

## **Second Language Study**

*Now, more than ever before, knowledge of a second language is necessary to every person's education. Mastery of a second language is useful in almost any career and may provide a career in itself. In addition, such knowledge aids understanding of and participation in world events.*

### **Benefits of Second Language Study**

In today's ever-broadening world a knowledge of a second language is essential. Study of another country's language provides a person not only with knowledge of the linguistic and grammatical aspects of that language but also with an understanding of the cultural and historical background of that nation's people.

The skills one develops in a second language are the ability to understand, speak, read, and write the language with some facility. More importantly, a student studying a second language acquires an awareness of how the people who speak another language think and feel and why they do so in a certain way. To isolate oneself within the confines of one's native tongue is to cut oneself off from an understanding of the vast majority of mankind.

People of other countries live and work within a different framework of symbols – language. The concepts these symbols represent are simply not translatable into the same concepts we have. To study a second language it is necessary to understand that speakers of different languages do not share our concepts. Even the student in ancient languages will soon discover that the Greeks and Romans had quite different definitions for our concepts of love, power, loyalty, and the good. Just a brief contact with a second language teaches a student to develop new attitudes.

Learning a new language provides access to the cultural and intellectual heritage of another part of the world and enables students the opportunity to study abroad and immerse themselves in another culture. The study of language also helps students gain a critical understanding of how language functions as a communication system. In this age of growing global interdependence, it is imperative that we be able to communicate across cultures.

### **Second Languages as an Added Skill**

Although the study of languages may well lead to a career in itself, it is also rewarding as an *added skill* in many businesses and professions.

#### **The Professions**

Science and learning have always been international. French and German are essential research tools for any one who wants to do scholarly work. Russian is of great importance for mathematicians and scientists since it is a major vehicle of technical and scientific information. For many years, Latin was the universal language of Western scholarship. Knowledge of Latin is desirable for any one who wishes to do original work in the history of European languages, institutions, fine arts, music, philosophy, medicine, or even physical science.

There are many special needs. An American banker assigned to an overseas branch in Brazil will need Portuguese. A doctor of tropical diseases should learn Spanish and Portuguese. An engineer with a command of Arabic is more valuable to a Near Eastern company than one who knows only English. A Detroit attorney in a Polish community will find knowledge of Polish desirable. Greek is required at many theological seminaries, and serious study of the Bible demands Hebrew.

It is in fact difficult to imagine a profession in which the added skill of a second language would not increase the opportunities of the individual. No one can learn all the languages which she/he will find useful, but every professional person can – and should – master at least one.

#### **Business and Industry**

A grasp of a second language opens a broad range of opportunities in international trade. In the book importing industry, for example, German will be an important skill. The 4,000 Italo-American export and import houses in the United States show something of the extent of this international trade. Individuals who know Italian will be able to act as go-betweens.

### ***Military Service***

The advantages of linguistic ability for military personnel who are stationed abroad are obvious. Furthermore, when it becomes necessary to train personnel in one of the lesser known languages, it is standard procedure to select those who have a record of successful language study in another language.

### ***Government***

The needs for language competence in government service are so extensive that it is possible only to suggest a few of the areas in which a second language is either a useful added skill or a basic requirement:

- Foreign Service officers
- Broadcast monitors
- Members of the Peace Corps
- Announcers in foreign language broadcasts
- Intelligence personnel
- Educational missions
- Geographic name researchers
- Immigration and Naturalization personnel
- Court interpreters
- Translators for the U.S. Departments of Defense and State, and the Postal Service

In short, wherever our government forces are in contact with other peoples, there is a need for a language other than English. Similar opportunities exist in private agencies such as the Institute of International Education, the Foreign Policy Association, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

### ***Teaching***

The teaching of a second language on all levels from grade school to university is a highly skilled profession, for which the teacher's own command of the language is only one condition. New advances in psychology, communications, and educational technology have affected and continue to affect this profession. There is little resemblance between the way languages are taught now and before World War II when Charles Frieze of the University of Michigan was among the pioneers for scientific methods in this field.

### ***Language Requirement***

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts of the University of Michigan has a second language requirement for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Every recipient of these degrees must have as a minimum the equivalent of four college semesters in a second language. The requirement may be met by course work at the university or by examination. The requirement for the Ph.D. varies in the different accredited graduate programs/schools.

