



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

Graduate Certificate in African Studies

The Program of African Studies

Northwestern University's Program of African Studies (PAS), one of the earliest centers of its kind, was founded in 1948 by the pioneering anthropologist Melville J. Herskovits. The program serves as a vital base for world-class Africanist faculty, students, and professionals attracted to Northwestern and its renowned Herskovits Library of African Studies. PAS has achieved international prominence for its production of innovative scholarship, training of Africa specialists, and development of new ways of thinking about the African world.

Certificate in African Studies

- Through the promotion of multidisciplinary courses with Africa content, language training, study abroad programs and Africa-related research, PAS supports and enlivens graduate study of Africa while serving as the University's 'headquarters' for formal and informal interaction among interested students, faculty and visitors
- PAS frequently brings together graduate students with faculty and other experts in many areas of inquiry—across disciplinary boundaries and specializations—for lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences, symposia and research programs
- Northwestern University's Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies, an unparalleled resource for research on Africa, attracts students and scholars from all over the world every year
- PAS undertakes efforts to enable graduate students to secure funding from various internal and external sources to support their dissertation research in Africa
- Students are encouraged to participate in the Africa Seminar which provides opportunities to develop, present, and draw advice on papers and research proposals, and invites guest speakers to address special topics

The Certificate in African Studies is for students interested in the study of African societies, cultures, histories, religions, and arts across disciplines and in the professions.

- Graduate students in any of Northwestern's academic departments and professional schools can earn a certificate in African Studies by merging a core of Africa content courses with their major programs of study
- Students are welcome to participate formally or informally in the activities of PAS, which are intended to advance the training of Africa specialists at Northwestern and promote awareness of African realities in a broader context

Requirements for the Certificate

Any student enrolled in a doctoral program may pursue a certificate. Master's students may not earn a graduate certificate, nor can students apply to enroll only in a certificate program.

The Graduate Certificate must be comprised of at least six Graduate School– approved courses with Africa content designed for graduate-level study. At least two of the six courses must be taken in departments other than that of the students primary academic program. Demonstrated competence in any African language through completion of a second year of language study or certification by the appropriate language department is required. A minimum of an overall B average in the courses is required. Courses taken as P/N are not counted towards the Certificate.

Enrolled students need only to notify The Graduate School by applying for the certificate at the same time they apply for a degree (in their final year of study). Students will be asked to provide for TGS the list of courses they would like counted toward the certificate program and will be required to submit a verification from the program director.

Interested students are encouraged to contact the Program of African Studies at
african-studies@northwestern.edu or 847-491-7323.

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