**Ph.D. in French Linguistics: preliminary examination**

**Part 1: Thesis proposal**

In consultation with the advisor, the candidate must submit to each committee member, at least three weeks prior to the date of the preliminary examination, a 30 page-long essay + extended bibliography about their intended doctoral dissertation topic.

1. The format of the proposal should resemble a long journal paper.
2. The title should define the research topic in a concise and precise way.
3. It is useful to think of the internal structure of the proposal, and that of the thesis, as the form of a sand-clock. The 'Introduction', presenting the research topic and site in broad terms, represents the top part of clock that is 'narrowing down' to the Methodology section, which should present the particular research method of the thesis. The 'Results' or 'Anticipated results' section should provide details, as specific as possible, on the students' actual or anticipated, original findings. These sections can be thought of as the 'tunnel part' of the clock, leading to the final large section, the 'Conclusions', which will present the findings of the proposed work within its larger implications for the field.

The document should contain, preferably in this order, the following sections:

* description of the proposed thesis, specifying a rationale for the study, a delineation of the research questions and hypotheses, and definitions of terms
* short review of the relevant research literature, with emphasis on the particular contribution the candidate is intended to make to its area of specialization
* methodology, including instrumentation and statistical/quantitative analyses to be used, as appropriate
* preliminary Table of contents (1-2 pages) of the dissertation
* bibliography

For further details, students should contact their advisers.

**Part 2: Oral examination**

The aim of the oral examination is to determine whether — based on the proposal and the written examination — the candidate can be authorized to carry out research on his/her intended thesis topic. The thesis is not expected to be complete or even near completion at this time.

The day of the oral examination, the dissertation committee, presided by the advisor, will first meet to discuss their general impressions about the proposal and written examination in absence of the candidate. Then, the candidate will be given 10-15 min for a brief presentation of his/her dissertation topic. After an extended question-answer period, during which each committee member can ask questions related to the written examination and the proposal, the committee will decide whether thesis work can start.