Why Learn A World Language?

- In increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for individual enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.
- According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you **boost decision-making skills**.
- Students who study world languages **score higher on standardized tests** as a study from York University in Toronto showed.
  
  Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.
- Knowledge of a world language **increases your chances of landing a good job**, as demonstrated in a recent poll of *The Economist* showed.

  An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.
- Learning a second language has compelling **health benefits**, a study from York University in Toronto connects the prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.

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_for more information regarding Majors, Minors, courses, and other available resources in this language:_

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Twi is a cover term for some of the dialects of Akan, but some people equate it with the Akan language, itself. In fact, the Akan people speak the various dialects of Akan and not the Akan language per se. The choice of the variety of Akan to teach and learn is often made from the dialects that have so far been reduced to writing, namely Asante, Akwapem (Akwapim), and Fante, which are mutually intelligible. Akan is now spoken and understood in virtually all parts of Ghana in West Africa. This means that visitors to Ghana should have no problem with communication once they know English, the official language, and Akan.

Not only does the study of Akan help students to satisfy foreign language requirements, but also it enables them to learn the language as well as the various cultural practices of the Akan people.

The African Languages Minor also permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at Indiana University (such as Akan), gain social and cultural knowledge related to the language, and receive an introduction to African linguistics or pragmatics. This Minor is awarded through Linguistics.

Who speaks Akan?
Akan belongs to the Kwa subdivision of the Niger-Congo group of African languages. Over 40% of the Ghanaian population speak various dialects of the Akan language as their mother tongue, while a good proportion of the remainder speak these varieties as second or third languages. About 11 million people speak Akan/Twi as their first language and 1,050,000 in Ghana alone.

Famous Akan People (Descent)
- Joseph Addai—renowned NFL running back
- Kofi Annan—renowned economist, diplomat, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Nobel laureate
- Frederick Douglass—abolitionist
- W.E.B. Du Bois—civil rights activist
- Idris Elba—actor
- Boris Kodjoe—actor
- Charlie Peprah—renowned NFL safety
- Adrien Sauvage—fashion designer
- Vanessa L. Williams—singer & actress

Learn these everyday phrases!
- YES: Aane
- NO: Daabi
- Welcome: Akwaaba
- How are you? (Hello): Wo ho te sen?
- I am fine: Me ho ye
- Thank you: Meda wo ase
- Please/excuse me: Mepa wo kyew
- What is your name?: Yefe wo sen? OR Wo din de sen?
- My name is ... : Yefe me ... OR Me din de ...
- Good morning: Maakye
- Good afternoon: Maaha
- Good evening: Maadwo

Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Lang
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Bamana
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Serbian
- Catalan
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dari
- Dutch
- Egyptian
- Ethiopian
- Finnish
- French
- Georgian
- German
- German (Old High)
- Greek (Classical)
- Greek (Modern)
- Haitian Creole
- Hausa
- Hebrew (Biblical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kazakh
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kyrgyz
- Kwanyama
- Latin
- Macedonian
- Malay
- Malayalam
- Manx
- Mongolian
- Norwegian
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Serbian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tajik
- Thai
- Turkish (Ottoman)
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu