

# WHY STUDY A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?



## ...IN TODAY'S GLOBAL MARKET, YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO !

- Seattle University offers foreign language programs in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish, as well as internships and opportunities to study abroad.
- Foreign language study demonstrates academic excellence and rigor.
- Proficiency in another language provides a distinct competitive advantage in the job market and helps you succeed academically.

### HOW WILL LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HELP ME IN SCHOOL?

1. Did you know that studying a foreign language will improve your test scores?
2. Did you know studying a foreign language improves your overall written and verbal communication skills and problem-solving skills?
3. Did you know that studying a foreign language helps you get into graduate school in all fields of study?

### HOW WILL LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND CULTURE HELP ME FIND A JOB?

1. Did you know that Foreign Languages are listed as # 5 in the top ten most useful college majors ?
2. Did you know that Foreign Language Majors have a statistically lower chance of unemployment?
3. Did you know that Foreign Language Majors earn more money ?
4. Did you know that Foreign Language Majors are highly valued on the job market for their increased communication skills and ability to travel?

Research data provided by : NEA Research ; Georgetown University and data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics; American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages; Vistawide.com; NACE Job Outlook, 2012.

## **Quotes from Modern Languages and Cultures Alumni**

- "In my work doing health care outreach to the homeless population in Seattle, I see Spanish-speaking women and families who are undocumented. Being able to offer services to them in their first language is something I highly value; it is a way to connect with them, build a trusting relationship, and honor their human dignity."

***Devin Seman, '07 Health Care Access Advocate, YWCA of Seattle-King-Snohomish***

- "The French program helped expand my horizons and my world view allowing me to better understand and appreciate the nuanced nature of life providing the necessary foundation required for engaging the complex challenges of social justice. Working in forestry and the non-profit industry, I've found the importance of communication, imparted by the Modern Language Department, has allowed me to increase my effectiveness as a worker and allowed me to connect to and engage with larger swaths of the community expanding the impact of my work. The ability to articulate and communicate an idea effectively is the heart of language, the foundation for success after graduation, and the catalyst for social change and progression."

***Philip Pantaleo '10 AmeriCorps Restoration Assistant at Nature Consortium***

- "I graduated in 2007 with a French major and Studio Art minor. In my current work for The Boeing Company, I have not used the language itself, more the experiences I gained from living in a different culture: being patient with yourself and others, thriving in ambiguous situations, learning how to navigate a new environment. My current title is Supply Chain Management Analyst (SCA). I coordinate with a wide array of people in and outside of Boeing to purchase 777 & 787 airplane parts. Keeping things in perspective and the ability to think on my feet and improvise are definitely things I could not have learned any other way than by being 2,000 miles away, figuring it out on my own."

***Allison Bondy '07 Supply Chain Management Analyst, The Boeing Company***

- "I was extremely blessed to go to a school that offered not only Spanish but also Mandarin Chinese. Today I live in Beijing and work as a Diplomat for the State Department and put those language skills to use daily. With Seattle University's dedicated teachers, small class sizes, emphasis on service learning and study abroad requirement I was able to get a strong language base at Seattle University that has set me up for success in my career and put me ahead in the game."

***Matt Pierson '07 Diplomat for the US State Department***

- "Absolutely! I am a career higher education development officer and I have used my French language skills on many occasions when soliciting alumni living in French speaking countries. Additionally, my French language skills made learning Italian much easier!"

***Allison Kemmis-Price, '96 Development Officer in higher education***

- "Majoring in Spanish has helped me in every career step I've taken since graduating in 2008. I have worked and volunteered abroad in Central American countries, and I worked as a Community Health Worker for Spanish speakers here in Seattle. Currently, I am a Teacher for the Casa de los Amigos program for immigrant youth at YouthCare in Seattle, and I am speaking Spanish more throughout the day than English. Learning to speak Spanish fluently has opened up amazing doors both home and abroad."

***Micaela Pelland, '08***

***Teacher, YouthCare***

- "After studying Spanish I was able to get my dream job in Nicaragua. Using my language skills I helped bridge the gap for visiting international volunteers to support cross-cultural relationships which opened the door for a program development position working directly with local community leaders. I loved it so much I stayed abroad for four years! On a side note: I returned to the US to get my MPA (just graduated last week!) with a focus on nonprofit management and continue to use my language skills on a daily basis both in my personal and professional life as a temp at PATH."

***Nikki SanchezComeau, '05 Former Site Coordinator, Bridges to Community, Ticuantepe, Nicaragua***