

Literary Translation Studies

► In this age of globalization, one of the best ways to preserve the uniqueness of cultures while simultaneously recognizing their interconnections is through the translation and appreciation of international literature. Reading literature from other countries broadens our perspectives, and maintaining a vibrant book culture significantly enriches the exchange of ideas among cultures.

The literary translation studies program at the University of Rochester contributes fundamentally to this important form of international and cross-cultural communication. Literary translators need to be aware of how to render a source text into another language and be able to do so while respecting the style and tone of the original work as well as the cultural references contained therein.

Consequently, literary translators must have superior language

“ . . . there are readers out there communicating with each other about translation, and through Three Percent, Open Letter is plugged into the new media and is using that space to find new readers and sell their books.”

—Peter Bush, Vice President, International Federation of Translators, *New York Times*, December 25, 2009

and writing skills, and they must have a thorough understanding of international literature. Moreover, as publishing professionals, they need an in-depth understanding of the practical side of the business of literary translation and publication.

The University’s literary translation studies program teaches all of this through a multifaceted approach to the art, technique, and business of translation. The curriculum combines academic rigor, strong practical training, and intensive professional development through internships at Open Letter Books (www.openletterbooks.org), the

University’s literary publishing imprint, and Three Percent (rochester.edu/threepercent), its online resource for international literature.

Our Students

The program is designed for students who are fluent in English, highly proficient in at least one other language, and excellent writers. Students can pursue an undergraduate or graduate certificate or a Master of Arts degree in literary translation. The program attracts excellent students from diverse backgrounds, including Fulbright scholars from around the world.



“When I discovered this program at Rochester, I knew it would be perfect for me. Besides the academic theory and hands-on translation workshops, it has helped me to better understand the world of publishing and has given me access to a much larger network of people connected to this industry. I will have this program to thank for much of my future success.”

Allison Charette '14 (MA)
Literary translation studies

Points of Pride

Open Letter

Open Letter is dedicated to connecting readers with great international authors whose works had previously not been available to an English-speaking audience. Publishing 10 books a year, Open Letter is one of only a handful of organizations in the United States with a commitment to cultivating an appreciation for international literature in translation.

Three Percent

Most of the best books ever created were written in a language other than English, yet only 3 percent of all books published in the United States are translated works. The University's aptly named online resource, Three Percent, aims to change this by increasing access to and conversation about world literature. Three Percent also presents the "Best Translated Book Award" each year, bringing attention to the best original works of international fiction and poetry.

Lecture Programs

Throughout the year, internationally renowned translators and authors visit campus to read from their work and to cultivate interest in international literature. Past guests who have visited campus through programs sponsored by or related to the literary translation studies program have included Salman Rushdie, Umberto Eco, Dubravka Ugresic, Bragi Ólafsson, Jan Kjaerstad, and Jorge Volpi.



Awards and Accolades

The American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) held its prestigious annual conference in Rochester in 2012, where nearly 200 translators from around the world convened. Renowned media such as the *New York Times*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Guardian*, and the *New Yorker* regularly review books published through Open Letter. And in the last three years, the program has received grant funding from Amazon.com, Inc.; the National Endowment for the Arts; and the New York State Council on the Arts.

How You Can Help

Gifts to the program expand learning opportunities for our students in the fields of publishing and translation. Such support not only helps connect people with great literature and an expanded worldview but also provides valuable practical experience for our students. Gifts designated directly to Open Letter also help support a key pillar of our unique program.

Students

Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. Consider providing stipends to support the program's interns, to enable them to devote their time learning the complexities of the publishing industry as they hone their skills as literary translators. Or fund graduate student fellowships, as these help attract the most qualified students from around the world and allow them to pursue research projects, hone their translation skills, and strengthen the program overall.

Faculty and Staff

Endowed positions help to attract and retain exceptional faculty and professional staff and are visible honors recognized across the University and by other top educational institutions. By endowing faculty positions within the program and staff positions at Open Letter and Three Percent, you help the University offer the highest quality instruction to its students and catalyze our ability to develop additional programs.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better
www.rochester.edu/college/translation