Learn a second language and a new culture from Spanish to Japanese, German to American Sign Language from our highly engaging faculty. Studying a foreign language prepares you for dynamic careers in areas such as translation, business, law, tourism, banking, education and service industries while helping you to develop a lifelong interest in other languages and cultures.

We offer many ways to study a second language – from individual courses, majors and minors to teacher licensure and a pathway to law school. Complement your classroom instruction with activities such as Study Abroad, participating in the Foreign Language Residence Program or being active in affiliated student organizations.

### Areas of Study

In addition to offering instruction in 15 languages, we offer undergraduate majors in French, German, Spanish and an accelerated B.A./JD degree. Minoring in additional languages, linguistics, classical studies or translation are great complements to your degree.

### Foreign Language Residence Program

NIU has one of only a few programs in the country that offers a comprehensive language immersion experience. This active learning community is open to all students (residential or commuter), regardless of major and language level. Alongside native speakers, you will eat dinners together, participate in language nights, attend an annual retreat and go on cultural excursions. This unique experience will enhance your language ability, form lifelong friendships and help make you a more marketable candidate in today’s competitive labor market.

### Study Abroad

Each year, our students study abroad in Argentina, China, France, Germany and Spain through faculty-led or NIU-affiliated programs. Once abroad, students are immersed in the language and culture– a truly invaluable experience. In order to support our students’ study abroad experience, we annually distribute about $20,000 through numerous competitive departmental scholarships.
B.A. in World Languages and Cultures

Select an emphasis (French and Francophone Studies, German Studies, or Spanish and Hispanic Studies) and choose your focus - Literature, Linguistics or Culture. All students start by taking FLAL 300 Introduction to World Languages and Cultures. If you are interested in the fast growing field of translation, we encourage you to pursue the minor in Translation for Global Literacy. If you are interested in a law career, we offer a six-year accelerated B.A./JD degree.

If you are interested in a teaching career, we will prepare you to become a licensed teacher in French, German or Spanish. Our teaching job placement rate is nearly 100 percent.

A full listing of degree requirements by specialization is available at go.niu.edu/world-languages.

Interested in Instant Credit
Are you bilingual? If so, NIU wants to recognize your language skills with academic credit and career-enhancing certification. If you received the Seal of Biliteracy at your high school and demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and another language, you will receive proper credit at NIU. In addition, you can receive up to 12 credits through recognized tests, such as the AP exam. Testing Services also administers our STAMP test, which gives you the opportunity to receive up to 12 credits.

Language instruction available in 15 languages

- American Sign Language
- Burmese
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Khmer
- Latin/Classics
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Thai

Contact Information
World Languages and Cultures
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Research Opportunities
Research opportunities provide you an opportunity to expand and apply knowledge. Some students work alongside our distinguished faculty members, supported by university research programs. Other opportunities include serving as a research assistant in our Instructed Second Language Acquisition Lab or working on a Digital Humanities Project. You can even present your research at our monthly Brown Bag Series.

Career Opportunities
Our alumni have found jobs in:
- Advertising
- Banking
- Consulting
- Criminal Justice
- Defense
- Diplomatic and Foreign Service
- Education
- Engineering
- Federal and Local Governments
- Finance
- Health Industry
- Hospitality
- Human Resources
- Law
- Marketing
- Museum Administration
- Teaching
- Translation
- Technology
- Tourism