

PhD Thesis Project Offer

(valid during the calendar year 2026)

Provisional Title of the Doctoral Thesis

Translation and Literary Creation Across Literary Traditions

Subject area* / Research line

Arts and Humanities / Literary Studies and Translation Studies

Summary of the Doctoral Thesis (maximum 300 words).

This proposal aims to explore the interrelationship between translation and literary creation across multilingual literary traditions, positing translation not as a secondary or derivative act, but as a formative and creative force in the evolution of literature in English, Spanish, and French. The project welcomes research that combines critical scholarship and/or creative literary practice in any of these languages.

Since the Middle Ages, translation has served as a crucial medium for literary innovation. From the Archpriest of Hita and Miguel de Cervantes to Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare, and from Charles Baudelaire to Stéphane Mallarmé, writers have drawn upon other languages to reshape and enrich literary traditions. Later figures such as José Martí, Jorge Luis Borges, Javier Marías, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Samuel Beckett, Marguerite Yourcenar and Paul Valéry further demonstrate how translation has shaped modern and contemporary literature.

The project invites doctoral work that examines translation as a creative and transformative intercultural process that converts the foreign into the local, facilitates dialogue between traditions, and contributes to the circulation and universalization of literature. Engaging with Literary Theory, Comparative Literature, Translation Studies and Creative Writing, the thesis may adopt a diachronic approach—tracing translation’s influence across different periods—or focus on a specific era (e.g., the Renaissance, the Nineteenth century, Modernism, contemporary literature). Projects may also center on writer-translators, multilingual literary production, transnational or diasporic literatures, literary self-translation, or the contribution of women and underrepresented voices in translation and literary creation, including figures such as Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, María Teresa León, Rosa Chacel, Clara Janés, Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot), H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), Marguerite Duras and Annie Ernaux.

The PhD also welcomes practice-based or hybrid dissertations combining critical research with the creation of original literary work (fiction, poetry, essay or hybrid genres) in Spanish, English and/or French, accompanied by critical reflection on translation, multilingualism and literary production.

Overall, the research aims to reassess the historical, ideological and aesthetic significance of translation and multilingual creativity within global literary history, foregrounding translation as a central force in shaping literary culture.

Is the development of this thesis associated with the execution of any research project? If so, provide details of the project (title, funding entity, and execution period)

N/A

Academic Profile of the Student (maximum 200 words)

Students with a degree or MA in Spanish Philology or Foreign Languages, Humanities, Comparative Literature, Translation Studies, Creative Writing or similar fields.

Contact: institutional email of the Supervisor

adrian.izquierdo@urjc.es

Institutional Website of the Supervisor

<https://gestion2.urjc.es/pdi/ver/adrian.izquierdo>

*See the Subject Areas at <https://www.urjc.es/informacion-practica#oferta-proyectos-de-tesis>.
Each project will be included in a single subject area.