

# UWL Global Cultures & Languages

## Programs at UWL

### Majors:

- French
- French with Business Concentration
- German Studies
- German Studies with Business Concentration
- Spanish

### Minors:

- Chinese Studies
- French
- German Studies
- Spanish

### Certificates:

- Chinese Studies
- French Proficiency
- Russian Studies
- Spanish for the Health Professions

### Other Language Courses in:

- Arabic
- Japanese
- Hmong for Heritage Speakers

## Language Studies at UW-La Crosse

On the UWL campus, students join language clubs or conversation groups to practice speaking and share cultural experiences with international students and native speakers. Advanced language students can volunteer as tutors at the GCL Language Resource Center. Language students with excellent GPAs join honor societies. Students can also participate in research projects with our faculty and find employment, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities in the La Crosse region for which language skills are required. The Department of Global Cultures and Languages strongly encourages all its majors and minors to study abroad so they can improve their language proficiency and further develop their cross-cultural preparation. GCL students return to campus having earned credit toward their programs of study and can also earn UWL General Education credit. Our department has direct exchange programs with the University of Lorraine and University of Caen for students studying French and GCL faculty-led programs to Granada, Spain and Havana, Cuba for students enrolled in Spanish courses. Language students can also pursue international internships in business or health related fields and our department prepares them for these experiences with courses in the field of Languages for Professional Purposes (i.e., Spanish for the Health Professions, Business Chinese.) You can learn about these and other opportunities by visiting our department webpage or the UWL Office of International Education and Engagement.

## Language placement test and retroactive credits

All incoming students must take the placement exam in order to take a language course, regardless of AP or Dual Credit programs taken in high school. The Wisconsin Regional Placement Test provides faculty a guide for helping students enroll in the course that best suits their proficiency level and better ensures their success. Once a student earns a B or better in a foreign language course higher than 101, they may receive retroactive credit (up to 16!) for the levels preceding the course for which a B was earned.

## Career pathways

The globalized nature of today's world means that students looking to join the workforce must be prepared to interact with speakers of other languages in various economic contexts, both within the United States and abroad. In the U.S, the growth of bilingualism and multiculturalism in our communities has been reflected in an increased interest from employers in college graduates with strong language and intercultural skills. In 2019, the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) released data confirming that nine out of ten employers rely on employees with foreign language skills and 56% of employers are expecting an increase in foreign language demand. The ability to communicate across cultures is sought out by employers in our healthcare systems, our school systems, the hospitality industry, law enforcement and the legal system, social media and communications, public relations and human resources, international business and marketing and many U.S government agencies.

Because our curriculum emphasizes internationalization and intercultural competence, our graduates are well-equipped and enjoy advantages to join the workforce abroad. Many opportunities are available after graduation to teach English or work for non-profit organizations around the world through global programs, such as the North American Ambassadors Program, the Fulbright Scholars program, the Council on International Educational Exchange and many more.



**An in-depth understanding of a new language and culture will prepare you to contribute to constantly-evolving and diverse local, national and world community.**

# UWL Global Cultures & Languages

## What distinguishes UWL's Global Cultures & Languages programs?

### ▪ Student involvement

Students can join language clubs or conversation groups to practice speaking and share cultural experiences with international students and native speakers. Advanced language students can volunteer as tutors at the GCL Language Resource Center. Language students with excellent grade point averages also have the opportunity to join honor societies.

### ▪ Innovation in teaching that engages cultures

Through Global Cultures and Language courses, students engage in relevant issues, such as social justice and cultural and linguistic diversity. Using innovative teaching methods and technologies, faculty engage students in exploring their role as global citizens through service to and engagement with cultures both on campus and abroad.

### ▪ Hands-on experiences here and abroad

Students can participate in research projects with faculty and find employment, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities in the La Crosse region where language skills are required. Language students can also pursue international internships in business or health-related fields and the department prepares students through Languages for Professional Purposes courses such as Spanish for the Health Professions.

### ▪ Study abroad opportunities

The Department of Global Cultures and Languages strongly encourages all its majors and minors to study abroad so they can improve their language proficiency and further develop their cross-cultural preparation. GCL students return to campus having earned credit toward their programs of study and can also earn UWL General Education credit.

### ▪ Retroactive credits offered

In order to take language courses, incoming students must take The Wisconsin Regional Placement Test, regardless of high school AP or Dual Credit programs. This ensures students are enrolled in the course that best suits their proficiency level. Once a student earns a B or better in a foreign language course higher than 101, they may receive up to 16 retroactive credits for the levels preceding the B-grade course. Students who have attended high school in another language or in their country of origin; or speak a second language at home (heritage speakers and native speakers) have many options to receive retroactive credits towards special tracks in all language programs and can easily earn a certificate, a minor or a major. Teacher preparation and certification is also an option that heritage and native speakers are encouraged to pursue.

### ▪ Other language offerings to explore

Within GCL students have a variety of language programs to explore including French, German Studies, Chinese Studies, Russian Studies, Arabic, and Japanese and Hmong for Heritage Speakers.

### ▪ Undergraduate research

Students gain important experience and develop skills as they learn how to complete collaborative research with a faculty mentor, present their research and travel to national and international conferences. Students have received grants and/or completed research and travel related to a variety of interdisciplinary topics, such as:

- Women in Cameroonian society from an economic perspective
- The debate on the Muslim veil in France
- Intercultural management strategies in French-American multinational corporations
- Mexican immigrant challenges in the U.S Public School system

#### Global Cultures & Languages Department

Location: 4102 Centennial Hall

Phone: 608.785.8424

Web: [www.uwlax.edu/environmental-studies](http://www.uwlax.edu/environmental-studies)

View degree requirements at [catalog.uwlax.edu](http://catalog.uwlax.edu)