

MODERN LANGUAGES AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION, B.A.

The Saint Louis University Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages and Intercultural Communications is the first major of its kind in the U.S. and can be pursued either in St. Louis or at Saint Louis University-Madrid. The program is a collaboration between SLU's Department of Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures and SLU-Madrid's Department of ESL, Modern Languages and Education. The major is aimed at students who love languages and culture and seek proficiency in multiple languages.

In our globalized world, knowledge of other languages and cultures is important to a growing variety of professions, and this major is targeted at students who realize the need for learning more than one foreign language and also for using effective communication skills when speaking to people from other cultures. In addition, employers are seeking graduates who can engage in multiple languages in culturally appropriate ways to further their business goals.

This is also an interesting option for students majoring in international business, international relations, communication and health sciences who may wish to enhance their career opportunities on the international market, or work with international companies in their home countries. Our classes are based on developing plurilingual and pluricultural competencies that enable you to transfer these skills into many careers in the global workplace.

The major can be completed in either St. Louis or Madrid or through coursework at both locations, depending on what languages students wish to pursue: for example, Arabic and Portuguese are only offered in Madrid, and Chinese, German and Russian are only offered in St. Louis. Our aim for this major is to encourage students to move between the campuses and to facilitate the fulfillment of the Billiken Promise.

Curriculum Overview

Program highlights include:

- Small class sizes and close connections to faculty
- Many professional development opportunities through experiences such as study abroad or internships that count toward the major
- Opportunities to study both in Madrid and St. Louis or to take advantage of our study abroad agreements with institutions in other countries, thereby engaging deeply with several cultures and languages
- The opportunity to become a true global citizen

The major consists of 32 credits that include three foreign languages, linguistics and intercultural communication classes, and a practicum experience abroad or in a context in which a foreign language predominates. It is broader and more practical than a pure language major and is designed to complement other majors, which affords many students the possibility of a double major.

Knowledge of other languages and cultures is important to a growing variety of professions, and this major is targeted at students who realize the need to learn more than one foreign language and also to use effective communication skills when speaking to people from other cultures. In addition, employers seek graduates who are able to engage in

multiple languages in culturally appropriate ways to further their business goals.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Benefits of the MLIC major also include practicum, internship and career-readiness opportunities. Department faculty assist students in finding internships in the St. Louis area, Madrid and other study abroad locations. Being plurilingual and interacting effectively with people from other cultures provides students with a wider range of fieldwork and job opportunities; students are no longer limited to workspaces that use English because they can think, work and travel globally.

Careers

A degree in modern languages and intercultural communication will enhance employment prospects in any area in which communication with people from other cultural backgrounds is required, for example:

- Administrative work
- Diplomatic service
- Foreign service
- Health care
- International business
- International law
- Law enforcement
- Media
- Scientific research
- Translation and interpretation
- Travel and tour guides
- United Nations

Tuition

Tuition/Fee	Cost Per Year
Undergraduate Tuition	\$58,960
University Fees	\$1,000

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Net Price Calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>)

Cost of Attendance (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/cost-of-attendance.php>)

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/tuition-summer-current.pdf>)

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

- **Scholarships:** Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.

- **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is provided through grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

Saint Louis University makes every effort to keep our education affordable. In fiscal year 2025, 99.6% of first-time freshmen and 92% of all students received financial aid (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>) and students received more than \$517 million in aid University-wide.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Feb. 1.

For more information on scholarships and financial aid, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to communicate at least at an intermediate mid/B2 level in one foreign language, at an intermediate low/B1 level in a second foreign language, and at an elementary/A2 level in a third foreign language.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the different aspects of human communication, including the relationship between language, behavior, culture and mind.
3. Students can communicate with speakers of other languages in culturally appropriate ways.
4. Students will articulate the self-development of an intercultural identity and demonstrate how this is impacted by multiple cultural influences.

Requirements

The Modern Languages and Intercultural Communication B.A. requires 32 credits for the major.

