

# Studying Foreign Languages at Wellesley

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*“All students should  
do their best to master  
a foreign language,  
study various cultures,  
explore alien customs,  
and travel overseas as  
much as possible.”*

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT  
(Wellesley College Reunion  
Address, 2009)

**Χαίρετε!**

*i Bienvenidas!*

**Здравствуйте!**

**欢迎!**

**Benvenute!**

**こんにちは!**

**Jambo!**

**أهلاً و سهلاً**

**Bem-Vind@s!**

**Salve!**

**स्वागत!**

**Bienvenue!**

**שלום!**

**Herzlich Willkommen!**

**환영합니다!**

*There's no better place than Wellesley College to study a foreign language. We offer 15 different language options, including many you probably did not have the chance to study at high school. Whether you choose to continue study of a language you already know or opt to begin a new one, you can always count on the experience and expertise of Wellesley's dedicated foreign language faculty. And remember: you may never again have the chance to learn a new language with such expert faculty and in such a congenial setting.*

*What can you do with a foreign language?  
See what our students say:  
<http://vimeo.com/69483868>*





## *Why Study a Foreign Language?*

Language study is one of the basic foundations of a liberal arts education. A student who masters a foreign language is likely to be more subtly perceptive, more keenly articulate, and more expansively communicative than one who has not. Language study allows you to explore new modes of communication. It gives you the opportunity to get inside a different culture, which is a deep intellectual pleasure in itself, but also a useful tool because it develops your ability to see the real world from the standpoint of others as well as from your own.

In our globalized world this is a valuable skill—in diplomacy, business, politics, and of course in human relations. Although each of you has studied a language in secondary school, and some of you are fluent in two or more languages already, there are excellent reasons to devote some of your college years to the in-depth study of a language you already know, or to begin the study of a language new to you.

Our graduates report that an understanding of a range of cultures and languages is a definite asset when pursuing internship and career options. Language study is also a first-rate educational experience: the classes tend to be small and highly interactive, and our language instructors are among our most talented and beloved faculty members

In some languages there are options for more intensive study. Other languages offer intensive beginning courses on campus in Wintersession. You may also have the opportunity to take a language course in one of the countries where that language is spoken during Wintersession off campus. Language study at Wellesley is often a part of interdisciplinary work in “area studies” programs such as Classical Studies, Latin American Studies, East Asian Studies, South Asia Studies, and International Relations.

## ANCIENT GREEK & LATIN

### *Why Study Ancient Greek & Latin?*

Do you want to stand on a mountaintop on Crete? Study 2,000-year-old ancient papyrus rolls? Read Vergil's *Aeneid*? Go on an archaeological excavation? Perform Sophocles in Greek with your friends? Debate a real ancient case in Roman law? Explore the Athenian Acropolis and the Roman Forum? The Department of Classical Studies offers all that and more. Classics is a field that welcomes students interested in literature, history, archaeology, art, philosophy, political science, medicine, law—in short, anyone interested in the Liberal Arts. It's a field rooted in antiquity and in what happened to the ancient world after antiquity, whether that's Homer's influence on Vergil and Dante and Milton or ancient medicine's influence on medical practice or Roman law's influence on the law of most of Europe or Greek and Latin's influence on the development of English and the modern Romance languages. What can you read after just a single year of Greek or Latin? The books that stand at the foundation of the western tradition not only in literature but also in philosophy and history and political science: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*

in Greek; Vergil's *Aeneid* in Latin; tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in Greek and by Seneca in Latin; comedies by Aristophanes in Greek and by Plautus and Terence in Latin; lyric poetry by Sappho in Greek and by Catullus and Horace in Latin;



philosophy by Plato and Aristotle in Greek and by Cicero and Seneca in Latin; histories by Thucydides and Herodotus in Greek and by Livy and Tacitus in Latin. And you'll have the chance to do much more than

read. You can study Greek and Roman history, ancient art and archaeology, Roman law, and ancient philosophy in English as well. With the possibility of Department awards, you could go to Greece or Italy to take part in archaeological excavations, one of them led by a member of the Department. What happens after you graduate? Classics majors go on to a wide variety of careers: teaching in colleges, universities, and high schools; law; medicine; video production; the ministry; scientific

research—in other words, they do many of the same things that majors in English or History or most of the other Liberal Arts fields might do. And the Wellesley Department of Classical Studies has a long history of sending its alumnae to the best graduate schools in the United States.

