

**WORLD LANGUAGES COURSES**

- **ARABIC**
- **FRENCH**
- **GERMAN**
- **ITALIAN**
- **LATIN**
- **OTTOMAN**
- **PERSIAN**
- **RUSSIAN**
- **SPANISH**

## ARABIC

Arabic is the official language of over 20 countries and there are well over 300 million native speakers of the language. These speakers are largely concentrated in the Middle East, but there are minority groups of native speakers throughout the world. It is also an official language of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the African Union. Arabs contributed a great deal to the advancement of science, medicine, and philosophy. Much learning from the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine cultures was preserved for the world through the Arab libraries. Arabs have also made significant contributions in such areas as literature, mathematics, navigation, astrology, and architecture. A knowledge of Arabic enables the exploration of this vast body of knowledge in their original language. The Arab world has its own unique art, music, literature, cuisine, and way of life. In exploring the Arabic world, you will learn to appreciate its distinct cultural products and practices. Those who learn Arabic gain deeper insights into the cultural, political, and religious values that motivate people in those cultures. People who know Arabic can negotiate the cultural and linguistic gap between nations, assist in solving and avoiding intercultural conflict, and help businesses successfully engage in international trade.

With the growing importance of the Middle East in international affairs, there is thus an extreme shortage of workers in the West who are versed in Arabic language and culture. Those who study Arabic can find careers in a variety of fields: journalism, business and industry, education, finance and banking, translation and interpretation, consulting, foreign service and intelligence, and many others. Initiatives to integrate the Arab world into the global economy are opening up numerous potential new business opportunities. The Arab region with its rapidly growing population provides a huge export market for goods and services. In order to do business effectively, one must understand the language and culture of the people with whom one hopes to negotiate and conduct trade.

The Arabic courses taught at Sabancı University are based on three textbooks forming a series (namely *Alif Baa with DVDs Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds* and partly *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allumi al-'Arabiyya / الكتاب في تعلم العربية / A Textbook for Beginning Arabic, Part I and II*) developed by a team of experienced native and non-native Arabic language instructors, and are widely used in most American and great many European universities.

## **FRENCH**

The French courses offered by the School of Languages focus on French for general purposes, aiming to provide students with the skills to understand and use French in everyday interactions. The purpose of the courses is to develop students' communicative competences and provide insights into the French-speaking world.

Students enrolled in the Basic course are introduced to the phonetics and some basic grammatical rules and vocabulary items of French. As students progress to Intermediate levels they are introduced to more complex grammatical and lexical structures. In all levels of French, the aim is to develop students' abilities in reading, writing, speaking and listening. A communicative teaching style, focusing on contact and dialogue between students and teachers, forms the basis of the French courses.

Why study French? There are several reasons why many students choose to study French. First, knowledge of French can significantly aid one's participation in global communication and interaction. Approximately 77 million people around the world speak French as a first language and another 51 million speak French as a second language (<http://www.ethnologue.com>). Also, French is spoken as a first language on all five continents of the world, and plays an important role as an administrative, commercial and/or international language in many countries. French can also be important for Sabancı University students planning to work in the field of business and trade. France is one of the most important trade partners for Turkey, investing in fields as diverse as automobile manufacturing and cosmetics.

Students who would like to have their level of French officially assessed can contact Institut Français d'Istanbul about taking the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) or, for those who plan to study in France, the DALF (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française).

Plutôt que d'adopter la philosophie de Pink Martini,

Je ne veux pas travailler  
Je ne veux pas déjeuner  
Je veux seulement oublier  
Et puis je fume

venez nous trouver...

## GERMAN

The German classes at Sabancı University are designed to develop competence in oral and written communication and to provide insights into language form, usage and meaning. These classes also feature topic-based practice of skills in German (listening, reading, speaking and writing) and systematic coverage of the German grammar. The use of autonomous interaction and simulated communication activities form the basis of instruction and are aimed at bridging the gap between the acquisition of language features and skills and their use. These activities help promote greater learner self-confidence and autonomy.

Why study German? There are many reasons to start learning German or to improve your German. It is the native tongue of more than 100 million people and it has an excellent and rich background in literature, philosophy and science. A significant number of business and trade deals are conducted between Germany and Turkey. In addition to this, "more texts are translated into German than into any other language." (Tatsachen über Deutschland, 1999, p.11).

