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 - 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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The study of the Chinese language opens the way to different important fields such as Chinese politics, economy, history or archaeology. But to study Chinese finally means to study a culture, a people. At the heart of Chinese civilization is its rich heritage of novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and, more recently, film. They reflect the values, the struggles, the sensibility, the joys, and the sorrows of this great people and often offer insights even into the most intimate feelings of people in the past or into high-level Beijing politics at the present that cannot be found anywhere else. These works help students understand what is behind the language, what makes it powerful, and how it actually functions in Chinese society. To be at ease and effective in a Chinese environment learning the language is half the battle, but knowing about the culture behind the language is the other.

Who speaks Chinese?
Chinese is spoken by the Han majority and many other ethnic groups in China. Nearly 1.2 billion people (around 16% of the world’s population) speak some form of Chinese as their first language. It is a language spoken natively in China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, the United States, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, and other places with significant overseas Chinese communities.

Famous Americans of Chinese Descent
- Tyson Beckford - model and TV personality
- Elaine Chao - former secretary of Labor
- Steve Chen - Internet entrepreneur
- Judy Chu - congresswoman
- Michelle Kwan - American figure skater
- Bruce Lee - martial art artist
- Lucy Liu - actress and producer
- Jennifer and Meg Tilly - actresses
- Yuet Wai Kan - medical scientist and physician
- Vera Wang - fashion designer
- Jerry Yang - co-founder and CEO of Yahoo! Inc.

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

Languages

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

Learn these everyday phrases!

- Welcome … 歡迎光臨 (huānyíng guānlín)
- Hello (General greeting) … 你/您好 (nín hǎo)
- How are you? … 你好嗎? (nǐ hǎo ma)
- I'm fine, thanks. And you? … 我很好。你呢? (wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?)
- Long time no see … 好久不見 (hǎojiù bùjiàn)
- Morning greeting … 早上好 (zǎoshānghǎo)
- Afternoon greeting … 下午好 (xià wǔhǎo)
- Evening greeting … 晚上好 (wǎnhǎnghǎo)
- Nighttime parting phrase … 晚安 (wǎnān)