

## **Department of Spanish and Portuguese**

### **MFA in Creative Writing in Spanish**

#### **Student Manual**

## **I. ACADEMICS**

### **1. Program Structure**

The Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing in Spanish is a 2-year program of 32 credits (i.e. 8 courses) and a creative thesis at the end.

#### **1.2. Course offerings**

##### **SPAN-GA 4001 - Approaches to Narrative and Poetry (4 credits)**

An introductory course, combining readings of writers' reflections on writing with readings in literary theory and criticism. The readings are not limited to an exclusively Spanish or Latin American corpus; class discussion, however, is in Spanish. Visiting Spanish, Latin American and Latino writers are invited regularly to lecture in the course. Taught once a year. Required of all students.

##### **SPAN-GA 4002 - Forms and Techniques of Fiction and Non-Fiction Prose (4 credits)**

The course assumes some familiarity with major fiction writers in Spanish. Students discuss fiction and non-fiction techniques in relation to assigned readings and explore various aspects of prose writing, including memoir, literary journalism, journals, and essays. Taught once a year. Required of all students working in prose.

##### **SPAN-GA 4003 - Forms and Techniques of Poetry (4 credits)**

This class introduces students to the craft of writing poetry through readings of Spanish and Latin American poets, encourages them to reflect on that poetry and to discover in it possibilities for their own writing. Taught once a year. Required of all students working in poetry.

#### **Workshops**

Workshops combine exploration of writing techniques, sustained writing exercises, and practice of peer criticism. Students should take four workshops, at least two in the field in which they choose to specialize:

SPAN-GA 4101.01 – Workshop in Fiction I (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4101.02 – Workshop in Fiction II (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4102.01 – Workshop in Poetry (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4103.01 – Workshop in Creative Non-Fiction I (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4103.02 – Workshop in Creative Non-Fiction II (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4104 – Workshop in Literary Translation (4 credits)

SPAN-GA 4105 – Variable Topics Workshop (4 credits).

### **Electives (two courses)**

These courses are either in the Creative Writing program, in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese or, with an advisor's approval, in another related program.

### **2. Graduation Requirements**

In addition to completing 32 credits of coursework, in their third semester under the supervision of a faculty member, students are expected to begin writing a thesis or final independent project consisting of between 50-75 pages for prose or 30 pages for poetry. The final project may be one long piece or a series of shorter pieces. It may include or may be an expansion of work begun during previous courses, but it should represent a culminating effort to shape stories, prose pieces, a long work, or a group of poems into a coherent, self-sufficient work.

The deadline for the submission of the final project will be on mid-April of the final semester of study.

### **3. Registering for Classes**

Before the start of each semester, students will receive information about the upcoming courses offered by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Students will then sign up for an advising appointment with the Director of Graduate Studies to discuss their choices and their progress in the program.

After meeting with the DGS, students may request permission numbers from the Graduate Program Administrator. All Department courses require permission numbers. No permission numbers will be given until students have obtained the permission of the DGS. Students planning to take courses in other departments that are not cross-listed with Spanish and Portuguese must request permission to enroll from the course professor in the host department for permission to enroll.

## **II. FINANCIAL AID**

### **1. Financial aid for incoming students**

#### **GSAS Partial Scholarships**

Due to its commitment to providing support for the best candidates for the Creative Writing in Spanish MFA, New York University partially covers 12 of the 32 unit credits, in the form of 8 credits during the first year and 4 credits during the second year to all admitted applicants.

#### **GSAS Full Scholarships**

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) awards three full scholarships to three students who have proved an excellent academic performance. These scholarships cover tuition, health insurance, and fees. No application is needed for this fellowship. All applicants to the Creative Writing in Spanish Program are considered and recipients are notified along with their acceptance letter.

To complement this scholarship, trained candidates could be selected to teach a Spanish language course, with the prior approval of the Spanish Department.

### **2. Merit-based partial scholarships for second year students**

In the middle of the spring semester, second year students will be called to apply for the following partial scholarships. Those interested should submit a letter of application, a curriculum and a letter of recommendation to the graduate counselor. Winners will be chosen by the financial aid committee.

#### **MA Scholars**

Two scholarships that include 12 credits (on top of the 4 points covered by the GSAS Fellowship), health insurance, and fees.

The MA Scholars are responsible for the preparation of the program's events calendar, as well as assisting with the publication process of Temporales magazine and performing various administrative tasks.

The candidates must be recommended by a professor of the MFA who can attest to their academic performance and must also show proof of their ability to perform and complete the required tasks. The finalists will be selected by the Financial Aid committee.

#### **Sylvia Molloy Scholarships**

Three stipends of \$5000 (\$2,500 per semester) are awarded to second year students.

#### **Additional Aid**

First year students may be financially aided by foundations of their own countries, such as Conicyt from Chile. If a student is awarded one of these scholarships, the tuition points that would have been covered by NYU will be redistributed amongst those second year

students that have not received any of the full scholarships and that have a good academic standing.

The granting of these points is dependent upon the respective calendars of the institutions that award the scholarships, whose decisions are known by mid-July.

### **III. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Is the Creative Writing in Spanish program offered part time?**

Yes, you may take the program as a part time student, but only if you are an American citizen or a permanent resident in the United States. International students must be full-time students.

#### **Is it possible to finish the program in less than two years?**

No it is not. The program is organized over two years to give you the ideal time in which to learn and perfect your skills and interact with other writers.

#### **Are the students enrolled in this program allowed to take undergraduate or graduate courses in the university, outside the department?**

Students take two elective courses of their choosing that relate in some way to their work. These courses may be in the Creative Writing in Spanish Program, or in the PhD program in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, or in another department, with an advisor's approval.

#### **Are summer courses available for this program?**

Not for the moment.

#### **Can I take a conversation class in English at the university to improve my command of English?**

You may, but you will have to pay for it yourself. We do not consider language courses as electives.

#### **I have questions about my visa, who should I talk to?**

All questions relating to visas and immigration status should be directed to NYU's Office of Global Services, located at 383 Lafayette Street. All new international students must also make an appointment with OGS for a mandatory check-in workshop. For more information, visit [this link](#).

### **How and when do I register for classes?**

Fall semester registration will begin in April of the preceding spring semester. Spring semester registration will begin in November of the preceding fall semester. Registration will remain open until approximately two weeks after the start of classes. All registration (except late add/drop transactions) will take place online through the Student Center on Albert.

### **I'm an international student. How do I do my taxes?**

Unfortunately, the Department cannot assist students with tax matters. Please visit the Office of International Students for more information [using this link](#).

### **I'm an international student. How do I find an On-Campus Job?**

All questions related to job search within the university campus, should be directed to [Wasserman Center](#).