

The deadline to submit your application is 8:59 PM (Pacific Standard Time)  
December 1

The online application opens by the second week of the previous September.  
Visit <http://grad.berkeley.edu/> for each year's specific dates.

Note that we do not accept applications for an MA-only degree. It is also important to note that University policy prevents us from considering applicants who already hold a doctoral degree in any subject, whether obtained at a US institution or abroad.

We select our graduate students on the basis of their record of academic achievement in the past and their promise of future success in scholarship and teaching. A bachelor's degree in Scandinavian is preferred but not absolutely required for admission; however, applicants with degrees in other fields must have already undertaken significant coursework and have reading fluency in at least one modern Scandinavian language, and be familiar with either one modern Scandinavian literature tradition or Old Norse. **We do not require the GRE.**

Before you begin your application, be sure you have reviewed the faculty research specialties on the Scandinavian web site. These are the individuals who will supervise your graduate education and research; it is important to find a good intellectual fit before undertaking any graduate program.

Each section of the graduate application has specific and detailed instructions to help you successfully navigate. In general though, the complete application will include:

- ✚ **Scanned Transcripts** of all schools attended. If your academic records do not include official evidence of the award of your degree, you must also submit additional documents that verify the degree conferral.  
If your home institution does not issue documents in English, you must also submit translations prepared by certified translators for the American Translators Association. Official transcripts are required once admitted—never before decisions have been made.
- ✚ **3 letters of recommendation**
- ✚ **TOEFL** exam registration number or **IELTS** scores. Official evidence of English language proficiency is required of applicants from countries where the official language is not English (you might be exempt from this requirement if you have a basic degree from a recognized institution in a country where the official language is English, or have completed at least one year of full-time academic course work at a regionally accredited institution within the United States). For information about TOEFL exemptions and further details about language requirements, please see the UC Berkeley Graduate Division instructions for International applicants.

*Take your necessary exams well in advance! If we receive exam scores any later than early January, they will be of no use.*

✚ **Statement of Purpose** should be a scholarly piece that demonstrates knowledge, motivation and preparation in your chosen field, academic seriousness and sophistication, and future career goals.

✚ **Personal History** should discuss how/why you have decided upon an academic career. This may include but is not limited to relevant diversity, family background, first generation college education, economic or personal obstacles you have overcome, volunteerism, leadership potential, etc.

*The above are distinctly different, may not be combined, and are required by each applicant. There is no set length established for either statement.*

✚ **Writing Sample** should be a recent scholarly paper on a topic to do with Scandinavian studies such as a term paper for a course, a senior thesis, or a paper written independently. If you have several short papers which demonstrate different facets of your writing and research abilities, or written in another language, you may send up to three. We are looking for examples of research ability and some idea of your knowledge in the field of Scandinavian literature. There is no set length though attempting to upload a document with many pictures may exceed the system's data capacity.

All applicants must complete the relevant Fellowship application (domestic or International). For domestic applicants, the Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) fellowship application should not be overlooked, especially in cases such as Finnish or Danish.

You are not required to complete the whole application in one sitting. Answers are saved and you may return to edit or finish sections until you actually submit the application. We strongly advise that you review everything after a good night's sleep before submitting the application and paying the fee. Once the application is submitted, you are not allowed to go back and make further edits.

The application system features a status update page for applicants. You may check this page to see if your official exam scores have been received and letters of recommendation submitted.

Applicant files are reviewed for completion, sorted and summarized after the deadline by the graduate assistant. The faculty admission committee reads and evaluates applications into early February. Decisions regarding admissions will be announced later in February through mid March. We usually invite prospective admits to visit the department in order to meet the faculty, current students, and their potential cohort for a few days in early to mid March. The exact timing of this visit is announced in February when students are invited.

If you have specific procedural questions, please write to the Student Services Adviser at [scandiadmit@berkeley.edu](mailto:scandiadmit@berkeley.edu). If you have questions about the academic program please contact the Scandinavian Department Graduate Adviser, Professor Kate Heslop ([heslop@berkeley.edu](mailto:heslop@berkeley.edu)).