNE MATSON

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Professor

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Ph.D., University of Washington

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Professor Matson teaches creative writing workshops, contemporary poetry and poetics, and contemporary literature. She has published two books of poetry, *Sea Level* and *Durable Goods*, and is the author of four novels, *The Hunger Moon*, *A Trick of Nature*, *The Tree-Sitter* and *Ultraviolet*, as well as several short stories, creative nonfiction, and critical essays.

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### MAIA MCALEAVEY

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Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Harvard University

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Professor McAleavey teaches the history of the novel, gender and sexuality, narrative conventions and distinctions, and all aspects of 19<sup>th</sup>-century British literature and culture. Her courses often include texts by Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, and Henry James, among others. She is the author of *The Bigamy Plot: Sensation and Convention in the Victorian Novel*, as well as articles on Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, Alfred Tennyson, and Charlotte Yonge.

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### REBEKAH MITSEIN

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Associate Professor and Assistant Chair/Director of Undergraduate Studies

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Ph.D., Purdue University

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Professor Mitsein's research and teaching interests include 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century British and transatlantic literature and culture, with a particular emphasis on how the era's global crossroads influenced European texts and thought. She is the author of *African Impressions: How African Worldviews Shaped the British Geographical Imagination Across the Early Enlightenment*, and her work has appeared in journals such as *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, *Studies in Travel Writing, Romanticism* and *Digital Defoe*. She is currently researching how West African ideas about the relationship between matter and spirit informed the abolitionist literature of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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### JAMES NAJARIAN

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Associate Professor

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Ph.D., Yale University

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Professor Najarian teaches 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century poetry and prose. He is particularly interested in poetic inheritance, gender and sexuality, and religion in literature. He edits the peer-reviewed journal *Religion and the Arts*, sponsored by Boston College. He has published articles on sexuality in Romanticism, Buddhism, and literature, Matthew Arnold, Elizabeth Gaskell, Wilfred Owen, and Stevie Smith, and is the author of *Victorian Keats: Manliness, Sexuality, and Desire*.

# FACULTY PROFILES

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## JOSEPH NUGENT

Professor of the Practice of English

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Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

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Professor Nugent focuses on James Joyce, digital humanities, and Irish language. His research runs from Irish nationalism through Irish modernism to the application of digital technologies and the pedagogy of podcasting. He has published on Irish religious history and olfaction in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ireland, and the e-books *Digital Dubliners* and *Jewels of the Irish Arts & Crafts Movement*. His digital projects include the app *JoyceWays* and *Dubliners Bookshelf*. His most recent project is *JoyceStick*, an acclaimed virtual reality experience based on Joyce's *Ulysses*. He directs *Raidin the Wake*, the on-campus *Finnegans Wake* reading group.

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## KEVIN OHI

Professor

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Ph.D., Cornell University

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Professor Ohi's teaching and research interests include queer theory, aestheticism and decadence, late-Victorian writing, film, literary theory, and the history of the novel. He is the author of *Innocence and Rapture: The Erotic Child in Pater, Wilde, James, and Nabokov*; *Henry James and the Queerness of Style*; *Dead Letters Sent: Queer Literary Transmission*; and *Inceptions: Literary Beginnings and Contingencies of Form*. His articles have appeared in journals such as *ELH*, *GLQ*, *Criticism*, *Camera Obscura*, *Cinema Journal*, *The South Atlantic Quarterly* and *The Henry James Review*. He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Humanities Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Cornell University Society for the Humanities. In 2020, he was the Margaret Bundy Scott Visiting Professor of English at Williams College.

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## JESSICA PAUSZEK

Assistant Professor and Director of the First-Year Writing Program

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Ph.D., Syracuse University

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Professor Pauszek teaches courses in composition and rhetoric, bringing together interests in community literacy, working-class studies, archives, and digital humanities. Her current book project centers on the curation of print and digital archives of the Federation of Worker Writers and Community Publishers (FWWCP), a network of working-class writers from 1976 to 2007 that began in London and grew transnationally.

