

# WHY STUDY A WORLD LANGUAGE?

## Career Benefits



Languages are in demand in the US workforce. Language skills and international experience set job candidates apart in most fields. The demand for bilingual professionals is rising in the US, and job postings seeking bilingual candidates have more than doubled since 2010. Bilingual employees earn more on average.

## Academic Benefits



Studies show that language learning improves cognition, which can help academic performance in general. Lifelong benefits include enhanced memory, a slowing of cognitive decline, and increases in creativity, flexibility, and “divergent thinking.”

## Social Benefits



Communicating with people in their language builds trust and connections like nothing else, whether in a professional or personal setting. Language learning and going abroad create empathy, understanding, and common ground with other language learners. Learning a language brings home the reality that each of us is a foreigner in most of the world. And studies show that learning a second language makes learning additional languages easier.

## Broader Access



Knowing another language provides immediate access to information, entertainment, news, and viewpoints that are not always available in translation. The more one explores the world in this way, the clearer it becomes that monolingual people live in a cultural and informational bubble. Bilingual people have broader horizons.

## Service to Country and Community



The US relies on speakers of multiple languages for social and legal services, research, trade, and international relations. However, it lags behind most other nations in supporting bilingualism. Your country needs you to study languages!

## Self-Realization



Learning a language creates a sense of achievement. It is a practical, lifelong skill. It helps you understand your own culture and your first language even better. For “heritage speakers,” who grow up with a language other than English, getting further education in both languages has enormous benefits.

## Fun



Language learning can be fun. Knowing a language, even a little, can enhance many experiences, ranging from a big trip abroad to just watching a foreign film or reading online. Few things compare to the thrill of communicating successfully in another language, whether at home or abroad. Knowing another language is a catalyst for conversation. It makes you cool!