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 of 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.
Urdu is one of the most critical languages for understanding the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, as well as South Asia as a whole. While written Urdu uses a modified Perso-Arabic script and Hindi uses Devanāgarī, the two spoken languages are mutually intelligible - Urdu having more Persian influence and Hindi more Sanskrit. When Urdu and Hindi are considered together, they are the fourth most widely spoken language on Earth.

Who speaks Urdu?

Originating in the camps of the Mughal armies in the 16th-18th centuries, Urdu is an Indo-European language closely related to Hindi, Punjabi, and other North Indian languages. Since the independence movement of the 20th century, Urdu has come to be largely associated with South Asian Muslims. Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and is one of the 22 scheduled languages specified in the Constitution of India. The language has over 66 million native speakers in the world.

Why Study Urdu?

Urdu is an essential language if you are interested in any academic discipline that includes the study of South Asia, including business, law, medicine, agriculture, life sciences, social sciences and literature, especially poetry. Additionally, it is on the U.S. State Department’s critical languages list. As such, Urdu can be a gateway to a career in government service. IU is the only institution in Indiana, and one of only two in the Midwest, where students can learn this critical language. The Dhar India Studies Program at Indiana University-Bloomington offers three years of Urdu instruction. Undergraduate students can use Urdu to satisfy their foreign language requirements.

Take an Urdu class!

Contact the Dhar India Studies Program:
Prof. Rebecca J. Manring
Director of Language Instruction
Dhar India Studies Program
rmanring@indiana.edu

Learn these everyday phrases!

- Welcome: khush amdid خوش آمدید
- Hello (General greeting): assalam-o-alekum اسلام و علیکم
- What's your name?: apka nam kya hai? آپکا نام کیا ہے؟
- My name is (name): mera nam ... hai میرا نام ...ہے
- Pleased to meet you: aapsay milkar khushi huee آپ سے مل کر خوشی ہوئی
- Morning greeting: subha bākhair صبح بخیر
- Afternoon/evening greeting: roz bākhair روز بخیر
- Nighttime parting phrase: shab bākhair شب بخیر

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