The study of different cultures, languages and literature is an integral part of higher education and an essential component of one’s university training. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures provides students with the opportunity to master other languages and acquire an understanding of other cultures. This training allows students to function intelligently as members of an increasingly global society where intercultural communication skills and literacy are indispensable.

**DEVELOP SKILLS EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR**

Foreign languages are used increasingly across all segments of our society. Lawyers, law enforcement officers, health care workers, government employees and corporate managers find that it is essential to speak a foreign language. Language proficiency enhances employment opportunities when combined with any marketable skill. In a highly competitive job market, the language skills and cultural knowledge acquired in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures enhances our students’ ability to broaden their economic opportunities and to function as global professionals.

**STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES**

Studying abroad is one of the most exciting and fulfilling parts of a university education. But in today’s world, it is much more than that. Globalization has made the world smaller, with the result that a study abroad experience is increasingly important to success in almost any career. Montana State University offers study abroad programs at more than 235 universities in more than 50 countries. Many study abroad programs cost no more than staying on the MSU campus, and in some cases they cost less. While students may study in virtually any country, the department has close relationships with programs in China, France (Montpellier), Japan (Kyoto), Spain (Salamanca), Peru (Lima), Nicaragua (León) and Morocco.
**INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS**

The department offers a range of interdisciplinary programs that emphasize the importance of combining foreign-language acquisition with the knowledge of other cultures, histories and literatures. In addition to programs in French and Francophone, German and Hispanic Studies, the department has expanded its offerings in response to the growing interest in global perspectives. The popular ML 100, “Introduction to World Cultures” lays the foundation for further study of languages and cultures. The department also offers a range of film and culture courses taught in English.

**Asian Studies**

The Asian Studies Program allows students to specialize in Asia with options to focus on China or Japan. In addition to studying an Asian language, students in this area-studies program take courses in other disciplines such as history, sociology and literature. The Asian Studies Program also offers minors in China Studies and Japan Studies. Sample courses include “Historical and Literary Journey into Modern China,” “Chinese Culture and Civilization,” “History of Chinese Cinema,” “Introduction to Japanese Culture and Civilization” and “Japanese Text and Cinema.”

**Latin American and Latino/a Studies**

The Latin American and Latino/a Studies program prepares students for the close cultural, political and economic relationships developing between the United States and Latin America. Students attain the language skills, cultural expertise and historical knowledge they need to flourish both in Latin America and in an increasing variety of U.S. settings.

**Options within Major**
- Asian Studies
- French Teaching
- French and Francophone Studies
- German Teaching
- German Studies
- Latin American and Latino/a Studies
- Hispanic Studies
- Spanish Teaching

**Specialized Areas of Study/Minors**

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers minors in all of the options listed above, as well as in China Studies and Japan Studies. The department also participates in a certificate in International Engineering.

**What can I do with a degree in Modern Languages and Literatures?**
- Advertising copywriter
- Airport staff member
- Archivist
- CIA/FBI agent
- Columnist/reporter
- Communications specialist
- Community affairs specialist
- Court interpreter
- Cultural affairs officer
- Customer service representative
- Customs/immigration officer
- Editor/writer
- Employee relations specialist
- Flight attendant
- Foreign correspondent
- Foreign film specialist
- Foreign service officer
- Foreign student advisor
- Health care provider
- Import/export specialist
- Intelligence researcher
- International conference planner
- International consultant
- International trade specialist
- Interpreter
- Investment banker
- Librarian
- Market research specialist
- Marketing/sales representative
- Peace Corps worker
- Proofreader
- Public health administrator
- Public relations specialist
- Radio/TV announcer
- Social worker
- Teacher/college professor
- Tour organizer/guide
- Translator
- Travel agent
- UNESCO official

**For additional information, contact:**
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Ada Guetti, professor of French and coordinator of the French Section, has won many MSU awards, including the 2010 President’s Award for Excellence in Service Learning, the 2014 Academic Advising Award and the 2015 President’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

MSU students Morgan Peterson and Ezekiel Sharples with a Nicaraguan patient during a healthcare-focused study abroad trip in León, Nicaragua. Image courtesy of Patricia Catoira.

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