

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

A woman wearing a black hijab and a black long-sleeved top is seen from behind, reaching out to touch the colorful graffiti on the Berlin Wall. The wall is covered in vibrant, abstract paintings in shades of blue, yellow, red, and green. In the background, a busy city street with modern buildings and other pedestrians is visible under a cloudy sky.

Bowdoin

Out of **957** Bowdoin students with declared majors in the fall of 2019, **139** were in a foreign language.



56 students—out of **388** with declared minors—were minoring in a foreign language.



Why study languages and cultures at Bowdoin?

By learning a language, you are opening your horizons to new cultures and literatures, engaging with art, and bridging numerous fields of study. Knowing another language expands your academic and professional opportunities, increases your power to act as a citizen of the world, and enriches your personal life.



MAJORS



Asian Studies
Classical Language
and Literatures

Francophone Studies
German
Hispanic Studies



Italian Studies
Romance Languages
and Literatures
Russian

STUDY ABROAD

Cultural and linguistic immersion are integral to successful college-level language study. And employers are increasingly looking for this kind of international experience in job applicants. There are many programs to select from across disciplines that range from intensive short-term travel and study, to studying in connection with a foreign university for a semester or entire academic year.

55 percent of every Bowdoin class studies away and **62 percent** of students who study away choose an immersive language program abroad. Bowdoin students have more than **100 programs** to select from in over fifty countries.



ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Bowdoin's language programs intersect with most other areas of study at the College. Many students choose to double major in a foreign language/culture and another discipline—in the humanities, sciences, or social sciences—resulting in connections that are mutually enriching in unexpected ways. These interdisciplinary connections are also represented in the many courses offered that are cross-listed between a foreign language and culture department and a variety of other academic departments and programs.

MINORS



Arabic
Asian Studies
Chinese

What do language majors do after they graduate? Here are some examples from the Bowdoin Classes of 2009–2018:

- **24 percent** pursued careers in education, followed by business and health care. These three categories represent nearly 50 percent of all recent language majors.
- **134** attended graduate schools, with the top five most popular being Harvard, Columbia, Georgetown, the University of Pennsylvania, and Boston University.
- **292** pursued advanced degrees in fields including medicine, law, education, business, social work, physics, math, fine arts, robotics, and history—to name a few.

AFTER BOWDOIN

Competition is intense for top fellowships, for the best jobs, and for admission to top-rated graduate and professional schools. The study of languages and their associated cultures and literatures provides students with knowledge and skills that give them a competitive edge, including:

- Problem-solving and thinking analytically and creatively
- Communicating effectively and confidently in writing and in person
- Responding to unfamiliar situations with versatility and flexibility
- Understanding cross-cultural and global perspectives
- Establishing professional relationships in international work environments
- Pursuing interdisciplinary career paths

Francophone Studies

German

Greek

Hispanic Studies



Italian Studies

Japanese

Latin

Russian



FOR MORE INFORMATION

bowdoin.edu/arabic

bowdoin.edu/asian-studies

bowdoin.edu/chinese

bowdoin.edu/classics

bowdoin.edu/francophone-studies

bowdoin.edu/german

bowdoin.edu/hispanic-studies

bowdoin.edu/italian

bowdoin.edu/japanese

bowdoin.edu/romance-languages

bowdoin.edu/russian



Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine

April 2020

Bowdoin