Come join us!



## ARABIC

### *Why Study Arabic?*

Arabic is the spoken language of 280 million people, from Morocco in the west to Iraq and the Gulf in the east. It is also the language of the *Qur'an* and of



one of the richest poetic traditions in the world. It is the language of the *Thousand and One Nights*. Throughout

the Middle Ages it was the leading language among Jews, Christians and Muslims across the Mediterranean in the areas of science, astronomy, medicine and philosophy. Today, Arabic is also the language of novels, including those of Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz, and of vibrant musical and cinematic cultures. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations, and one of the US State Department's Critical Languages. Wellesley's Arabic Program teaches students to speak, understand and write in Arabic. From the very beginning, our courses of instruction integrate authentic language materials—drawn from newspapers, magazines, stories, poetry, online materials and blogs—into the classroom. Many students of Arabic study abroad, especially in Jordan and Morocco. After graduation, our students have pursued careers in non-profit organizations, journalism, government and diplomacy, and several of them have entered MA and PhD programs. Students who take at least two years of Arabic can choose to major in Middle Eastern Studies, which offers a multi-disciplinary approach to the region in which Arabic is the primary language.

## CHINESE

### *Why Study Chinese?*

So that you can learn a language with tones and a non-alphabetic script, adopted by three neighboring cultures. A language with the same pronoun for male and female referents, where verbs do not change form according to tense, and nouns remain the same whether singular or plural. So that you can learn – along with Sasha Obama! – a language with close to a billion speakers, the language of one of today's biggest economies. The language of Confucius, of the people who built the Great Wall, of the land of the pandas. The language of Mayling Soong and Mao Zedong; of Jackie Chan and Gong Li. So that you can have access to an unbroken literary tradition of more than 3000 years: Tang poetry, the Journey to the West, the Dream of the Red Chamber. And learn about the exploits of Genghis Khan and his descendants in East Asia; about movies by Zhang Yimou, Ang Lee and other directors; about the Cultural Revolution, 'model plays', martial arts



films and novels; about the spelling system called pinyin, traditional and simplified characters, and the distinction between

'language' and 'dialect'. Learn something special – learn Chinese, and learn about Chinese culture! Enrich your experiences with a semester abroad, and further explore the history, politics, economics, and art of China and the rest of East Asia through courses in the East Asian Studies program.

## FRENCH

### *Why Study French?*

French gives you access to intellectual traditions famous for their creativity and beauty, plus it's a highly useful tool in the real world. It's often associated with art, literature, fashion and food, but French can just as easily be your passport



to a life in diplomacy, business, science or technology. It's the official language of 30 countries worldwide—cultures that offer a fresh perspective on ours and play significant roles in a shrinking world. Connecting with any of them means you've learned to express yourself and embrace otherness in new ways. A challenge, yes, but also a lot of fun to have the sounds and songs of French in your head and to communicate with people whose only language is *le français*. Our courses in language, literature, culture and film prepare you for study abroad, including our own program in Provence, Wellesley-in-Aix. Graduates in French go on to study law, medicine, and international relations, and to careers in industry and the arts. (Alumnae routinely report that skills in French are a significant asset in their careers.) Students who wish to live and study in a French-speaking environment should consider *La Maison Française*—an on-campus residence that also hosts lectures and concerts. *Bienvenue chez nous!*

## GERMAN

### *Why Study German?*

Germany occupies a prominent position in the global community, has a leading role in the EU and is a crucial US ally. All this makes speaking German an invaluable skill that gives you access to a rich cultural tradition in fields as diverse as music, literature, film, science, philosophy, and political theory. Our German Studies curriculum focuses on developing fluency and introducing you to all aspects of the German-speaking world. If you wish to accelerate your language studies you can begin German during Winter session on campus and take your fourth semester in our popular January-in-Berlin course, an intensive mix of language instruction and in-depth exploration of the city. We recommend our study abroad program, also in Berlin, where you experience the culture first-hand and enroll in courses at the Freie Universität Berlin (one of Germany's 'Elite Universities'). Wellesley financial



aid may be used to study in Berlin, and full-year students may participate in our generous Knafel internship program. Get to know our department: enroll in one of our courses, take part in the department's cultural activities or in our German Club, or simply stop by our office and contact one of our instructors.



