

# PhD in World Arts (PhD-WA)

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## Purpose

The PhD in World Arts will equip students to be qualified teachers and researchers who are involved in faith-based service on a national and global level. Graduates will be able to contribute positively to the challenges of understanding the local arts of communities around the world and develop new theories and constructs to better support the use of those art forms and practices. Their advanced training will enable them to address current challenges and gaps in research, preparing them to respond with creative solutions to opportunities and changes in the contexts they encounter.

## Program Learning Outcomes

PhD in World Arts graduates will be able to

1. apply the major theoretical concepts of world arts to real-world problems.
2. analyze and discuss the formal characteristics of artistic genres.
3. contribute to the development of applied theory in world arts.
4. relate and apply current standards in world arts to activities in training, mentoring, and consulting for communities, organizations, and schools.

## Admission Requirements

PhD degree-seeking graduate students must meet all program-specific entry requirements in addition to obtaining admission to DIU in graduate status. To be considered for entry into the PhD in World Arts program, students must provide proof of a completed MA degree with a minimum of 30 graduate semester hours in world arts or a related field (intercultural studies, translation, arts studies of any kind, worship or ritual studies, theology, anthropology, etc.), and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.30 (on a 4.00 scale). In addition, applicants must submit the following to the Center for Excellence in World Arts at [WA\\_PhD@diu.edu](mailto:WA_PhD@diu.edu):

- A summary of research interests (500-800 words).
- A research-based writing sample, such as a peer reviewed publication, master's thesis, or graduate-level paper of publishable quality.
- Schedule an interview with the PhD in World Arts committee.

Students who demonstrate good progress on the four MA-level Qualifying courses or receive a 2.75 or higher score on the Qualifying Exam are qualified to schedule an interview with the PhD in World Arts committee. We highly recommend that applicants take as many of the Qualifying courses as possible before their interview for the PhD program.

All applicants accepted to the PhD in World Arts program will be assigned an advisor and may begin Phase 1 of the program. The faculty adviser will evaluate all transcripts and syllabi (supplied upon request by the adviser) to determine if courses taken elsewhere satisfy the learning outcomes for the four MA qualifying courses.

**The deadline for the PhD application is March 16 with supplementary materials due April 1.**

## Qualifying courses

Applicants seeking admission to the PhD in World Arts program must have successfully completed the following four courses (or their equivalent) before taking the Qualifying Exam,

although they may apply to the program before the courses are completed. These four courses also function as part of the core requirements for the MA in World Arts:

- WA5381-IN Arts for a Better Future
- WA5382 Applied Arts
- WA5384 Expressive Form Analysis
- WA5386-R Directed Practicum in World Arts

### **Non-degree students**

MA graduates may, by permission of the instructor, enroll in up to three Phase 1 doctoral-level courses without applying for the PhD program. Students who have obtained a graduate degree from an institution other than DIU can apply to take doctoral courses (with instructor permission) using the simplified “Gateway Admission” option, with a letter stating their desire to take particular doctoral courses as a non-degree student. Non-degree students can use these credits toward the PhD program or the Graduate Certificate in World Arts if they apply and are accepted to the program at a later date.

### **PhD Program in World Arts curriculum**

The PhD in World Arts consists of three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Successful completion of Phase 1 is achieved by obtaining a passing score on the Qualifying Exam (see details below). During Phase 1, students will be allowed to take any of the following doctoral courses:
  - WA6370-IN Multidisciplinary Perspectives on World Arts
  - WA6390-OL Research & Communication for World Arts
  - WA6381-IN Cross-cultural Education Methods
- **Phase 2:** Successful completion of a total of 24 graduate hours of doctoral coursework, fulfillment of the foreign language requirement, and a passing score on the Candidacy Exam.
- **Phase 3:** Approval of a dissertation proposal, followed by research, writing, and the successful defense of a dissertation. The research and writing of the dissertation may not be less than three semesters and 24 graduate credit hours of WA6X91 (Dissertation).

### **Qualifying Exam**

In order to finish Phase 1, PhD students must pass the written Qualifying Exam with a minimum score of 2.75, demonstrating strong knowledge of the topics learned in the general core requirements at the MA level. Doctoral students who have already achieved either a 3.0 on each of the Qualifying courses while finishing a degree in World Arts with a thesis, or a 2.75 score on the Comprehensive Exam while in the MA in World Arts program at DIU will not be required to take the Qualifying Exam.

### **Foreign language requirement**

The PhD in World Arts requires proficiency in two languages (referred to as *major* and *minor* language requirements) that are not the student’s first language. For the major language requirement, the student must demonstrate oral and written competence, defined as achieving a B1 level on the CEFR scale (<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/Images/126011-using-cefr-principles-of-good-practice.pdf>). English is considered a foreign language for students whose first language is not English. Creoles, pidgins, sign languages, and living minority languages are acceptable major or minor language options. Dead languages such as Latin, Biblical Greek, or Hebrew will be acceptable if the student plans to write a dissertation requiring one of those

languages. Four semesters of the dead language with a grade of at least an A- are a sufficient substitute for the oral portion of the exam.