### ***Which Language Should You Study?***

This could be answered completely only if the entire course of your future life were known. Select the language which seems to interest you the most. If you learn a second language well, you will find that you can pick up others which you may need later with comparative ease. Learning a second language breaks through the monolingual approach to linguistic problems.

### ***High School Preparation***

Students are sometimes advised to postpone the study of a second language until college. In our opinion, this is not good advice. The earlier one begins the study of languages, and the longer one continues, the easier new languages seem. Therefore, whether it is your intention to concentrate in languages, or whether you wish to take the minimum amount, it will be to your advantage to get as much second language study in high school as possible.

### ***Placement Tests***

Students with previous experience in the language they plan to use to meet the language requirement must take a language placement test. A student may not elect for credit a language course below this placement level without departmental permission.

### *Retro-Credits*

LS&A students may earn up to a maximum of 8 retroactive credits for prior academic work completed in French, German, Hebrew, Latin, and Spanish. To earn these credits students must complete an upper-level course into which they were placed (by the placement test) with a grade of B or better.

### **Facilities at the University of Michigan**

Few institutions in this country surpass or equal the University of Michigan in the breadth and excellence of its language programs. The University of Michigan has long been recognized as a center of excellence for the study and teaching of languages and cultures. In addition to faculty in language and literature, U-M boasts internationally known area-studies scholars whose research is centered on the region of the target languages.

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts offers language instruction in the following languages

#### *Languages offered to meet the Language Requirement:*

American Sign Language	Greek	Punjabi
Arabic	Classical	Russian
Classical	Biblical	Sanskrit
Colloquial Egyptian	Modern	Serbian & Croatian
Colloquial Levantine	Hebrew	Spanish
Modern Standard	Classical	Swedish
Armenian	Modern	Tamil
Eastern	Hindi	Thai
Western	Indonesian	Tibetan
Chinese	Italian	Classical
Czech	Japanese	Modern
Dutch	Korean	Turkish
Filipino	Latin	Ukrainian
French	Ojibwa	Urdu
German	Persian	Vietnamese
	Polish	Yiddish
	Portuguese	

Additional Languages are offered on an occasional basis that do not automatically meet the language requirement, as well as dialects and older forms of languages, such as:

Akkadian	Hittite	Pahlavi and Middle Persian
Aramaic	Japanese, Classical	Portuguese, Medieval
Armenian, Classical	Javanese	Pre-Latin Dialects of Italy
Avestan	Kawi (Old Javanese)	Quechua
Coptic	Latin, Medieval	Romance Languages, Minor
Danish	Middle Egyptian	Russian, Old
English, Old	Mycenean Greek	Russian, Variations
German, Medieval Low (Old Saxon, Old Low Franconian, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch)	Norse, Old	Spanish, Medieval
German, Middle High	Northwest Semitic Inscriptions (Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Judaeon (Hebrew), Ephraimite, Egronite, Lachishite, Phoenician, Punic)	Sumerian
German, Old High		Tanzimat
Gothic	Old Church Slavic	Tibetan (Modern Colloquial)
	Ottoman	Ugaritic
		Uzbek
		Vedic Sanskrit

In addition, many languages offer courses addressing professional and business needs (select titles listed below):

- Business Arabic, Business Chinese, Business French, Business German, Business Italian, Business Japanese, Business Russian, Business Spanish, Business Swedish
- Medical Spanish, German for Medicine
- Computational Chinese, The Internet in German
- Political Russian
- Legal Spanish
- Mathematical and Scientific German
- Chinese for the Professions, French for Professionals, Spanish for the Professions

### ***Intensive Language Training***

Many department offer the opportunity to learn a language at an intensive pace. Intensive training is offered in Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Tamil, Greek, Latin, Dutch, German, Persian, Turkish, French, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Czech, Ukrainian. Intensive Third-Year courses are offered in Chinese, Japanese, Russian. Intensive Fourth-year courses are offered in Russian.

While some of these courses are offered in a regular Fall or Winter Term, they are primarily offered in the Spring or Summer Term through the Summer Language Institute < <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/sli/> >.

