Why Learn A World Language?

- In an 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 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.
There are many reasons for studying Zulu, including personal interest in southern African cultures, research interests and fulfillment of foreign language requirements. In addition, Zulu has great political, cultural, historical and social importance in southern Africa. Zulu spread throughout large areas of southern Africa so if you can speak Zulu, you can invariably understand Swati, Ndebele and Xhosa. Perhaps the most important reason to learn Zulu is acquiring a global understanding of South Africa. During the apartheid era, many international companies severed their ties with South Africa. The dissolution of apartheid in 1994 brought about the lifting of sanctions, which opened the country to international business. This resulted in a growing world-wide interest in the country, and today companies from all over the world invest millions of dollars in South Africa. Others who have a strong need to learn Zulu are missionaries, international aid workers and Peace Corps volunteers.

The African Languages Minor also permits students to reach proficiency in one of the languages offered at Indiana University (such as Zulu), 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 Zulu?
Zulu, (IsiZulu to native speakers), is one of the 11 official languages of South Africa. It is a member of the Nguni language group (other Nguni languages are Xhosa, Swati and Ndebele). These languages are spoken by more than 20 million people. Despite the proliferation of languages in South Africa, Zulu remains the language with the largest number of speakers. It is spoken by approximately 8.3 million people in South Africa, as well as by populations in Malawi, southern Swaziland and Lesotho. Zulu is also the most commonly spoken language in the southeastern parts of Mpumalanga and Gauteng provinces, as well as in the northeastern part of the Orange Free State.

Famous People of Zulu Descent

- Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini-Zuma - Chairperson, African Union Commission
- Pixley ka Isaka Seme - Founder of African National Congress and the first black lawyer in South Africa
- Siphiwe Tshabalala - renowned soccer player
- Thula Sizwe! (Hush, and listen!) - famous a cappella singing group

Why Study Zulu?

Learn these everyday phrases!

- Welcome: Ngiyakwemukela (singular) / Ngiyanemukela (plural)
- Hello (General greeting): Sawubona (singular) / Sanibona (plural)
- What's your name?: Ngubani igama lakho?
- My name is ____: Igama lami ngu ____
- Greeting(s) (morning, afternoon, and evening): Sawubona (singular)
- How are you?: Unjani? (singular) / Ninjani? (plural)
- Reply to 'How are you?': Ngikhona, ngiyabonga. Wena unjani?
- I am glad to know you!: Ngiyajabula ukukwazi!
- Me too!: Nami futhi!
- Long time no see!: Mehlo madala!