

LANGUAGE LEARNING BENEFITS

- Learning languages and cultures has economic benefits! People who speak more than one language and are competent in more than one culture earn more money and find additional job opportunities because of their skills.
- Learning languages and cultures helps students to better understand and use their first language and culture. Students learn new vocabulary and grammar information that transfer to their first language skills.
- Learning languages and cultures affects students' brains in different ways than other types of learning. Research shows that this has long-term benefits, including enhancing memory and concentration, developing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, and even helping stave off dementia.
- Learning languages and cultures changes learners' perspectives and help them to be more open-minded and to understand different perspectives. Language learners develop empathy and confidence to interact with diverse group of peoples.
- Learning languages and cultures develops learners' mind to new ways of thinking, giving them skills and strategies that apply to other courses and disciplines.

LANGUAGE LEARNING FACTS (Ditch the Myths!)

No superpowers are necessary to learn languages and cultures, but WOLC students will develop many powers!

- Everyone can learn to communicate in a second language, no matter their background, education level, or age!
- There is no such thing as a perfect language speaker. Making mistakes is part of any learner's process. In many instances, fluency is as important as accuracy. This applies to accents as well. No one needs to have an expected accent to communicate effectively with others. The power of errors!
- Using the target language and culture to communicate as much as possible (in speaking and writing) helps students to learn more efficiently. The more language and culture input/exposure students get, the more productive their language and culture learning process will be. They may pick something that they love in their first language (e.g., books, media) and read or listen to it in the target language to get extra input. The power of immersion!
- Success in language and culture learning is determined by a combination of multiple factors: ability, effort, and motivation. If students are lacking in one of these factors, focusing on another can compensate. There is no perfect way to learn a language or culture. Students should try different strategies and tips and see what works best for them. If they like what they are doing, they are more likely to keep up with it! The power of diversity!
- Language and culture learning is not a direct path. Progress is cyclical/spiral. New knowledge is challenging. With sustained practice, communicative language and culture use, students catch up! The power of grit!
- Regular practice reinforces students' language and culture learning progress. Students are encouraged to practice even on days when they do not have class or assignments to help them learn more effectively. The power of habit! The power of WOLC clubs!