## HEBREW

### *Why Study Hebrew?*

Come discover Hebrew, a language that will take you very far... With a recorded history of some four thousand years, Hebrew is your gateway to worlds both ancient and new! With two years of Hebrew you can read the Old Testament and pursue your graduate studies or career goals in a country renowned world-wide for its scientific and technological creativity, you can dig into archaeological sites, and comb sandy beaches, understand the Ancient Near East, and a Contemporary Middle Eastern society. Don't let Hebrew be Greek to you!



## HINDI & URDU

### *Why Study Hindi & Urdu?*

Hindi and Urdu are official languages of India and Pakistan respectively. Both are recognized as Critical Languages by the U.S. State Department. While written in two different scripts, they share the same grammar and basic vocabulary and are mutually intelligible in every day usage. Wellesley College is one of the few undergraduate colleges that offer two years of instruction in both scripts in this most widely used language of people, politics, poetry, and popular media (including the large film industry— Bollywood) in South



Asia. With weekly reading and writing exercises, conversations, songs, and occasional viewing of films, Hindi/ Urdu courses at Wellesley offer intensive language instruction in an enjoyable way! We can easily accommodate students who already have an elementary knowledge of Hindi or Urdu by allowing them to enter at the Intermediate Level with the addition of one-to-one instruction in the script they do not know. We also offer mentoring to help students apply for summer language programs in India in Hindi or Urdu.

## ITALIAN

### *Why Study Italian?*

Because ... Italian is the language of love, style, fashion, music, art, poetry. That should be reason enough for you to choose Italian as your foreign language at Wellesley College. But there's more! Italian is also useful and opens doors you probably never imagined. With knowledge of Italian you can spend your junior year (or a semester of it) in Italy on our Eastern College Consortium Program (ECCO) in Bologna; and be a candidate for exciting internships in Italy and the US and so get to use your Italian in real



life situations. Even if you plan to place out of the college's language requirement, why not study a new language like Italian, one you may not have had the chance to study before? We offer many paths to Italian: our regular four course sequence, with the option of taking your final course in Rome during our January Wintersession; beginning Italian in Wintersession on campus; or fulfill the language requirement in one year by taking our innovative one semester "blended" course for beginners ITAS 103, followed by ITAS 203, intensive intermediate Italian. We also offer courses on Dante, Italian Unification, Italian-Jewish Literature, Italian Cinema, Italian Poetry, Italy in the 1960s and the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, and Italian Mystery Writing. Italian is waiting for you!



## JAPANESE

### *Why Study Japanese?*

Come learn a truly interesting language, one that will take you inside the country and its culture. Why study Japanese? An increasingly globalized work world needs graduates with fluency in East Asian languages; we boast an excellent and dedicated Japanese faculty; you can study abroad in destinations like Hokkaido, Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto; you can take part in summer internships with financial support; at the advanced level, you will be able to speak with fluency, watch Japanese anime and dramas without subtitles, and read manga or fiction in the original; you'll become steeped in the culture and visual media of the world's third largest economy! We strongly encourage

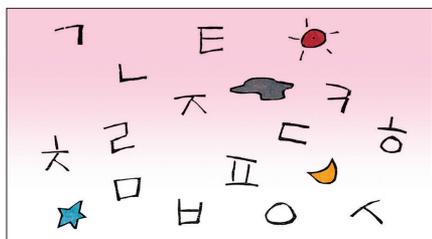


students to begin their study of Japanese in the first year. Yokoso (ようこそ)! ウェルズリー大学で日本語と日本文化を勉強しましょう! (Let's study Japanese language and culture at Wellesley!)

## KOREAN

### *Why Study Korean?*

“Will Korean Language classes ever be taught at Wellesley?” This was the question Wellesley students asked in 1988. In 2005 this question was finally answered with a resounding ‘YES’. Since then, Wellesley has been offering a full four years of Korean language courses, in addition to various culture, seminar, and individual courses. Why should you learn Korean? What can you do with Korean? Korean is the sixteenth most widely spoken language in the world (spoken by 78 million people); you will master one of the four Critical Languages, designated by the U.S. government; you’ll be able to conduct research on the Korean economy, education, politics, literature, religion, etc.; you will understand better culture and society, K-pop, K-dramas, the Korean wave,



etc.; you will be able to coordinate programs for legislators in the National Assembly in Seoul or in the U.N.; you will have the option of studying abroad for a semester or a year in Seoul. In addition to academic courses, learn Korean hip-hop music, participate in Korean traditional dance and Samulnori, discover Korean food, and maybe even attend a K-pop concert! New! The Wellesley Korean program now offers Wellesley-MIT language courses on the MIT campus! All Wellesley students are welcome to take Korean courses at MIT!



