Why Learn A World Language?

♦ In an increasingly globalized world, the knowledge of a world language becomes an personal 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 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.

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

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Maya is a language that dates back 5000 years! It is currently spoken in Yucatan, a Mexican state. The Yucatan were participants in the Maya civilization, whose calendar, architecture, and hieroglyphic writing marked them as a highly civilized people. The modern Maya range from groups highly conservative of their culture to groups almost completely acculturated to modern life.

Knowledge of Maya can be extremely useful for students who in a diverse number of fields, ranging from Comparative Religion, Anthropology, Archaeology, and History to Latin American & Caribbean and International Studies.

Studying Maya can improve students’ understanding in historical scriptures and documents of the Maya peoples. Students who plan to specialize in linguistics, Spanish literature, and Latino Studies will also want to take advantage of this opportunity.

Who speaks Maya?
Maya, called Màaya by its speakers, belongs to the group of languages called Mayan, of which Maya is a distinct language. The language and its speakers are all referred to as Maya. To native speakers, it is preferably known only as Maya — “Yucatec” is a tag linguists use to distinguish it from other Mayan languages (such as K’iche’ and Itza’ Maya). Maya remains the first language of about 900,000 native speakers today.

Famous People of Maya descent
- Gaspar Antonio Chi - translator, writer
- Felipe Carrillo Puerto - journalist, politician & revolutionary
- Hilario Chi Canul - linguist of Maya ethnicity
- Dr. Francisco Luna Kan - important politician and professor of Medicine
- Armando Manzanero - musician, singer
- Juan Jose Pacho (Pacho Burgos) - baseball player and manager

### Why Study Maya?

#### Learn these everyday phrases!

- **Hello/General Greeting:** **Ba’ax ka wa’alik?**
- **How are you?:** **Bix yanikech?**
- **Fine thanks, and you?:** **Ma’alob. Kux tech?**
  **Hach ma’alob. Kux tech?**
- **What’s your name?:** **Bix a k’aaba’?**
- **My name is ___ :** **In k’aaba’e ___**
- **Pleased to meet you:** **Jach ki’imak in wóol in k’ahóoltikech**
- **Morning greeting:** **Ma’alob Há’atskab K’iin**
- **Let’s go to the beach:** **Ko’ox bin k’a’anab!**
- **Evening greeting:** **Ma’alob áak’ab**

### Languages

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

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Lang
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Bamana
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Catalan
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dari
- Dutch
- Egyptian (Demotic)
- Egyptian (Middle)
- 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
- Kazakh
- 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
- Wolof
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu