



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Jim Petro, Chancellor

University System of Ohio  
Board of Regents

**REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION**

**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Ph.D. in Italian Studies**

**Request:**

The Ohio State University seeks approval to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Italian Studies degree.

**Background:**

OSU's Department of French and Italian proposes to offer a Ph.D. in Italian Studies degree. The department currently offers a successful M.A. degree in Italian, and both a M.A. and Ph.D. in French. A Ph.D. in Italian Studies will enhance the scholarly reputation of Ohio State University by offering a rigorous, innovative program in Italian at the doctoral level, competitive with any in North America.

The need for enhanced language and cultural studies teaching capacity and expertise focusing on Italy is felt nationally. It is an anomaly within the American university system that an Italian section of OSU's depth and breadth of expertise does not already run its own Ph.D. program or directly recruit Ph.D. students for the University. The proposed program builds on linguistic, literary, and cultural studies to support a selection of interdisciplinary studies. If approved, the program will provide an intellectually rigorous but flexible set of core courses that prepare students for the pursuit of more specific individual research interests. In addition to a student's specialization that will be in literature, culture or film studies, students will have a minor in a field related to their specialization. The proposed program integrates the most recent developments in the fields of interdisciplinary area studies, including linguistics, language pedagogy, history, film studies, religious studies, and literary and cultural studies with other fields.

The proposed program fills the need for Ph.D.'s to teach a burgeoning group of undergraduates in Italian, and serves the interests of those who would like to continue their study of Italian at the Ph.D. level. A report by the Modern Language Association (MLA) Job Information List for 2008-09, shows a generally healthy trend in job postings in Italian Studies, and demonstrates a persistent and recurrent need for hires working in Italian Studies. Currently, no university in Ohio, public or private, offers a Ph.D. in Italian or in Italian Studies. If approved, OSU will be the first in the state to offer a PhD in Italian Studies.

**Curriculum and Enrollment:**

Students entering the proposed program with a B.A. in Italian or a related field are expected to complete 81 graduate credit hours, and will be required to take five courses from outside the department of French and Italian. At the end of year five of the program, students will provide their dissertation defense. Students entering the program with an approved M.A. in Italian are expected to complete 51 graduate credit hours. Students with a M.A. in Italian will take three courses from outside the department of French and Italian. At the end of the second year, students will complete a major field exam in the form of a 30-page research paper, as well as a dissertation prospectus defense.

Projected enrollment for the proposed Ph.D. in Italian Studies program is two students per year for a total of ten in the program in any given year, producing one to two Ph.D.'s a year, after the first five years of the program.

**Faculty and Resources:**

Adequate faculty, facilities, staff and resources are in place to support the proposed program.

**Recommendation:**

The proposed Ph.D. in Italian Studies degree meets the Chancellor's standards for graduate degrees, and the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Chancellor.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs has verified that this institution has met the standards and requirements of the Ohio Board of Regents.

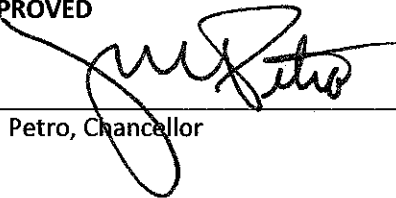


9/11/12

Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Date

**APPROVED**



9-11-12

Jim Petro, Chancellor

Date

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