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## CHRISTY POTTROFF

Assistant Professor

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Ph.D., Fordham University

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Professor Pottroff teaches early American literature, book history, and digital humanities. Her courses often apply archival and archaeological methods to the study of literature by authors such as Anne Bradstreet, Harriet Jacobs, and Ben Franklin. Her current book project is a literary history of the U.S. Postal Service in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## FRANCES RESTUCCIA

Professor

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Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

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Professor Restuccia teaches contemporary theory, modernism (with an emphasis on the modern European and British novel), psychoanalytic theory, film/film theory, and novels of the non-Western world. She is the author of *James Joyce and the Law of the Father*; *Melancholics in Love: Representing Women's Depression and Domestic Abuse*; *Amorous Acts: Lacanian Ethics in Modernism, Film, and Queer Theory*; *The Blue Box: Kristevan/Lacanian Readings of Contemporary Film*; and *Agamben's Political Ontology of Nudity in Literature and Art*. She has published essays on authors such as Austen, Wharton, Woolf, Forster, Greene, Kundera, Sebald, Pamuk, Cha, Antoon, and Saint Augustine. She served for five years on the MLA Executive Division Committee on Psychology, Psychoanalysis, and Literature, chairing it twice, and has co-chaired the Psychoanalytic Practices seminar at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard for decades. She is currently researching psychoanalysis and the non-Western novel as well as the psychoanalytic underpinnings of Afropessimism.

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## CARLO ROTELLA

Professor

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Ph.D., Yale University

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Professor Rotella teaches American studies, urban literatures and cultures, American literature, and creative nonfiction writing. He is the author of *The World is Always Coming to An End: Pulling Together and Apart in a Chicago Neighborhood*; *Playing in Time: Essays, Profiles, and Other True Stories*; *Cut Time: An Education at the Fights*; *Good with Their Hands: Boxers, Bluesmen, and Other Characters from the Rust Belt*; and *October Cities: The Redevelopment of Urban Literature*. He writes regularly for *The New York Times Magazine* and *The Washington Post Magazine* and has been a columnist



for *The Boston Globe* and a commentator for GBH. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *American Quarterly*, and *The Best American Essays*.

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### KALPANA RAHITA SESHADRI

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Professor

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Ph.D., Tufts University

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Professor Seshadri teaches courses in postcolonial studies, political theory, and Anglophone literatures of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Her research focuses on global relations of power, including critical theories of race, animal, and environmental studies. She is the author of *HumAnimal: Race, Law, Language* and *Desiring Whiteness: A Lacanian Analysis of Race*. She is also a co-editor of *The PreOccupation of Postcolonial Studies*. Her forthcoming book is titled *PostHuman Economics: Earth, Epistemology, Ethics*.

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### MAXIM D. SHRAYER

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Professor of Russian, English and Jewish Studies

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Ph.D., Yale University

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Professor Shryer teaches courses on modern Russian and comparative literature, Jewish literature in diaspora, literature in exile, the Holocaust, and literary translation. He is the author of 10 books, including *The World of Nabokov's Stories*; *Russian Poet/Soviet Jew*; *Waiting for America*; *Yom Kippur in Amsterdam*; *I Saw It: Ilya Selvinsky and the Legacy of Bearing Witness to the Shoah*; and *Leaving Russia: A Jewish Story*. He is the editor of the two-volume *Anthology of Jewish-Russian Literature*.

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### JAMES SMITH

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Professor

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Ph.D., Boston College

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Professor Smith teaches contemporary Irish literature and culture courses, especially fiction. He is the author of *Ireland's Magdalene Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment* and co-author of *Ireland and the Magdalene Laundries: A Campaign for Justice*. His current research interests focus on transitional justice as a response to historical institutional abuse. He is co-editor of *Toward Transitional Justice in Ireland? Addressing Legacies of Harm*, a double special issue of *Éire-Ireland* (2020). He is co-editor of *Children, Childhood and Irish Society: 1500 to the Present*, and editor of *Two Irish National Tales: Maria Edgeworth's Castle Rackrent and Sydney Owenson's (Lady Morgan's) The Wild Irish Girl*. He is a member of the academic advocacy group Justice for Magdalenes Research.

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### ANDREW SOFER

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Professor

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Ph.D., University of Michigan

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Professor Sofer teaches dramatic literature and performance studies, specializing in Renaissance and modern drama. His books include *The Stage Life of Props*; a poetry collection, *Wave*; and *Dark Matter: Invisibility in Drama, Theater, and Performance*. His research has sparked interdisciplinary conferences in theater studies, performance studies, art history, and visual media at Wake Forest University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Goethe University Frankfurt. He has been a faculty member at the Mellon School for Theater and Performance Research at Harvard (2012–2022) and a Tennessee Williams Scholar in Poetry at the Sewanee Writers' Conference.

