

ARHA PhD Language Requirements

Ph.D. students need to demonstrate reading comprehension of **either two foreign languages, or one foreign language and competency in one technical skill**. The languages can be either ancient or modern and should be relevant for the student's field of research and chosen in consultation with the advisor. The language cannot be English, or the student's native language. Students should have completed the requirement by the end of their 3rd year. The students can demonstrate reading comprehension or competency in one of the following ways:

Option 1:

Taking an exam requiring them to translate a text selection into English. Language exams will be given during the first or last month of each semester. The language exam consists of a two-hour exam, during which students will translate a text passage of 600-800 words with the help of a printed dictionary. The text should be translated into English. An ARHA professor will select a text passage that is representative of the type of text that the student might be expected to use for their research.

The student should prepare a reading list of at least 15-20 items related to the PhD research topic/s. The list should be approved by the advisor and shared, with complete PDFs, with the faculty member coordinating the language assessment at least two weeks prior the date of the exam. It is expected that authors in the list should be native speakers.

For languages such as Ottoman, Farsi, Armenian etc. both transliteration and translation will be required.

Option 2:

Students who have taken 2 semesters of a graduate (500 and above level) language course that is taught in the ARHA department at Koç University, may be excused from 1 language exam in consultation with the advisor and based on the positive assessment of the respective language instructor. This rule also applies to advanced training at Koç-related summer schools (i.e. Ottoman at the Cunda Summer School and at the ANAMED Summer Program). This rule does not apply for advanced language classes at other institutions – in these cases the student needs to take a written translation exam.

Option 3:

For a technical skill (ex: GIS, technical drawing, computer programming), the student should submit: 1. A petition, 2. A portfolio demonstrating their abilities, 3. A support letter from their advisor. The petition should explain and document the extent of their training (courses, internships or hands-on experiences) and why this skill is necessary for their research. These documents will be reviewed for possible approval by the ARHA faculty.

Contact Persons:

For any further questions pertaining to language requirements please contact the ARHA language coordinators (2023-2024 academic year), Assoc. Prof. Alessandra Ricci (aricci@ku.edu.tr), for modern and Dr Haris Theodorelis Rigas (crigas@ku.edu.tr) for ancient languages, respectively.

Approved by ARHA Dept: September 2023