



Languages, Literatures, & Cultures

llc.richmond.edu

Introduction to Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC) offers major and minor programs in Arabic Studies, Chinese Studies, French, German Studies, Italian studies, and Russian Studies, and a minor program in Japanese. Its mission is to inspire interest and understanding of languages, literatures, and cultures in a global context and provide students with the skills necessary to demonstrate both linguistic proficiency and intercultural competence.

Exploring a second (or third) language is a way of encountering the richness of humanistic learning in connection with contemporary expressions of cultural diversity and change around the world. The LLC faculty believe that through immersive study of language together with close reading of literary works and analysis of cultural production students will expand their understanding of the world as well as their personal and professional opportunities.

All majors in the department require an interdisciplinary range of courses to cultivate both breadth of knowledge related to socio-cultural contexts and contemporary realities, and depth in linguistic training and analysis. Students learn to be sharp critical thinkers, persuasive writers, and sensitive participants in multilingual, multicultural environments. The specifics of language training and the focus of study in advanced courses differs among each of the seven programs that LLC offers.

Learning Environment

Classes in the department emphasize building community and relationships that encourage mutual respect. Communication and openness to dialogue in the exchange of ideas are essential components of the classroom environment. Among the department's faculty are several Distinguished Educator Award recipients.

Study Abroad and Community Service

All LLC majors and minors are encouraged to study abroad. The University has established partnerships with universities around the world to provide safe, high-quality, affordable study abroad opportunities for all students. Financial aid and merit-based scholarships are available. Popular destinations for a semester abroad among recent LLC majors and minors include Vienna, Austria; Mannheim, Germany; Verona, Italy; Beijing, China; Paris, France; and Dakar, Senegal. In addition, the department supports summer study abroad programs where students can engage in immersive study of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Russian.

The study of languages, literatures, and cultures also draws students directly into the local community. International students at Richmond can strengthen their intercultural competence and academic English language skills through specific courses offered in the department. Selected courses also offer community-based learning opportunities, where students can utilize their linguistic and cultural skills to benefit the local community and enhance their own learning.

Career Opportunities

American corporate executives and graduate professional programs continue to express preferences for students who can think creatively, express ideas clearly, and approach complexity with an awareness of the ethical, historical, and cross-cultural dimensions of human interactions. A student majoring in one of LLC's programs has that desired profile and is prepared to work in a variety of fields, including international policy, government, law, research and development, and consulting.

Facilities and Special Equipment

Located in the Carole Weinstein International Center, the department features state of the art classrooms as well as the Global Studio, a centralized multimedia space that supports

technology-enhanced learning for multiple languages, including exciting initiatives in the use of podcasts, digital storytelling, assessment, and eTandem connections with partner institutions around the world. Students utilize the Global Studio facilities for multilingual computing, digital audio recording, and video production. Patrons enjoy watching international films, developing community-based learning relationships, and exploring diverse linguistic materials curated for the Self-Directed Language Acquisition Program (SDLAP).

Graduate School Acceptances

- Brown University
- Cambridge University, England
- Columbia University
- Duke University Law School
- Harvard University
- Miami University
- Monterey Institute of International Studies
- The Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Graz, Austria
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Rochester
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Virginia
- Yale University

Recent Graduate Employment

- Accounting
- Consulting
- Development administration
- Diplomacy
- Finance
- Law
- Management
- Marketing
- Medicine
- NGOs
- Peace Corps
- Public Policy
- Social services administration
- Teaching at both the university and secondary levels in U.S. and abroad
- Translation

Faculty Areas of Specialization

- Arabic Language and Cultural Studies
- Asian Literatures and Cultures
- Chinese Language, Literature, and Culture
- Chinese Cinema, Popular Culture, and Intellectual History
- Disability Studies
- Eastern European Literatures and Cultural Studies
- Film Production, Film Studies, Global Cinema
- French Language, Literature, Art, and Culture
- French and Francophone Literatures and Cultural Studies
- German Language, Literature, and Culture
- German Cinema, Politics, and Popular Culture
- History of Science
- Holocaust Representation
- Italian Language, Literature, Art, and Cultural Studies
- Japanese Language and Culture
- Language pedagogy
- Literatures of Exile, Migration, and Transnational Literatures
- Post-colonial Criticism
- Renaissance Studies
- Russian Language, Literature, and Culture
- Theater and Performance Studies
- Translation and Translation Studies
- Technology-enhanced learning
- Visual Studies



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