Students who would like to have official documentation of their level of German can contact the Goethe Institut Istanbul.

In his poem *Vergnügungen*, Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) writes about the concept of 'fun'. Learning German can definitely be included in that concept!

Vergnügungen

Der erste Blick aus dem Fenster am Morgen

Das wiedergefundene alte Buch

Begeisterte Gesichter

Schnee, der Wechsel der Jahreszeiten

Die Zeitung

Der Hund

Die Dialektik

Duschen, Schwimmen

Alte Musik

Bequeme Schuhe

Begreifen

Neue Musik

Schreiben, Pflanzen

Reisen

Singen

Freundlich sein.

## ITALIAN

10+ more reason to study Italian:

1. Italian is not spoken everywhere in the world, nor it is spoken by billions of people!! Italian is the language spoken only in Italy (well...actually also in mini-states like San Marino, Switzerland and Vatican City).
2. Italian is the language of Italians, reflects their long and important history, their area of excellence: well...almost everything like food, literature, art, cinema, business, design, handicraft, music, football, etc... Language of EUROPE. Language of the MEDITERRANEAN.
3. Did you know that Mozart composed most of his operas in Italian rather than in German? Did you know that Fatih Sultan Mehmet was fluent in Italian?
4. According to UNESCO (the cultural and educational agency for the United Nations) the most of the world's cultural heritage sites are in Italy.
5. Italy is one of the top economies in the world, and many employers are seeking people who speak both Italian and English. Fourth economic partner with Turkey (in export; 5th in import, as per 2014)
6. If you like arts, music, design, architecture, opera, food, etc. this is the reference language. Knowing Italian is greatly beneficial in several career fields. Italy is a world leader in the culinary arts, interior design, fashion, graphic design, furniture design, machine tool manufacturing, robotics, electromechanical machinery, shipbuilding, space engineering, construction machinery, and transportation equipment
7. The Italian language is the closest to Latin, the common ancestor of all romance languages. Learning it is extremely beneficial in learning and understanding Spanish, Portuguese and French too.
8. Italian developed from Latin and an estimated 60 percent of the English vocabulary also comes from Latin. Knowing Italian may help improve your scores in English.
9. No need of subtitles to see Fellini's, Visconti's, Pasolini's or Ferzan Özpetek's movies!
10. Italian is recognised as one of the most beautiful spoken living languages 11. Italian has the highest number of words for describing (good) foods!

:-) Students, what are your reasons?

## LATIN

The Latin courses offered by the School of languages are aimed at developing students' basic grammar, syntax and vocabulary. The aim of these courses is to prepare students to read original texts in Latin and to give them a deeper insight into the Roman way of thinking and Roman life by doing the exercises and the readings chosen and adapted for this aim.

In the basic courses students learn Latin phonetics, essential grammar rules and to use Latin vocabulary. They develop a vocabulary of about 1000 words; those most frequently used in the ancient texts.

In the intermediate courses students learn more complex grammatical forms and enrich their vocabulary. Moreover they can begin to translate ancient texts.

Why Study Latin? Latin is an ancient language that is officially adopted by only one country: the Vatican. It has no native speakers. However, the languages of most western countries were influenced by this language due to the Roman Empire. So, by learning Latin you'll be able to understand many other languages, not only languages like Spanish, French or Portuguese which are derived from Latin, but you'll also be surprised to know how many words from Latin exist in English, German and other languages.

Modern Latin was used by the Roman Catholic Church until the mid 20th century and is still used to some extent, particularly in Vatican City, where it is one of the official languages. Latin terminology is used extensively by biologists, palaeontologists and other scientists to name species and specimens, and also by doctors and lawyers.

Please click here to learn about Latin alphabet and pronunciation:  
<http://la.raycui.com/alphabet.html>

## **PERSIAN**

Persian is an ancient language that has developed through three historical stages. Old Persian dates back to at least 514 B.C. and was used until about A.D. 250. It was written in cuneiform and used exclusively for royal proclamations and announcements. Middle Persian, also known as Pahlavi, was in use from about A.D. 250 to 900. It was the official language of the Sassanid Empire and of the Zoroastrian priesthood. It was written in an ideographic script called Huzvaresh.