In addition, through a Study Abroad program, students can learn Armenian (Eastern, Western, and Classical) through intensive language study on site in Yerevan, Armenia through the Armenian Summer Language Institute < <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp/summerinst.htm> > and in the Quechua language through the Summer Quechua Language Study in Cuzco, Peru < <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/lacs/quechua/index.htm> >

### ***Language Resource Center (LRC)***

Almost all of the modern language courses make use of the resources of the Language Resource Center < <http://www.umich.edu/~langres/> >. The LRC has an extensive video collection and access to current television programs in the target languages. There are audio listening/recording stations, video stations, textbooks and dictionaries, a free-reading text library, audio tapes, video tapes, software, realia, and copy machines. The Language Resource Center video collection contains over two thousand titles. When combined with the language, literature and cultural programs of the [Film and Video Library](#), language faculty have a rich resource available for use in instruction and research. The Language Resource Center audio collection contains a diverse body of material in more than 50 languages. The collection consists of music, literature, exercises, cultural materials, and dialogues. There are also audio exercises corresponding to textbook courses, supplementary materials and self-study materials. The LRC audio catalog lists, by language, all audio materials available, as well as denotes which are available for duplication.

LRC's Bulletin description: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/lrc/>

### ***Department of Linguistics***

Linguistics investigates all aspects of spoken and written human language. It is especially concerned with the general principles of language structure, with the structure and history of particular languages and groups of languages, with the role of language in human experience, and with the techniques employed in analyzing and describing language. The concentration in Linguistics is intended to provide an understanding of human language and its systematic study, as well as provide the opportunity to explore the importance of language in all areas of human life.

The general field of linguistics includes several subfields. Historical and comparative linguistics are concerned with the ways in which languages change through time, with the variations in language from place to place, and with the possible relationship among languages. Historical linguistics also includes the study of the history of specific languages and language groups, and the reconstruction of pre-historic languages.

Areas in which the findings of linguistics have found application include: translation, the design and documentation of computer software, language and national policy, speech pathology and speech therapy, the development of writing systems for previously unwritten languages, the teaching of first language skills such as reading and writing, and the teaching of second languages.

The Department offers an official subconcentration in *Applied Linguistics and Second Language Learning and Teaching*.

The study of second/foreign language acquisition is a major focus of applied linguistics. Coursework in this area addresses both practical and theoretical issues. Although much of the emphasis in these courses is on teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), the principles and practices studied apply to instruction in any non-native language. A sequence of coursework in this area is especially useful for students interested in teaching ESL, particularly in international settings.

Students will have opportunities to meet faculty members and observe language courses in the language departments and at the English Language Institute, a principal center of second language instructional research and curriculum development.

### ***Using Your Second Language in Ann Arbor***

#### *Department Clubs, Language Lunch Tables and Coffee Hours*

All departments provide opportunities for informal contacts with instructors and fellow students. Many departments have clubs which feature conversation, informal lectures, language lunch table and coffee hours, plays, and special intensive courses typically given during the summer session.

The Residential College French Program offers the opportunity to practice French in an informal situation by attending the *French lunch table* and the *French coffee hour (Baratin)*.

The Residential College German Program offers: German *Mittagstisch* (lunch table); German *Kaffeestunde* (Coffee hour); A bi-weekly "Filmabend" (Film Night) where students see feature films on the big screen. In the Fall, students can participate in a German Theater reading circle ("*Theaterkreis*") that meets Wednesday nights to read plays together in the RC Theater. In the Winter academic term, students can participate in the RC's own "Deutsches Theater".

The Residential College Russian Program offers numerous opportunities for students to apply and practice their language skills. Regular weekly *Russian Teas* and *daily lunch table conversations* ensure that students are exposed to multiple opportunities for engagement with the language. The Program also stages Russian language theatrical productions, in which students participate in all aspects of the performance.

The Residential College Spanish program offers the *Spanish lunch table* and *Spanish coffee hours (Tertulia)* to provide the opportunity to practice Spanish in informal situations.

Residential College Latin program offers *Latin lunch tables (Mensae Latinitatis)* and *Latin coffee hours (Convivia)* to provide students the opportunity to develop Latin skills and broaden their awareness about the ancient world.

