Your linguistic gateway to the Silk Road, Central Asia, and exciting future careers!

In the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan was a historic center of empires, education, and trade. The cities of Uzbekistan—Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shakhrisabz, and Tashkent—are symbols of oriental beauty and mystery. These ancient cities were hubs on the ancient Silk Road, the famous trading route between China and the West.

Today, 27 million people live in Uzbekistan on land about the size of California. Uzbekistan is the second largest exporter of cotton after the U.S. and has rich natural resources: natural gas, oil, gold, copper, uranium, and others.

It is also a strategically important country in Central Asia, vital to U.S. foreign policy. The land is famous for its orchards, melons, vineyards, and traditional cuisine. Students who visit Uzbekistan once will definitely come back for more!

Uzbek belongs to the Turkic language group and is spoken by over 30 million people. Most Uzbek speakers live in Uzbekistan, but others live in neighboring Central Asian republics and northern Afghanistan. Uzbek is an easy language to read, write, and speak. The new Uzbek Latin alphabet (more or less the same as English) was introduced in 1995, and all Uzbek Latin characters exist on the standard computer keyboard.

Introductory Uzbek students use the Latin alphabet, and by end of the first week you’ll be speaking and writing basic information about yourself! There is no gender or complicated and confusing grammar constructions in Uzbek. While taking Uzbek language, you will also learn about Uzbek history and Uzbekistan’s unique culture and traditions. It is the gateway to Central Asia!

IU’s Central Eurasian Studies Department is the only department in the U.S. that offers three levels of Uzbek.

The small classes, individual attention, fun atmosphere, effective teaching materials, and scholarship opportunities for further study and research abroad will help you master the language and could give an unexpected boost to your future career.

is home to two institutions uniquely suited to assist in the learning of Turkic languages: the Turkish Flagship Program and the Center for Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeLCAR). They provide a wealth of extra information and help to interested students.

Learn Uzbek with CENTRAL EURASIAN STUDIES

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