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### MIN HYOUNG SONG

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Professor and Chair of the Department

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Ph.D., Tufts University

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Professor Song teaches courses on race, ecology, and aesthetics, with a focus on Asian American literature. He is the author of the book *Climate Lyricism; The Children of 1965: On Writing, and Not Writing, as an Asian American*; and *Strange Future: Pessimism and the 1992 Los Angeles Riots*. He is the co-editor of *The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature* and the former editor of the *Journal of Asian American Studies*. He has published numerous articles in academic journals, essay collections in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Public Books*, and *Chicago Review of Books*. *Climate Lyricism* is the recipient of the 2023 Ecocritical Book Prize from the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE); *The Children of 1965* won numerous prizes, including the 2015 Literary Criticism Prize from the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS).

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### ROBERT STANTON

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Associate Professor and Director of the M.A. Program

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Ph.D., University of Toronto

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Professor Stanton teaches Old and Middle English literature, medieval English romance, medieval women writers, translation and language theory, medieval animal studies, and research methods. He has published on Old English translation theory and technique, language and identity in Anglo-Saxon England, domestic violence

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in saints' lives, and the devotional mysticism of Margery Kempe. He is the author of *The Culture of Translation in Anglo-Saxon England* and is working on a book on animal voices and subjectivity in Anglo-Saxon England.

### LAURA TANNER

Professor

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Professor Tanner teaches 20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature, American modernism, narrative and representation, and special topic courses on the body in literature. She is the author of *The Elusive Everyday in the Fiction of Marilynne Robinson*; *Lost Bodies: Inhabiting the Borders of Life and Death*; and *Intimate Violence: Rape and Torture in Twentieth-Century Fiction*, as well as numerous essays on 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American literature.

### COLLEEN TAYLOR

Assistant Professor

Ph.D., Boston College

Professor Taylor teaches 18<sup>th</sup>-century British and Irish literature and holds a joint appointment with Irish studies. She is the author of *Irish Materialisms: The Nonhuman and the Making of Colonial Ireland, 1690–1830*, and her articles on Irish literature and material culture have appeared in *Eighteenth-century Fiction*, *Eire-Ireland* and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. Professor Taylor previously held the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame and an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Award at University College Cork.

### ERIC WEISKOTT

Associate Professor

Ph.D., Yale University

Professor Weiskott teaches courses in poetry and poetics, including Chaucer and Gower; *Game of Thrones: Medieval English Political Poetry*; *Studies in Poetry*; and *Introduction to Creative Writing*. He is the author most recently of the poetry chapbook *Chanties: An American Dream* and the scholarly monograph *Meter and Modernity in English Verse, 1350–1650*.

## COURSES

The combined and varied interests of the faculty, as indicated in the faculty profiles, ensure that the department offers a wide variety of graduate course electives. While the number and content of the graduate electives vary from year to year, the following list is illustrative of the range of courses offered.

### FALL 2024

Seminar: 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century African American Literature and Culture	Curseen
Seminar: Black Feminist Literature, Art, and Performance, 1970s-1990s	Jones
Literature and the Political	Seshadri
19 <sup>th</sup> -Century Poetry, Prose, and Cultural Criticism	Najarian
Joyce's Ulysses	Howes
Introduction to Advanced Research	Stanton
Holocaust Literature: History, Memory, Legacy	Shrayer
Psychoanalytic Theory	Restuccia
English Language Training for Graduate Level Students: Focus on Speech and Presentation Skills	Anderson
Graduate Colloquium: Digital Humanities	Weiskott
Ph.D. Seminar: How Philosophy Turned into Science: Literature and Knowledge in Early Modern England	Crane

### SPRING 2025

Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop	Graver
Advanced Poetry Workshop	Matson
Doing What Happens: Action and Event in Modern Literature	Lehman
Seminar: Faulkner to Beyoncé: New South Aesthetics	Ards
Seminar: Disability Studies	Boesky
Seminar: Interiority in the Novel	Ohi
Experimental Writing for Scholars	Rotella
Beckett	Sofer
Old English	Stanton
Chaucer and Gower	Weiskott
Ph.D. Seminar: Tripping the Dark Fantastic: African Diaspora in/and Genre Fictions	Frederick