For the minor language requirement, either written *or* oral proficiency at the A2 level of the CEFR will be adequate. Written proficiency will be measured by a 300-word translation test. Oral ability will be determined by a 15-minute exam given by a native speaker or credentialed linguist. Alternatively, the minor language requirement may be documented by successful completion of one semester of a college course in that language (with a grade of at least A-).

### **Candidacy exam**

The Candidacy Exam is an intensive oral exam at the end of Phase 2. The purpose of the exam is to evaluate the student's knowledge and ability in researching and presenting world arts topics, both orally and in a professionally written form. One month before the exam, the student will submit a substantial research or "candidacy" paper of publishable quality.

The student's Candidacy Committee will be appointed by the department chair and will consist of at least three World Arts faculty and the Dean of Academic Affairs or a designated representative. During the Candidacy Exam, the student will, 1) be examined orally on the learning outcomes of the PhD program and related coursework, and 2) present the findings of the candidacy paper for evaluation by the committee. The Candidacy Committee will vote to pass or fail the student and will send a written report to the student indicating the student's performance on each of the exam's two areas (PhD learning outcomes, candidacy paper). In the case of a failure, the student may retake the Candidacy Exam no sooner than three months after the first exam. If the student passes, he or she will be designated as a "doctoral candidate" and proceed to Phase 3 of the doctoral program. A second failure to pass will result in termination from the PhD program, although the student may elect to pursue an MA in World Arts or one of the World Arts options for a graduate certificate.

### **Dissertation proposal**

The student will form a doctoral dissertation committee. The committee must consist of at least the student's dissertation adviser, another faculty member from CEWA, and one faculty from another department or institution (the latter option must be approved by the Academic Dean).

The student will draft a dissertation proposal for their committee's approval. The dissertation proposal is a document that summarizes the topic, research question, initial literature review, methods for data gathering and analysis, and proposed research and writing schedule. The committee will vote to approve or not approve the dissertation proposal. Upon approval, the student will proceed to dissertation research and writing. See the Dissertation Writing Guidelines for details.

### **Dissertation research and writing**

After the dissertation proposal has been accepted, the student will engage in dissertation research and writing, working closely with their dissertation adviser and reporting to the dissertation committee at least once each term, either in a meeting or by email. The purpose of these reports is to provide evidence of advancement in the student's research and to receive input and direction from the committee members. The dissertation must be completed no sooner than three terms after the term in which the dissertation proposal is approved (this can include the summer term). It is expected that the research and writing of the dissertation will be completed within three years of achieving candidacy status. If the dissertation defense has not occurred in this time period, the student may petition for a maximum two-year extension. The candidate will not be awarded a PhD if the dissertation is not successfully defended within five years after reaching candidacy.

## Dissertation defense

The dissertation defense represents the culmination of a student's rigorous academic journey and the opportunity to showcase their expertise, research, and critical thinking skills. It is arranged by the student in coordination with the members of the student's committee and must occur no sooner than four weeks after the committee has received a defense draft of the dissertation. The defense begins with an oral presentation during which the student presents their research findings, methodology, and contributions to the field in a public presentation. This is followed by a closed session with the dissertation committee in which the student responds to the committee's questions, enabling them to assess the quality and significance of the student's research and the student's ability to articulate and defend their work effectively. The committee will then vote to *unconditionally accept*, *conditionally accept*, or *not accept* the dissertation. Only the latter requires another formal dissertation defense. A second "fail" for any candidate defending the same doctoral dissertation is final and will require termination from the program with "all but dissertation" (ABD) status.



The dissertation adviser will be responsible for reviewing the final submission copy of the dissertation before it is submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, after which time the student graduates from the program.

## Course offerings for PhD in World Arts

Course	Year (if full-time)**	pgsh*
WA6370-IN Multidisciplinary Perspectives on World Arts	First	3
WA6390-OL Research & Communication for World Arts	First	3
WA6381-IN Cross-cultural Education Methods	First	3
WA6385 World Arts & Religious Expression	Second	3
WA6387 Area Studies for World Arts	Second	3
WA6389 Advanced Artistic Form Analysis	Second	3
WA6339-OL Advanced Theory for World Arts	Second	3
WA6380-IN Advanced Theory of Ethnodoxology	Second	3
WA6X91 Dissertation	Third, Fourth	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

\*Post Graduate Semester Hours

\*\* part-time scheduling is also available

All doctoral courses can be completed via distance, except for the three intensive (IN) courses, which require in-person attendance at a one- or two-week period on campus.