INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Comparative Literature major provides students with tools for analyzing texts, writing, editing, translating, and thinking across disciplinary and national boundaries. You will have the opportunity to pursue rigorous research in a variety of literatures according to your interests, engage in team-based projects, participate in discussions about political, aesthetic, and social issues, and develop a nuanced cross-cultural understanding of historical and social processes.

Our students go on to work in a variety of professions, including journalism, media, publishing, translation, theater, and politics, as well as in many roles in the legal, corporate, social, medical, and arts sectors. Additionally, we prepare our students to enter top graduate programs in the United States and abroad.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our students have close contact with cutting edge scholars in their fields in a small classroom setting, with extensive individualized work. Our undergrad majors publish and edit their own journal of comparative literature (CLUJ) and run an annual research conference. Most majors also choose to spend time in study abroad to deepen their cultural and linguistic knowledge.

I want to emphasize how wonderful the professors I had were, not just as instructors but also as people.  

– Marica Petrey, Class of 2012

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Present your research at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- Join a student publication such as the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal or Cal Literature & Arts Magazine.
- Deepen your cultural and linguistic knowledge through study abroad.
- Develop connections with students and faculty through Berkeley Connect.
- Strengthen your skills and graduate school prospects with honors research.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.
**Design Your Journey**

**Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature**

### Explore your major
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Enroll in L&S 1, HUM 10 (Compass Courses), a R&C course in Comparative Literature, and a beginning language course.

### Connect and build community
- Get into mentoring with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in L&S 98: College Success in L&S.

### Discover your passions
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.

### Engage locally and globally
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

### Reflect and plan your future
- Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.
- Develop a plan for getting career ready.
- Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series.

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### What Can I Do with My Major?

**Jobs and Employers**
- Eng., Teacher in France, TAPIF Fellow, AmeriCorps Freelance Journalist/Musician
- Grant Writer, Fr. Joe’s Villages Psychologist, Private Practice
- Tax Consulting, Deloitte
- Teacher, Pacific Boychoir Acad. Teacher, Teach for America

**Graduate Programs**
- Art History, PhD
- Chinese Literature, Masters
- Comparative Lit., Masters
- E. Asian Lang. & Cultures, PhD
- English Literature, PhD
- French Literature, PhD
- German, MA, PhD
- Journalism, MA
- Korean Literature, MA
- Law, JD
- Medicine, MD
- Modern Japanese Lit., PhD
- Psychology, PhD
- Religions and Politics, PhD
- Spanish, MA, PhD

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**Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates and from Comparative Literature Alumni Stories.**

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**Updated: 11.02.25**