# OUTCOMES

## Recent Dissertations

**Laura Sterrett**, “Motions of the Soul: A Poetics of Religious Desire in Early Modern Metrical Psalms” (2023)

**Alicia Ye Sul Oh**, “Reinventing the Museum: Textured Materiality in Modern and Contemporary Women’s Elegies” (2022)

**Nell Wasserstrom**, “Belated Modernism: The Late Style of Freud, Benjamin, and Woolf” (2022)

**Alison Cotti-Lowell**, “Romantic British Citizenship and the Transatlantic World” (2021)

**Deanna Malvesti Danforth**, “Shakespeare’s Paragones” (2021)

**Alex Moskowitz**, “American Imperception: Literary Form, Sensory Perception, and Political Economy in Nineteenth-Century American Literature” (2021)

**Nancy L. Boisvert**, “Shards of Glass: Shame and its Mitigation in Willa Cather’s Work” (2020)

**Colleen Taylor**, “Violent Matter: Objects, Women, and Irish Character, 1720–1830” (2020)

**Amelie Daigle**, “Transnational Communities and the Novel in the Age of Globalization” (2019)

**Richard Ford Burley**, “The Remix as a Hermeneutic for the Interpretation of Early Insular Texts” (2018)

**Trista Doyle**, “Insidious Vulnerability: Women’s Grief and Trauma in Modern and Contemporary Irish Fiction” (2018)

**Scott Reznick**, “‘The Vision of Principles’: Liberal Democracy and the Roots of Moral Experience in Antebellum American Literature” (2018)

**Andrew Kuhn**, “Networking Institutions of Literary Modernism: Technologies of Writing in Yeats, Joyce, Gissing, and Woolf” (2018)

**Rachel Ernst**, “Mattering: Agentic Objects in Victorian Literature” (2018)

**Kristin Imre**, “Monotonous Feeling: The Formal Everyday in Three Modern and Contemporary Novels” (2018)

**Alyssa Bellows**, “Thinking with Games in the British Novel, 1801–1901” (2017)

**Lauren Wilverding**, “Singular Plots: Female Vocation and Radical Form in the Nineteenth-Century Novel” (2017)

**Linda Martin**, “Material Minds and Modern Fiction: The Psychology of Sexual Difference in West, Stein, and Woolf” (2017)

**Yin Yuan**, “Consuming the Orient: Scenes of Exotic Ingestion in Long Nineteenth-Century British Literature” (2017)

**Kiara Kharpertian**, “We Who Work the West: Class, Labor, and Space 1885–1992” (2016)

**Emma Atwood**, “Spatial Dramaturgy and Domestic Control in Early Modern Drama” (2015)

**Katie Daily-Bruckner**, “I Was Never An American: Rejection and Disaffiliation in Twenty-First Century Immigration Narratives” (2015)

**Alison H. Pasinella**, “Becoming (Post)Human: How H.G. Wells, Upton Sinclair, and D.H. Lawrence Tried to Alter the Course of Human Evolution” (2014)

**Kelly Sullivan**, “Epistolary Modernism” (2014)

**Dathalinn O’Dea**, “The Afterlives of the Irish Literary Revival” (2014)

**Alice Waters**, “Literary Constellations: Collaboration and the Production of Early Modern Books” (2014)

**Katherine Kim**, “Haunted Mind Aesthetic Phenomenology and English and Matter: The Human Will and Haunting in Nineteenth-Century British Literature” (2014)

**Rebecca Troeger**, “The Formation of Musical Communities in Modern Irish Literature” (2014)

## Recent Placements

### Ph.D. graduate academic placements:

Arcadia University

Boston College

Brigham Young University

The Bryn Mawr School

College of the Holy Cross

Harvard University

Marygrove College

Milligan University

Molloy College

New York University

Penn State University

Quincy University

Saint Mary’s College

Seoul National University, Korea

Skidmore College

State University of New York at Plattsburgh

Tulane University

United States Military Academy

University College, Cork

University College, Dublin

University of Connecticut at Avery Point

University of Florida

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

University of Montevallo

Wake Forest University

### M.A. graduate academic placements:

Boston College

Boston University

Brown University

Carnegie Mellon University

Cornell University

Emory University

Indiana University

McGill University

Princeton University

Tufts University

University of California, Davis

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Connecticut

University of Delaware

University of Florida

University of Maryland

University of Michigan

University of New Hampshire

University of Notre Dame

University of Oregon

University of Southern California

University of Texas at Austin

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

# MORRISSEY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The oldest and largest of the University's eight schools and colleges, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts, and Master of Science. In addition, numerous dual-degree options are offered in cooperation with the Carroll School of Management, the Boston College Law School, the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, and the School of Social Work.