## PORTUGUESE

### *Why Study Portuguese?*

Portuguese is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world, used daily by more than 240 million people in Europe (Continental Portugal and the Portuguese archipelagos of Azores and Madeira), in Africa (Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe, Angola and Mozambique), in Asia (East Timor, Macau and Goa) and South America (Brazil). Portuguese courses introduce students to the four continents that are home to the cultures and the diversity of the Portuguese-speaking world, but with special focus on Brazil, the 8th largest economy in the world. Knowledge of these countries is paramount in a world where politics, economies and cultural lives are intrinsically internationalized. Through authentic cultural readings, literature, art, music and films, students gain proficiency in Portuguese and engage in critical analyses and discussion of the Portuguese-speaking world. Beyond the classroom, you have the chance to immerse yourself in Portuguese with the Portuguese Lecture Series, cinema, special guests, cultural events in the Boston area and in the local Portuguese-speaking communities of Massachusetts, where Portuguese is the most widely spoken languages after English. Additionally, you can take classes at MIT through our exchange program; study abroad is also encouraged. –Sejam bem-vindas!!

## RUSSIAN

### *Why Study Russian?*

Wellesley's Russian Department was founded in 1943 by Vladimir Nabokov, the great Russian and American novelist. Now, in addition to the Russian language, you can study Nabokov in the department where he once taught. We also teach Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and other



essential Russian writers, of course! Our innovative courses teach Russian through children's culture, humor, movies, music, and history. Our majors have ample opportunity to immerse themselves in the Russian language and culture. You can study for a semester or a year in Moscow, St. Petersburg or a number of other cities. We offer three-week Wintersession programs in Moscow and Tbilisi, Georgia. As part of a unique course team-taught by the Russian Area Studies Program and the Environmental Studies Program, twelve students and two professors spend a month in Siberia studying the local culture and biology of Lake Baikal, the world's oldest, deepest and most voluminous lake. Russian, the eighth most-spoken language in the world and one of the State Department's Critical Languages, can also get you a job. American emissaries with a nuanced knowledge of the Russian language and Russian cultural norms are urgently needed. And with the Russian economy booming, there have never been so many business opportunities in Russia.

## SPANISH

### *Why Study Spanish?*

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the United States and the world. Fluency in the language and immersion in the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world open work, research, and service opportunities for Wellesley women. The Spanish-speaking world embraces many cultures, from Spain's Judeo-Christian and Islamic heritage to Latin America's indigenous and African roots. Our department has enjoyed a rich history, marked by the presence of distinguished authors and educators such as Pedro Salinas, Jorge Guillén, and Justina Ruiz de Conde who were given refuge by the College during and after the Spanish Civil War. Today, innovation, excellence in teaching, diversity, and a multicultural vision characterize our courses and our efforts to meet the ever-evolving needs of Wellesley students. In language classes, you build proficiency; in advanced literature and culture courses you discuss works from diverse periods and regions: the Iberian Peninsula, the Caribbean, Mexico, Latin America and Hispanophone nations in the Asian-Pacific. "Live the language" as a resident of Casa Cervantes, our Spanish language



house, and study in a Spanish-speaking country with one of the College's approved programs, including PRESHCO (Programa de Estudios Hispánicos en Córdoba), of which Wellesley was a founding member. ¡Bienvenidas! Be a part of our Spanish Department at Wellesley.



## SWAHILI

### *Why Study Swahili?*

Swahili, or Kiswahili, is spoken by 150 million people in eastern and central Africa. People who speak Swahili as their first language are found along the East African coast, from southern Somalia to the border between Tanzania and Mozambique and the offshore islands of Lamu, Zanzibar, Pemba, the Comoros, and the northwestern part of Madagascar. Swahili is the most widely taught language in academic institutions in Africa and the rest of the world. With Swahili, you can study abroad in your junior year, participate in our Wintersession, do volunteer work, or work with diplomatic missions, NGOs and international organizations. Any research you carry out in Africa requires knowledge of a lingua franca like Swahili. We teach all levels of Swahili and offer an exciting Wintersession in East Africa that gives you the chance to experience the diverse cultures of Swahili speakers as well as improve your language skills and intercultural competence. The Wintersession includes visits to tourist destinations such as Arusha, Tanzania and Mombasa, Kenya, to schools, to historical sites like Oldupai Gorge, Fort Jesus, Old Town, and the chance to interact with local communities; and, of course, the opportunity to see the world's largest animals.