As part of the Indo-European family of languages, Persian is distantly related to Latin, Greek, the Slavic and Teutonic languages and English. This relationship can be seen in such cognates as *beradar* (brother), *pedar* (father), and *mader* (mother). It is a relatively easy language for English-speaking people to learn compared with any other major language of the Middle East.

Since Persian has not changed significantly in over a millennium, the basic grammar for the classical and modern forms of the language is virtually the same and is relatively easy to learn. After one year, students can begin to read both classical poems and modern short stories and poetry in the original, and watch Iranian films without subtitles. Both BBC and VOA have extensive Persian programs and reports online that allow students to practice their listening and reading skills and become acquainted with the three main varieties of the language.

Persian is the most important of a group of several related languages that linguists classify as Indo-Iranian, provides an entry into a rich and diverse culture that produced major epic and verses of medieval poets such as Ferdowsi, Khayyám, Sa'adi, Rûmî and Hâfez. The language is a living link with the past and has been important in binding the nation together.

## RUSSIAN

The Russian courses offered by the SL are designed in line with the CEFRL and aim to develop students' skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, etc. In the Basic courses students learn Russian phonetics and the essential grammatical rules. They also develop a vocabulary of about 650-700 words, most frequently used in everyday life.

In the Intermediate courses students meet more complex grammatical structures, enrich their vocabulary through various reading and speaking tasks and gain the ability to use this knowledge in a variety of contexts.

A learner-based, topic-based communicative methodology is adopted in instruction as well as rich material support (films, websites, etc.) From the very first day students are encouraged to study in a stimulating classroom atmosphere and are introduced to the Russian culture.

Why study Russian?

Russia is one of the biggest and most important neighbours of Turkey. These two countries have numerous connections in aspects of history, economics, politics, culture, education, etc. More than 145 million people speak Russian not only in Russia but also in ex-Soviet countries, where Russian is in fact the language of international communication. In areas of economy and politics, relationships between Russia and Turkey have been developing rapidly and are waiting for the new generation of young Russian-speaking professionals. By learning Russian we get closer to one of the world's richest cultural heritage in literature, classical music and art.

For more information on learning Russian, visit the Pushkin Institute and the Russian Language Centre of Moscow Lomonosov State University.

*Vatanımın kaderi hakkında ağır düşüncelere, kuşkulara daldığım şu günlerde, bir tek sen benim desteğimsin, yüce, güçlü, onurlu ve özgür Rus Dili! Sen olmasan, evimizde olup bitenlere bakıp çaresizliğe düşmemek mümkün olur muydu? Ancak böyle bir dilin büyük bir millete verilmiş olduğuna inanmamak mümkün değil!... **Haziran 1882 Ivan Turgenev***

## **SPANISH**

The Spanish courses offered by the School of languages are aimed at developing students reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in Spanish. The Basic and Intermediate level courses introduce students to the fundamentals of Spanish grammar and usage, while the Intermediate level courses aim to enhance students' abilities to participate in a Spanish-speaking community. Upon the completion of Intermediate Spanish, students will be able to communicate in a Spanish-speaking environment.

A learner-based, communicative methodology is adopted in instruction as well as material selection and task design, and from the first day of class students are encouraged to become autonomous learners of Spanish.

Why study Spanish? Many students choose to learn Spanish or improve their existing level of Spanish mainly because it is the second most widely spoken language in the world (<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>). Spanish native speakers are around 450 000 000 and a large number of countries have Spanish as an official language. Moreover, Spanish is a rich language not only due to the number of users but also because of the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of its speakers. Learning Spanish at Sabancı, then, is an opportunity for students to be in touch with the Hispanic reality all over the world, and could provide invaluable opportunities for students in the fields of finance, economics and business.

The Spanish courses offered at Sabancı University are similar to those at Cervantes, the official Spanish Language and Culture Institute. Therefore, a student completing the upper-intermediate level of Spanish at SU, for example, can continue his/her advanced studies at Cervantes, and in the end can take DELE (Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera), which stands for Diploma of Spanish as a Foreign Language.

Finally, alguien dijo una vez que "la única manera de permanecer extranjero en España es no hablar ni una palabra en Español" así que, ya sabes, si quieres seguir siendo eso, un extranjero en un país hispano, ¡ni te atrevas a venir a nuestras clases!