

*Join our linguistically and culturally diverse, interdisciplinary community!  
Join the [Department of Modern Languages & Literatures](#) at W&M!*

*Did you know that...*

... in a [joint statement in 2020](#), the main academies of arts & sciences in the English-speaking world acknowledged that “[t]oday, Anglophone communities in particular are not producing enough speakers of languages other than English to meet 21<sup>st</sup>-century needs” and that “[l]anguage instruction ... is crucial to creating future **global citizens** who can respond to these challenges [i.e., economic disparities, environmental threats, heightened racism, regional tensions, etc.] and support positive impacts on our own **domestic politics**”?

... one of the main principles of the [William & Mary mission](#) is to “cultivate creative thinkers, principled leaders, and compassionate **global citizens** equipped for lives of meaning and distinction”?

... at W&M we “engage **diverse perspectives** and seek wisdom in **bridging differences**”?

... the [Department of Modern Languages & Literatures](#) prepares students “to thrive in a **linguistically and culturally diverse world**”?

... the Department offers courses ranging from introductory to advanced language classes, to courses in Cultural Studies that intersect with art, literature, migration, film, performance, media, translation, philosophy, history, linguistics, big data, gender and sexuality, history of science, indigenous studies, and more?

... the faculty in Modern Languages & Literatures lead study abroad programs and research labs, mentor undergraduate research, and supervise language houses and clubs?

... Modern Languages & Literatures is a robust **interdisciplinary** node, and offers courses at all levels of the **COLL curriculum**?

... the Department echoes the rich **multicultural** and **multilingual** fabric of the US at large, and prepares students to engage with varied diverse communities, **globally and domestically**?

... in a [recent survey](#) of 1,200 US employers, **9 out of 10** declared that they relied on employees with skills in languages other than English, and **56%** predicted that their non-English language demand will increase in the next 5 years?

... in the same survey, US employers identified **Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish** as the **top eight** non-English languages they sought in prospective hires, and that you can study these languages & cultures here, at W&M?

### *I'm in! Where do I start?*

Your first step toward joining the intercultural and interdisciplinary community that is the [Department of Modern Languages & Literatures](#) should be making sure that your transcript includes all and any information about your previous formal training in our eight languages & cultures (e.g., credits transferred from a previous post-secondary institution; credits earned via pre-matriculation exams such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate; indication that you have fulfilled the Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement; etc.). If your transcript on Degree Works does not reflect your credentials, please reach out to the [W&M Registrar's Office \(Degree Audit\)](#) at your earliest convenience.

### *Scenario 1*

If you have no experience with our eight languages & cultures, register for your desired program's 101 class (e.g., ITAL 101, GRMN 101). Please note that the Hispanic Studies program only offers introductory Spanish classes in what we call [combined courses](#), as they synthesize the content of two regular semesters into a single one (HISP 103).



### *Scenario 2*

If you have some formal training with your desired program (e.g., between 1 and 4 years of coursework in high school), but that training is not reflected as credits in your transcript, simply take the appropriate [placement exam](#) to determine which class is most suitable for you. In the case of the Chinese Studies Program, instead of taking a placement exam, you should schedule a [placement consultation](#) that occurs during the days preceding the start of every semester.

### Scenario 3

If your transcript shows earned credits in your desired program, please check if those credits are presented as what we call “elective credit” (e.g., RUSN 1XX, JAPN 2XX), or as what we call “specific credit” (e.g., ARAB 102, CHIN 201, FREN 206).

**Scenario 3a:** If your transcript includes only “elective credits” (e.g., RUSN 1XX, JAPN 2XX) in your desired program, you must take the appropriate [placement exam](#) to determine which class is most suitable for you.

**Scenario 3b:** If your transcript includes only “specific credits” in your desired program (e.g., ARAB 102, CHIN 202, FREN 206), you must register for the next appropriate class in the sequence (e.g., ARAB 201; CHIN 205; FREN 210, or FREN 212).

**Scenario 3c:** If your transcript includes a mixture of both “elective” and “specific” credits (e.g., HISP 2XX, HISP 206), please consult with the appropriate [placement coordinator](#) in each program).



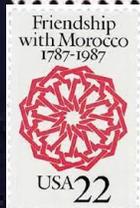
### Scenario 4

If you have a familiarity with your desired language & culture that was acquired outside the formal classroom settings (e.g., if you grew up speaking the language at home, but did not take classes in the language), you might be better served in classes specifically designed for what we call “heritage speakers” (e.g., CHIN 111, CHIN 211; HISP 205; depending on your specific experience, the [combined courses](#) ITAL 103, ITAL 203, or GRMN 203 may also be suitable). Please consult with the appropriate [placement coordinator](#). In the case of the Chinese Studies Program, keep in mind that they also carry out [placement consultations](#) during the days preceding the start of every semester.

***Questions about how to join  
our programs?***

Do not hesitate to contact our [placement coordinators](#), especially for questions about our language-focused classes, or our [program directors](#). Or visit us:

**Washington Hall 210**  
Modern Languages & Literatures  
William & Mary. P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795. USA



***Don't forget that...***

... in a [2014 survey](#) of 2,100 US Human Resources departments across sectors (government, for profit, and not-for-profit), **93%** valued employees able to work with a range of different countries and cultures; and that **66%** identified skills in a language other than English as part of the hiring process.

... all students should fulfill the **Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement** in their **first or second year** at William & Mary.

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