With approximately 900 graduate students and more than 500 full-time faculty, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences is small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to serve you and prepare you for a rewarding life and satisfying career.

## Academic Resources

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### BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM

The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University, and Tufts University.

### BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES

The University is home to eight libraries, containing nearly 3 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art, and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O'Neill Library, Boston College's main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest, and to answer any research- and library-related questions.

### THE BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The Boston Library Consortium allows Boston College students access to millions of volumes and other services at 19 area institutions in addition to the world-class resources available through the Boston College Library System.

### THE GRADUATE CONSORTIUM IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (GCWS) brings together scholars and teachers at nine degree-granting institutions in the Boston area: Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, Simmons University, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston. The GCWS is devoted to graduate teaching and research in Women's Studies and to advancing interdisciplinary Women's Studies scholarship. Students can engage in the community and cross-disciplinary study promoted by the GCWS in myriad ways. Through courses, attending events, and organizing conferences, these initiatives provide a learning environment unlike any other.



# STUDENT LIFE AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

**B**oston College is located on the edge of one of the world's most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England's most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall, and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music, and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country's greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins, and, of course, Fenway Park's beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England's best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children's Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo, and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city's intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

## The University

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Boston College is a Jesuit university with 15,000 students, 880 full-time faculty, and more than 190,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston's largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation. Boston College is ranked 36<sup>th</sup> among national universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,300 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid, and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, School of Social Work, and Clough School of Theology and Ministry.

## General Resources

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### HOUSING

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates, and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.

# STUDENT LIFE AND CAMPUS RESOURCES

## JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

## MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART

Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings, and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni, and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the Brighton campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

## CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops, and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher

learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

## MARGOT CONNELL RECREATION CENTER

The Margot Connell Recreation Center redefines the future of fitness and recreation at Boston College. The 244,000-square-foot, four-story structure offers our community an inspired space to play, pursue sports, gather with friends, and work out. This facility includes a fitness center, rock climbing wall, jogging track, aquatics center, wood-floor basketball courts, tennis courts, multi-activity courts, multi-purpose rooms for spin, yoga, and fitness classes, and so much more.

## BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER

The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals, and online databases.

# ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## Admission Requirements

The application deadline for fall admission is January 2 for the Ph.D. program and February 1 for the M.A. program.

Please visit [bc.edu/gsas](http://bc.edu/gsas) for detailed information on how to apply.

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### Application requirements Include:

❖ <b>Application Form:</b>	Submitted online, via the GSAS website.
❖ <b>Application Fee:</b>	\$75, non-refundable.
❖ <b>Abstract of Courses Form:</b>	A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
❖ <b>Official Transcripts:</b>	Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferral from all post-secondary institutions attended.
❖ <b>Three Letters of Recommendation:</b>	From professors or supervisors. It is highly advisable that at least one letter be from an academic source.
❖ <b>Statement of Purpose:</b>	A brief (1–2 page) discussion of an applicant's preparation, motivation, and goals for their proposed course of study.
❖ <b>Proof of English Proficiency:</b> (international only)	Official TOEFL/IELTS reports accepted.

## Financial Assistance

### DEPARTMENT FUNDING

#### Doctoral Funding

We offer full-tuition scholarships and stipends to all students in good standing for five years. There is additional funding available for scholars in our Irish Studies Program. After the fifth year, all students in the program are eligible to apply for University-funded dissertation fellowships to support their research. The Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences also supports graduate student travel to various academic conferences.

#### Master's Funding

Unlike many M.A. programs, we can offer financial aid to qualified applicants. First-year M.A. students are eligible for renewable, full- and partial-tuition scholarships. All second-year students are eligible to compete for 22 teaching fellowships. Our teaching fellow program is one of the best currently available, involving coursework and hands-on workshop training before the teaching begins, in addition to ongoing staff workshops and support. For information about other kinds of funding opportunities, please contact the Office of Student Services at [bc.edu/offices/stserv](http://bc.edu/offices/stserv).

### FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at [bc.edu/gradaid](http://bc.edu/gradaid) or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-552-3300 or 800-294-0294.

### OFFICE FOR SPONSORED RESEARCH

The Office for Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both the public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects. In the recent past, graduate students have received research support from prominent agencies, corporations and organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the American Chemical Society, and the American Association of University Women.

# BOSTON COLLEGE

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