

# MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

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## tips for first year students

Bryn Mawr has a proud history of **excellence in the teaching of languages** from different ages and cultures. Zestful, experimental, and diverse **small language classes** are part of what makes our College unique.

Starting a new language (or perfecting one) at Bryn Mawr means joining a **close-knit community of learners** who share goals, experiences, and both curricular and extra-curricular spaces and passions. It provides opportunities for the development of **academic and professional skills on campus and abroad**, enriching a student's profile with uncommon experiences and perspectives. Learning a language is a **defining feature of any authentic liberal arts education**.

Faculty from seven Departments and eight Programs, offering classes in more than ten different languages, gathered to put together this **practical advice for incoming students**.



## tips about language courses for first year students

· Language learning in College is **very different from what you have experienced in high school**. You may find this new experience quite stimulating and productive, so it is best to try it as early as possible. Most of our students are surprised by the **level of fluency** that they achieve in such a **short period of study**.

· If you are **continuing a language** rather than starting from scratch, it is most productive to **take a class in that language during your first semester**. This will increase your learning retention and potential for proficiency.

· If you are **learning a new language**, it is very important to **start during your first semester**, especially if you may decide to major or minor in a field related to that language.

· If you are considering **study abroad opportunities** for your junior year, you need a **steady record of language/literature/culture courses in the first two years** to make your application as convincing as possible.

· It is important not to take a course based on material that you have already learned in high school. Remember that **a short period of adjustment to your language course is normal**.

· Many of our majors and minors developed their interest only after taking their first language class at Bryn Mawr, often in a language that they did not know at all before College. **Taking a language course in your first semester is critical, and it affords you more options and opportunities**.

· Language study **intersects** very productively with most fields, not only those in the Humanities. Many of our seniors **combine their majors** and minors with disciplines in the Natural or Social Sciences. Starting your language instruction **as early as possible** will help you to gain the proficiency necessary to reap **the fullest benefit** of that connection, both at Bryn Mawr and abroad.

· All the Departments and Programs that offer language courses have expertise in **placing students at the proper level**. Our goal is to balance comfort and challenge, maximizing our students' potential. If after attending a class you have any concerns about your placement, **speak to your instructor** and they will help you to find the best solution in accord with your dean.



Each language offered at Bryn Mawr provides special opportunities and resources. Be sure to get in touch early with faculty in the Departments that offer the languages that you are interested in, and learn more about how they will help you achieve your goals in College!

## BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

### DEPARTMENTS OF

East Asian Languages and Cultures · French and Francophone Studies · German and German Studies · Greek, Latin and Classical Studies · Italian and Italian Studies · Russian · Spanish

### PROGRAMS IN

Arabic · Asian Studies · Comparative Literature · Hebrew and Judaic Studies · International Studies · Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies · Middle Eastern Studies · Romance Languages