IS Major and Minor Language Requirement

Language is an intrinsic part of the field of international studies. The International Studies (IS) language requirement ensures that IS majors and minors not only have an advanced language and cultural proficiency in a language other than English, it also enhances their prospects of employment and future career opportunities. Knowing another language well will expose postsecondary students to career fields they might not have known about without this academic background. The postsecondary experience can also be greatly enhanced by study abroad and travel abroad programs when students have multilingual skills.

Therefore the six term proficiency foreign language requirement for IS majors/minors is a critical and beneficial aspect of the program.

Please note:

- This is not a credit bearing requirement for the IS major or minor. Any coursework taken to satisfy the language requirement will be in addition to the 33 minimum credit hours required for the IS major and the 18 minimum credit hours requirement for the IS minor.

- Foreign Languages that are not offered at the U-M may not be used to satisfy the IS language requirement.

- Students entering the U-M with previous language training will be required to take a placement exam prior to/during orientation in order to ascertain the appropriate level at which to continue language study at U-M. Placement exams normally determines up to 4 terms of language study.

- LSA students are required to achieve a four term language proficiency in a language other than English. If a student successfully tests out of 4 terms of language and has already acquired advanced proficiency the student’s language skills must be certified by a U-M language instructor before the PICS six term language requirement can be waived. PICS has a language certification form that may waive the six term language requirement if the student can confirm by a U-M language instructor that they have six term proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing at third year college level in their native language. If a U-M language instructor agrees to assess your language (be advised that language instructors are not obligated to complete this form and some departments will not do it due to high pressure) be prepared to present the following: program descriptions, course syllabi, instructional materials, official transcripts, instructors' letters, and other supporting documents or materials. Questions regarding the language certification form should be directed to a PICS advisor.

- Students that wish to satisfy their language requirement through studying abroad should discuss this with a PICS advisor. Overseas study courses are typically used for the IS major or minor elective and regional requirements. Students studying abroad on a non U-M sponsored program must complete and submit a pre-evaluation (TCE) form to the U-M Undergraduate Admissions Office. Once the credits have been approved by the admissions office evaluators, a student may submit his/her abroad course descriptions to a PICS advisor to determine any courses that can fulfill the major/minor requirements.
Heritage and Native Speakers

- Heritage speakers (i.e. student born in the US but growing up with a different language) should choose the heritage tracks offered by many language departments, such as Spanish 278 or Chinese 304. Both courses are equal to 5th term language.

- Native speakers (i.e. students that were born and raised through high school in a different country) and international students can get their language requirement waived by a PICS advisor.

Four semesters of one foreign language and two semesters of another (4+2 option)

- Students may appeal the sixth term of a single language (although 6 terms of one language is strongly recommended in most cases) and substitute a minimum of two terms of language relevant to their defined program to total six terms of language study. Must make case. Each case reviewed individually. For example if a student has a special interest in Africa and this is reflected in the student’s previous coursework, and he/she has four semesters of French and wishes to add two semesters of an African language, this may be permissible. Similarly, if a student has a great interest in the Middle East a combination of Hebrew/Arabic may be permissible. Other possible combinations are Spanish/Portuguese if a special interest in Latin America can be demonstrated. However, a combination of Spanish and Italian or French is not permissible. Please note that if you are planning to satisfy the PICS language requirement through using two different languages (4 +2 terms) you must obtain pre-approval. Questions regarding this should be directed to your PICS advisor.

- PICS encourages the study of less commonly taught languages and will in most cases approve a 4+2 option if students take all courses available in a less commonly taught language. For a list of less commonly taught languages taught at U-M, please visit: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/students/academicsrequirements/lsadegreesrequirements/languagerequirement/lesscommonlytaughtlanguages

- For any questions about the International Studies Language requirement, please email: is-advising@umich.edu

Regional Requirement and Language

- The IS regional requirement should focus on a single world region as it connects to your language of study. Upper-level language courses beyond the sixth-term language requirement that have a focus on culture, history, arts, etc. may work as a regional course as well as relevant study abroad courses. The regional course does not have to be taught in target language.
Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>POLSCI 347 “Politics and Society in Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SPANISH 328 “Studies in Hispanic Popular Culture”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STDABRD 240 “Spanish Culture”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>FRENCH 369 “Literature, History, and Culture of Modernity”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WOMENSTD 317 “Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Studies Foreign Language Approved Course List

Courses listed here represent the 6th term of language that will satisfy the IS language requirement. If your language elected language is not listed here, please meet with a PICS advisor to discuss language requirement:

**Arabic**
- AAPTIS 404  \textit{Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II}

**Chinese**
- ASIANLAN 302  \textit{Third Year Chinese I}
- Or
  - ASIANLAN 303  \textit{Third Year Chinese for Mandarin Speakers} (heritage language track)

**French**
- Student completes FRE 235, \textit{Advanced Practice in French}, and then one of the following courses:
  - FRENCH 270  \textit{French and Francophone Literature and Culture}
  - FRENCH 272  \textit{French and Francophone Film, Media, and Culture}
  - FRENCH 274  \textit{French and Francophone Societies and Culture}
  - FRENCH 276  \textit{Spoken and Written Performance in French}

  Residential College student completes
  - RCHUM 320

**Hebrew**
- HJCS 302  \textit{Advanced Hebrew II}

**Hindi**
- ASIANLAN 418  \textit{Advanced Hindi II}

**Italian**
- ITALIAN 235  \textit{Advanced Practice in Italian}
  - or above \textit{taught in Italian}

**Japanese**
- ASIANLAN 326  \textit{Third Year Japanese II}
**Korean**
ASIANLAN 336  *Third Year Korean II*

**Portuguese**
Student completes any two courses *above*
PORTUG 232  *Second Year Portuguese*

**Spanish**
Student completes one language course *above*
SPANISH 277  *Reading, Grammar, and Composition*
Or
SPA 278  *Spanish for Heritage Language Learners (heritage language track)*

Residential College student completes
RCLANG 324  *Readings in Spanish*

**Turkish**
AAPTIS 352  *Advanced Turkish II*
Or
AAPTIS 553  *Modern Turkish Readings*

**Urdu**
ASIANLAN 472  *Advanced Urdu II*

**Vietnamese**
ASIANLAN 476  *Advanced Vietnamese II*