Developing fluency in foreign languages and familiarity with different cultures and literatures prepares you for careers in many fields around the globe. Our alumni work as:

- Consultants
- Diplomats
- Journalists
- Physicians
- Professors
- Writers

“Studying comparative literature allowed me the space to explore my different interests—fiction, folklore, oral history, art and art history—while also deepening my understanding of narrative across cultures and writing. This breadth and depth of knowledge created a strong foundation from which I draw daily in my career as a fundraising professional for a nonprofit that works with homeless youth.”

Mari Amend, ’13, Comparative Literature
Development director, At The Crossroads

“Studying French literature taught me not to settle on asking the easy question, finding the quick answer, or making the comment that would get me in the least amount of trouble. These skills have made me a sharper and more valuable journalist.”

Samantha Leese, ’08, French Literature
Freelance journalist for The Spectator, CNN Travel, and Agence France-Presse based in Hong Kong
EXPLORE THE WORLD

Study abroad to gain cultural literacy and knowledge of other people that will deepen your awareness of yourself, your educational goals, and your own society. The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (DLCL) offers gateway courses that give you the historical background and language skills you need for Stanford overseas programs in Berlin, Florence, Madrid, Paris, and Santiago.

- CAPITALS: How Cities Shape Cultures, States, and People
- Germany in Five Words
- Introduction to Latin America: Cultural Perspectives

PICTURED: Echopoetics: Literature, Performance, and Visual Art in Brazil course

FIND A FOCUS

As the world’s population becomes increasingly educated, urbanized, and mobile, the ability to communicate with different people is vital. Studying languages and literature enables you to step inside other cultures and understand them on their own terms, while also helping you to see your own from a new perspective. The division offers majors in:

- Comparative Literature
- French
- German Studies
- Iberian and Latin American Cultures
- Italian
- Slavic Languages and Literatures
- Spanish

DON’T GET LOST IN TRANSLATION!

Stanford’s Language Center offers more than 40 languages on a regular basis. Ranging from Catalan, Arabic, and Zulu to Tagalog, Cherokee, and Bengali, our instructors teach practical skills that will enhance your academic studies and help you live and work around the world. Demonstrate your achievement in any language to earn a proficiency notation that appears on your official transcript.