

Application Cover Sheet

Council on African Studies
Certificate of Concentration in African Studies

The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies

Summary Description:

The Certificate in African Studies enables graduate and professional school students in fields other than African Studies to demonstrate interdisciplinary area expertise, language proficiency, and research competence in African Studies. The certificate program is intended to complement existing fields of studies in other M.A. and Ph.D. programs and to provide the equivalent of such specialization for students in departments and schools without Africa-related fields of study. The certificate program is designed to be completed within the time span of a normal Ph.D. residence. Professional school students and M.A. students in the Graduate School may require an additional term of registration to complete the certificate requirements, depending on the requirements of specific programs.

Requirements:

1. Courses. Successful completion of at least six courses in African Studies from at least two departments or schools.
2. Language. Demonstration of proficiency in an African Language. Students may demonstrate proficiency in one of the following ways, subject to the approval of the African Studies DGS.
 - a) a transcript from undergraduate or summer language study, showing two semesters or equivalent with grades of B or better. This work must have been completed no more than 3 years earlier, or in some cases it may be completed during the summer after the student's first year in the PhD program. The DGS may require detailed information about the coursework.
 - b) passing a reading/translation exam administered by a language department at Yale, if such an exam exists.
 - c) passing, with a grade of B or HP or better, two semesters of a language course given at Yale.
 - d) passing, with a grade of B or HP or better, a seminar at Yale that is fully conducted in the target language (this includes undergraduate courses).

- e) in the case of languages for which this is appropriate as determined by the DGS, students may pass an oral proficiency test administered by the Yale Center for Language Study.
 - f) the DGS, at their discretion, may accept other evidence of language competence, such as (but not limited to) completion of secondary education at a school that principally uses the language in question.
3. Research paper. Evidence of research expertise in African Studies. Research expertise may be demonstrated by completion of an interdisciplinary thesis, dissertation prospectus, or dissertation, or by completion of a substantive research seminar paper or the equivalent as approved by the faculty adviser.
 4. Refer to the [*General Guidelines for Graduate Certificate of Concentration In International and Area Studies*](#) for additional details about the above requirements, as well as requirements for Progress Reports, course grades, etc.

The courses and research work should be planned to clearly demonstrate fulfillment of the goals of the certificate.

Certificate candidates should design their course schedules in consultation with the director of graduate studies for African Studies.

Ideally, students should declare their intention to complete the certificate requirements early in their graduate program at Yale. Graduate and professional school students who intend to complete the certificate program must declare their intention to do so no later than their penultimate term of enrollment.

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Application Detailed Information Sheet

(Application for Graduate and Professional Students)

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Citizenship _____

Academic Year Address _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Department or School _____ Year of study at Yale (1st, 2nd...) _____

Degree sought _____ Expected graduate date _____

Career plans after graduation _____

Proposed project title _____

Country/area of interest _____

Languages and level(s) of proficiency _____

Briefly summarize the links between the certificate and your academic program _____

Confirmation of student eligibility by Department or School *(application will not be considered unless this section is complete).*
 I certify that the applicant is a registered student in good standing.

 Signature of Director of Graduate Studies or Professional School Officer

A complete application must contain:

1. One application cover sheet
2. A brief statement relating the certificate to your degree program and career plans. This should not exceed one page. *Please describe how you plan to meet the requirement for an interdisciplinary research paper.*
3. A copy of your most recent transcript. An unofficial transcript is acceptable.

Applications may be submitted **no later** than the beginning of the penultimate term of study. Each Council may set limits on the number of candidates for their program in any given year. For further information, see the Council Program Manager.

For Office Use Only:
 Date application submitted: _____
 Circle one: Approved or rejected: _____

 Signature Date
 Comments: _____