Code	Title	Credits
Undergraduate University Core (https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/academic-policies-procedures/university-core/)		32-35
Major Requirements		
<i>Language Requirement</i>		<i>18</i>
Students are required to take six (6) credits in 3 different languages carrying the "MLIC Language" attribute, such as Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish.		
<i>Communication Requirement</i>		<i>3</i>
CMM 3300	Intercultural Communication	
or LING 3010	Language Acquisition	
or LING 3020	Language and Society	
or LING 3040	Language Contact and Bilingualism	
<i>Linguistics Requirement</i>		<i>3</i>
Choose from the following courses which will carry the "MLIC Linguistics" attribute:		
LING 1000	How Language Works: Introduction to Linguistics	
ENGL 4110	Introduction to Linguistics	
or SPAN 4110	Language and Linguistics	
or FREN 4110	Language & Linguistics	
SPAN 4030	Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics	
SPAN 3100	Spanish Pronunciation	

ANTH 2400	Linguistic Anthropology	
SLHS 3000	Cultural Linguistic Diversity	
<i>Intercultural Requirement</i>		<i>3</i>
Choose from the following courses which will carry the "MLIC Intercultural" attribute:		
LLC 1250	Speaking in (Inter)Cultural Context	
LLC 1255	Modern Languages and Intercultural Competence	
ANTH 2200	Cultural Anthropology	
PSY 4270	Cross-Cultural Psychology of Human Development	
<i>Elective Course</i>		<i>3</i>
Choose from the following courses which will carry the "MLIC Elective" attribute:		
ANTH 3340	World Archaeology	
ARTH 3770	Art and Politics: From Goya to the Cold War	
CHIN 3100	Modern Chinese Fiction and Film ¹	
CMM 4460	Global Media	
DANC 2650	Spanish Dance: Flamenco	
EDI 3350	Curriculum and Methods in Teaching World Languages	
ENGL 2750	Film, Culture and Literature	
FREN 4240	French Cuisine: Culture, Text, and Context ¹	
GR 3210	German Cultural History ¹	
HIST 3720	Cultural Encounters 1500-1700	
HUM 4100	Engaging Difference in a Pluralistic World	
IB 3160	Cultural Differences in International Business	
MUSC 1170	Music of Cultures of the World	
POLS 3140	Public Opinion and Mass Communication	
RUSS 3270	Soviet and Russian Cinema: Traditions and Innovations ¹	
SOC 1180	World Geography	
SPAN 4790	Spanish Culture & Civilization ¹	
<i>Capstone Requirement</i>		<i>2</i>
Practicum experience approval is a prerequisite or co-requisite for enrolling in LLC 4500. Students will need to provide evidence of the practicum experience to the instructor to receive instructor approval to register.		
LLC 4500	Reflection on Intercultural Experiences	
General Electives		53-56
Total Credits		120

¹ From the LLC Department, taught in English.

Non-Course Requirements

Languages 1, 2 and 3

Once students have fulfilled the 18-credit language requirement and have completed (or validated by way of an official language certificate) a first foreign language at a 3xxx + level, a second foreign language at a 2xxx + level, and a third foreign language at a 1xxx + level, then the program director will check this non-course requirement.

Language Proficiency

Students must demonstrate proficiency in three distinct languages. Program directors will confirm the achievement of these language requirements.

Proficiency in Language 1 can be proved by any of the following:
 Completion of 6 credits at a 3xxx level or higher.
 Achievement of ACTFL Intermediate Mid or higher.
 Achievement of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B2 or higher.

Proficiency in Language 2 can be proved by any of the following:
 Completion of 6 credits at the 2xxx/3xxx level or higher.
 Achievement of ACTFL Intermediate Low or higher.
 Achievement of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) B1 or higher.

Proficiency in Language 3 can be proved by any of the following:
 Completion of 6 credits at a 1xxx level or higher.
 Achievement of ACTFL Novice High or higher.
 Achievement of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) A2 or higher.

Practicum

The program director/coordinator will check this non-course requirement once a student has shown evidence of having completed a practicum experience.

Examples of approved practicum experiences include the following:

- A study abroad experience that lasts a minimum of five weeks in a country where one of the student’s target languages is spoken.
- A semester-long service learning/ community-based project or internship conducted predominantly in one of the student’s target languages.

Students wanting to undertake practicum experiences not listed here must obtain prior approval from the program director/coordinator.

Continuation Standards

A grade of “C or better is required in every course counting for the Major. Students who do not achieve the “C” or better grade in any required course for the major will be expected to repeat the course in an attempt to achieve the “C” or better grade. Students may repeat a required course one time. Students who fail to achieve the “C” or better grade after one repeat attempt will not be permitted to complete the major.

Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student’s academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an “!” are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
Fall		
CORE 1000	Ignite First Year Seminar	2-3
Language Requirement		3
Core and Elective courses		9-10
Credits		15
Spring		
Language Requirement		3
LLC 1250 or LLC 1255 or ANTH 2200 or PSY 4270	Speaking in (Inter)Cultural Context or Modern Languages and Intercultural Competence or Cultural Anthropology or Cross-Cultural Psychology of Human Development	3
Core and Elective courses		9
Credits		15
Year Two		
Fall		
Language Requirement		3
MLIC Elective attributed course		3
Core and Elective courses		9
Credits		15
Spring		
CMM 3300	Intercultural Communication	3
Language Requirement		3
Core and Elective courses		9
Credits		15
Year Three		
Fall		
Language Requirement		3
MLIC Linguistics attributed course		3
Core and Elective courses		10
Credits		16
Spring		
Practicum experience		
Language Requirement		3
Core and Elective courses		11
Credits		14
Year Four		
Fall		
LLC 4500	Reflection on Intercultural Experiences	2
Core and Elective courses		13
Credits		15
Spring		
Core and Elective courses		15
Credits		15
Total Credits		120

Program Notes

Please note, that courses offered by the Department of Linguistics, Literatures, and Cultures that satisfy the language requirement or the elective requirements in the MLIC major also count for many of the

required core components. A student may wish to look for such courses specifically to enrich their experiences in multiple areas of their education at the same time. For example, courses that are attributed as Dignity, Ethics and a Just Society, Writing Intensive or Creative Expression. Be sure to confirm with your academic advisor and your degree mentor that you will complete all the MLIC and core requirements.

Madrid

This is the first major of its kind in a U.S. university, and has been developed in response to a demand from our students. It is aimed at those who have a passion for languages and culture and as a complementary major for those who would like to enhance their communicative skills and career opportunities in an international setting.

Plurilingual and pluricultural competence is essential in today's globalized society because artificial intelligence can translate words and phrases to express basic ideas, but it cannot help you establish relationships and friendships across cultures.

Our students can communicate relatively fluently in two or three languages and have notions of at least one other. More importantly, they have the knowledge and tools to communicate effectively and thrive in other cultural settings. These skills provide them with the basis to work internationally as successful businesspeople, health workers, educators or in any other field that they choose.

Curriculum Overview

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You also have the option to study abroad at SLU-St. Louis or at one of our peer AACU institutions (<http://www.aacu.org/>).

Faculty

The faculty at Saint Louis University-Madrid are experts in their respective fields. They are internationally recognized teachers, researchers and mentors. Learn about our faculty members (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-profiles.php>), including their education, credentials, experience and contact information.

Faculty Research

The SLU-Madrid faculty maintains robust programs of research in a variety of fields. See below for more data.

Find Faculty Research Information (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/faculty-research.php>)

Find Research Resources (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics/faculty/research-resources.php>)

Fieldwork, Internships and Careers

The B.A. in modern languages and intercultural communication opens doors to opportunities all over the world. Graduates are prepared to work in a variety of contexts that require interaction at an international level, whether in diplomacy, business, the United Nations or education.

More and more employers seek graduates who can engage in multiple languages in culturally appropriate ways to further their business goals. "The skills needed in the workforce are shifting rapidly. Employers are looking for college graduates who not only have the latest hard skill training, but also possess soft skills such as communication, problem-solving, and collaboration. To set students up for long-term career success, colleges and universities must ensure their degrees and curricular experiences align with changing employment outlook data and market demands." (Hanover Research, Top skills for New Grads in 2023).

Admission

SLU-Madrid Application (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/apply.php>)

Application Deadlines

- April 1 - Fall admission (July 1 for EU students)
- Aug. 1 - Spring admission (Nov. 1 for EU students)
- March 1 - Summer sessions (for applicants who require a student visa)
- April 15 - Summer sessions (for applicants who do not require a student visa)

Contact Us

Office of Admissions
Avenida del Valle, 34
28003 Madrid, Spain
P. (+34) 91 554 58 58
admissions-madrid@slu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays through Fridays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (3 p.m. on Fridays from May 15 - Sept. 1)

Tuition and Fees

SLU-Madrid is committed to providing a quality Jesuit education at an affordable price. Tuition rates at SLU-Madrid are approximately 40% lower than at comparable private universities in the U.S.

If you have questions or would like to speak with a financial aid officer, email us at financialaid-madrid@slu.edu.

- Tuition and Fees (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/tuition-fees.php>)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid (<https://www.slu.edu/madrid/admissions/scholarships-financial-aid.php>)

Contact Us

For additional information about this program, please contact languages@slu.edu or call 314-977-2617.