

# LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTER

Technology brings students closer to the sights and sounds of a new language and culture. The Language Learning Center provides interactive multimedia and computing resources to facilitate authentic language and cultural learning at the University of Washington. We integrate technology into the language classroom, and we support every language program on campus through our digital audio, video, web, satellite, and software resources.



## Instruction

The Language Learning Center (LLC) serves more than 6,500 students annually. Our interactive digital multimedia resources enhance the language learning process, helping students develop language proficiency and satisfy University language requirements.

For language instructors, we integrate technology into the language classroom and make language learning more exciting, current, and relevant, by providing access to resources that increase linguistic and cultural proficiency.

## Facilities and Services

The LLC is a state-of-the-art facility housed in the lower level of historic (and recently renovated) Denny Hall. The center is home to two multimedia classrooms, a multi-lingual multimedia computer lab, a digital video conferencing room, an audio and video recording studio, video editing suites, an audio editing and archiving suite, satellite television, various tools to enable web delivery of multimedia, foreign language keyboards, and foreign format video conversion equipment. The center is connected to the Internet via high speed ethernet, allowing for real-time high quality video conferencing, online streaming delivery of live video, and audio/visual chat. Our facilities are used in a variety of ways to enhance language learning. Instructors bring their students to our digital classrooms for pair and small group communication practice, interactive listening exercises, and oral exams. Our self-study audio/visual labs are used by many language students. Our multilingual staff prepares and produces audio and video materials for use in language courses and works with instructors to establish copyright use agreements with publishers of language learning multimedia.

The LLC helps to provide testing for students who can demonstrate speaking and writing proficiency in a language not taught at the UW. Students can register early and take advantage of this service to help satisfy the language exit requirement.

We create software specific to foreign language study including games, quizzes, assessment, and online flashcard practice. We provide workshops for instructors on new technology, such as Moodle, a web-based language learning multimedia environment. Individuals or groups of students can also meet with others or attend conferences anywhere in the world via video conferencing.

## UW UNITS SERVED

- [American Ethnic Studies](#)
- [Asian Languages and Literature](#)
- [Classics](#)
- [College of Education](#)
- [Comparative Literature](#)
- [English/English Language Program](#)
- [French and Italian Studies](#)
- [Germanics](#)
- [Jackson School of International Studies](#)
- [Linguistics](#)
- [Near Eastern Languages and Civilization](#)
- [Scandinavian Studies](#)
- [School of Business](#)
- [Slavic Languages and Literatures](#)
- [Spanish and Portuguese Studies](#)
- [UW Professional & Continuing Education](#)

## STAFF (Autumn 2016)

- [7 Full-time Staff](#)
- [2-3 Graduate Students Supporting Language Departments](#)
- [2-3 Hourly Student Employees](#)

## Initiatives

The LLC tailors technology to the needs of UW students and instructors. We have developed a variety of interactive audio, video, web, satellite, and software resources for UW language courses. These include:

- on-site active, archival, and online native speaker recordings in more than 90 languages;
- more than 200 gigabytes of audio and video online streaming language learning and culture resources;
- daily digital satellite feeds in over three dozen languages; and
- foreign language desktop support for faculty and staff.

The LLC participates in a longitudinal research project, Mapping and Enhancing Language Learning (MELL), with the UW Center for Global Studies (GCS), Center for West European Studies (CWES), East Asia Center (EAC), the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS), Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Washington State Coalition for International Education, and Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT) to research world language teaching trends in Washington state.

The LLC utilizes cloud-based servers to deliver streaming media to the UW community. The center also supports Moodle, a learning management system that is particularly suited for language learning, and works with faculty to develop fully online and hybrid courses.

## Outreach

The LLC participates in a variety of collaborative partnerships:

- *Chinese language support:* Confucius Institute of the State of Washington, the University of Washington, Seattle Public Schools, a partnership with the state of Washington, and Hanban, the executive body of the Chinese Language Council International, plan, acquire, and integrate technology for the learning, teaching, and assessment of Chinese language and support of technology-facilitated exchanges.
- *STARTALK:* The LLC conducts Summer combined student and teacher programs. The programs are funded through the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland. Our Startalk student program is conducted totally in the target language using STEM content. The teacher program introduces teachers to current pedagogical models and best practices.
- *Language immersion programs:* With the Seattle Public Schools, the LLC and the UW language immersion committee support language immersion programs in Seattle's international schools by assisting with technology, conducting research, and hosting workshops on heritage languages. With the Confucius Institute of the State of Washington, the LLC provides facilities for the Hanban Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) and Youth Chinese Test (YCT) assessments.
- *Indigenous language education efforts:* The LLC is honored to be able to work with our neighboring communities and Indigenous nations to support efforts to educate the next generation of Indigenous language speakers. Some projects include application development, online course development and hosting, resource archiving and distribution, as well as training with new Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) technologies.
- *World language teaching:* Partnering with the Washington State Coalition for International Education, the LLC contributes to workshops on world language teaching as well as assessment and early language learning.

The LLC maintains memberships in: American Translators Association (ATA); Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO); International Association for Language Learning Technologies (IALLT); Northwest Association for Learning Laboratories (NWall); Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS); Satellite Communications for Learning Association (SCOLA); Washington Association for Language Teaching (WAFLT); and Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS).

## LLC PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES\*:

Akkadian	Kiswahili
American Sign Language	Korean
Amharinya	Latin
Arabic	Latvian
Aramaic	Lithuanian
Bengali	Mongolian
Bosnian	Navaho
Bulgarian	Norwegian
Chinese	Persian
Croatian	Polish
Czech	Portuguese
Danish	Romanian
English	Russian
Estonian	Salish
Finnish	Sanskrit
French	Serbian
German	Slovak
Greek (Ancient & Modern)	Spanish
Hebrew	Swedish
Hindi	Tagalog
Icelandic	Thai
Indonesian	Tigrinya
Italian	Turkish
Japanese	Uighur
Kazakh	Ukrainian
Kirghiz	Uzbek
	Vietnamese

\* including Linguistics

last update: February 2017