#### *Language Across the Curriculum*

The Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) Program was established to provide opportunities for students to use and enhance their language skills while studying in subject areas of interest to them, and to develop a heightened awareness of international issues through the use of primary and secondary sources studied in their original languages. Participation in the LAC Program is open to all students who have completed the Language requirement and achieved fourth-term proficiency in a language other than English.

Each term the LAC Program will sponsor a small number of courses in a range of departments from all divisions of the College. These LAC courses do not focus on language instruction, but instead regard language as a tool of intellectual inquiry. Some or all of the instruction and course materials in LAC courses are in a language other than English.

LAC courses fall into four broad categories:

- regular full courses;
- mini-courses (1-2 credits);
- sections of courses, offered either in addition to or as alternative to sections taught in English;
- contract credits.

Students who accumulate at least four units in approved LAC courses will be certified as having engaged in "Advanced Language Study," in the form of a notation entered on the transcript; students who accumulate at least nine units will be certified as having attained "Advanced Language Competence."

#### *International Students*

The University of Michigan has a relatively high proportion of international students. There are many who come first to Ann Arbor, whatever their ultimate destination, to learn English at the world-famous English Language Institute. Your opportunities for using your knowledge of a second language with friends your own age are excellent.

#### *International Programs*

Because of their strong language skills, many students choose to study abroad for a summer, an academic term, or for their junior year. Students may study abroad with one of the University of Michigan's programs, or many choose from a number of programs sponsored by other colleges and universities. Information about international study is available through the University's Office of International Programs. Interested students should speak with an advisor.

#### *International Center*

UM is #1 in the nation in the number of students working abroad, and the Overseas Opportunities Office is nationally known for its resources on international internships, volunteering and careers. Approximately 10,000 students per year seek advice about studying and working abroad at the Overseas Opportunities Office. A resource library, where students can explore the variety and range of opportunities for travel and employment abroad, is maintained by the Overseas Opportunities Office in the International Center.

#### *International Institute*

The University of Michigan International Institute is dedicated to research, education, and service in international and area studies. The Institute sets priorities and creates opportunities for supporting faculty, student, and public engagement with a diverse and inter-connected world. It promotes education in the world's languages, societies, and environments and organizes public programs on international issues. It supports collaborative projects with partners around the globe and helps recruit international faculty, visiting scholars, and students to the University. Informed openness to the world is one of the University's greatest assets as scholarship and employment become increasingly global.

#### *Global Intercultural Experiences for Undergraduates*

<http://www.umich.edu/~oami/gieu/index.html>

#### *International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) Michigan*

<http://www.umich.edu/~iaeste/iaeste.html>

#### *Pathways to an International Experience*

[http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/iisite/events/international\\_pathways.html](http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/iisite/events/international_pathways.html)

#### *The Language Requirement:*

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/printversion/0,2062,1908%252Aarticle%252A1868%252AUOM%2525FArticle,00.html>

#### *Retro-credits:*

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/printversion/0,2062,1912%252Aarticle%252A1811%252AUOM%2525FArticle,00.html>

Degrees and Requirements:

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/printversion/0,2062,1695%252Aarticle%252A749%252AUOM%252FArticle,00.html>

International Center: <http://www.umich.edu/~icenter/>

International Institute: <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/>

International Programs: <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/oip/>

Language Resource Center: <http://www.umich.edu/~langres/>

Study Abroad: <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/oip/>

Summer Language Institute: <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/sli/>

Link to "The Less Commonly Taught Languages" page

LS&A Bulletin:

- International Institute: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/int>
- Study Abroad: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/intprog>
- Language Resource Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/lrc>
- Linguistics: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/ling>
- English Language Institute: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/eli/>
- American Culture Program: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/am>
- Asian Languages and Cultures: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/asian>
- Classical Studies: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/class>
- Germanic Languages and Literatures:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/germanic>
- Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/lacs>
- Romance Languages and Literatures:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/romance>
- Slavic Languages and Literatures: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/slavic>
- Russian and East European Studies: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/rees>
- Armenian Studies Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/arm>
- Middle Eastern and North African Studies Center:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/menas>
- Modern Greek Studies Program:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/moderngreek>
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/mems>
- European Studies Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/euro>
- Chinese Studies Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/chinese>
- South Asian Studies Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/southasian>
- Southeast Asian Studies Center:  
<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/southeastasian>
- Afroamerican and African Studies: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/lsa/cg/bulletin/chap6/afro>

