

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the contact person / the principal investigator?

Dr. Oliver C. Speck, Asst. Professor of Film Studies in the School of World Studies, is the principal investigator.

Who else is involved?

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), the University of Messina (UNIME), and the Universidad de Córdoba (UCO), founding members of the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies (CIMS).

Why partner with these particular universities?

VCU, UNIME, and UCO are founding members of the Center for Integrative Mediterranean Studies (CIMS). All three universities have faculty teaching different aspects of cinema. Pooling our knowhow and resources will provide a unique experience in graduate studies for students, and also foster collaborative efforts among faculty at these three institutions.

Whose idea was the Atlantis Project? (individual or institution?)

The idea of the Atlantis project was developed during the annual meeting of CIMS. At VCU, McKenna Brown, Executive Director of VCU's Global Education Office and Oliver C. Speck, Asst. Professor of Film Studies in the School of World Studies, worked on the grant proposal and coordinated the efforts of colleagues from UNIME and UCO.

How much money are we being given? From whom? What exactly will the grant funds cover?

In 2010, VCU's College of Humanities and Sciences has received over \$950,000 from the US Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture to develop a *Transatlantic Dual Degree in Cinema and Language*, weaving existing graduate courses at each university into an innovative, interdisciplinary curriculum in cinema studies that explores issues of identity, globalization and intercultural relations. The money is shared among the three universities over a 4 year grant period. The funds will cover student and faculty mobility. VCU students will receive a stipend of \$12,000 per year.

Do I have to be fluent in Spanish and Italian?

You need to be able to speak at least one language at the intermediate level [B1 level indicates the capacity to understand spoken and written texts on familiar topics; to interact in the language to express opinions and explanations in an elementary way].

All students will receive pre-departure language and culture orientation courses on their home campuses and receive intensive language training while abroad.

What kind of classes can I expect?

Have a look at the "Atlantis Course Structure" (pdf) which lists the classes offered.

Do I have to take the Graduate Record Examination (aka. “the GRE”)?

Yes, this is a requirement for the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/bulletins/prog_search/?did=20041).

Do I have to apply to the VCU's Master of Interdisciplinary Studies individually?

No, once you are accepted into the *Transatlantic Degree in Cinema and Language* we will forward your paperwork to the Graduate School.

I won't have a passport in hand by April 15. Can I still apply?

Yes! But make sure to have a valid passport in hand by July 1st.

Can I ask Dr. Oliver C. Speck for an academic reference?

Yes, a committee will decide about your application.