Why Learn A World Language?

♦ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal 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 in The Economist.

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, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.

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

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There are many reasons for studying Bamana. These include personal interest in the culture of the Bamana people, research interests and fulfillment of foreign language requirements.

The knowledge of Bamana language will be very helpful to students in Linguistics, Anthropology, Sociology, and History, as well as to linguists who plan to conduct research in those countries.

In the field of linguistics, Bamana is one of the most written languages in West Africa. European and American linguists have written it since the end of the 19th century. Today, we find interesting documentation on the Bamana language particularly in German. For students in comparative linguistics, Bamana could be an interesting language. It has borrowed many words from French, Arabic, and a smaller number of words from English.

International workers, Peace Corps volunteers, diplomats, and missionaries will find it essential to learn Bamana in order to communicate and collaborate with the local populations.

The African Languages Minor also permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at Indiana University (such as Bamana), 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 Bamana?
Bamana, also known as Bamanankan, is part of the Mande language family. Bamana is one of the most widely spoken languages in West Africa and is used by more than 26 million people, primarily in Mali. It is also spoken by significant segments of the population in Burkina Faso and northern Côte-d’Ivoire, as well as in Guinea-Conakry and Gambia. Additional speakers of Bamana live in Senegal.

Interesting Fact:
Regarding the names "Bamana" and "Bambara", there is no difference. Both names are used for the same language. "Bambara" is the French name for the variety of Bamana spoken in Mali. Actually, the name "Bambara" is more popular in Europe, whereas "Bamana" is more used in the United States.