## INTERNSHIPS

About 75% of Wellesley students participate in the more than 300 internships the College supports. Some of the internships are located in countries all over the world and require knowledge of a foreign language. Once you have reached a sufficient level of proficiency in a language you can apply to be an intern on one of these programs through the Center for Work and Service (CWS). Students can also identify and apply for internships on their own or with the help of a career counselor and apply for funding through the grant programs at CWS. In addition, the CWS administers internship programs for various departments on campus and/or publicizes information about their programs.

For more information on internships abroad and how to apply for the funds the College makes available, see: <http://www.wellesley.edu/cws/>



## STUDY ABROAD

About half of Wellesley's students spend a semester or year abroad in order to perfect language skills, develop a new perspective on their majors, or to take courses not available on campus. Many of them go to countries or regions where English is not the main language. Wellesley sponsors study abroad programs and exchanges in Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Spain. In addition, you may choose from a list of more than 100 approved non-Wellesley administered programs worldwide. If



it when you come back to campus. If you choose to study abroad in a country whose predominant language is not English, but in a program where instruction is in English you are expected to demonstrate proficiency in the local language equivalent to two semesters of study at the elementary level prior to study abroad. If you already have an idea about where you might want to study abroad, getting some experience in that language beforehand is a requirement that you will want to start on early, so that you can make the most of your time outside the United States and maximize your options.



you decide to enroll in any approved study abroad program, you pay regular Wellesley tuition and remain eligible for financial aid. Adequate training in language is an essential element in making the most of that experience. If you choose a program abroad where instruction is in a language other than English, you are expected to complete a minimum of four semesters of the target language at Wellesley, or the equivalent of 202, prior to going abroad and you are expected to continue with language study for the duration of your studies abroad and consider continuing with

For full details about Wellesley's study abroad policies, see the Office of International Study's web site: <http://www.wellesley.edu/ois>



## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS & PLACEMENT TEST INFORMATION

Wellesley requires each student to show she has proficiency in the use of at least one language, ancient or modern, other than English. You can meet this requirement: by completing two units of language study at the second-year college

with a score of 5; or the Higher Level IB language exam with a score of 5, 6 or 7, you are exempted the language requirement. But even if you “place out” we recommend that you give serious consideration to starting a new language.



level (through the Wellesley course numbered 202, or, in the case of Latin, 201); or demonstrating to the appropriate department or program through a placement test that you have adequate preparation, and by completing one unit of work taught in the foreign language above the course numbered 202; or by course work done at another institution that is approved by the appropriate department. If you pass a foreign language test of the College Entrance Examination Board, either the SAT II with a score of at least 690; or the Advanced Placement Examination



When planning your language study remember that for most of the modern, but not ancient, languages we have at Wellesley, instruction in the first two years of study is offered in paired courses, meaning that you need to take both the fall and spring semesters of a year in order to get credit for either one (but we do make exceptions for students whose placement tests indicate that starting mid-year is best, and Russian is the one modern language that does not require your courses to be paired).

For full details of the College’s Foreign Language Requirement see:  
<http://www.wellesley.edu/studentlife/aboutus/handbook/academic/fl>

## DEPARTMENT WEB ADDRESSES

Ancient Greek & Latin—<http://www.wellesley.edu/classical>

Arabic—<http://www.wellesley.edu/mes/arabic>

Chinese, Japanese & Korean—<http://www.wellesley.edu/eall>

French—<http://www.wellesley.edu/french>

German—<http://www.wellesley.edu/german>

Hebrew—<http://www.wellesley.edu/jewishstudies/hebrew>

Hindi & Urdu—<http://www.wellesley.edu/southasiastudies>

Italian—<http://www.wellesley.edu/italian>

Russian—<http://www.wellesley.edu/russian>

Spanish & Portuguese—<http://www.wellesley.edu/spanish/>

Swahili—<http://www.wellesley.edu/africana>



