“The reality is that we have to reflect the nation we live in and we have to reflect the world we are a part of. Languages are the key to understanding that world.”

- The Honorable Leon Panetta
Past Secretary of Defense

“In the 21st century, military strength will be measured not only by the weapons our troops carry, but by the languages they speak and the cultures that they understand.”

- Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
How do I earn a Foreign Language Minor?
Meet the thresholds for successfully completing 5 courses* in the same language at the 200–level or above and take the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

The Importance of Learning a Foreign Language
Learning a foreign language will broaden your world view and help you understand other cultures; it will also positively influence your military career. Assignment opportunities may increase, to include positions as a military attaché at a U.S. embassy, liaison or exchange officer, intelligence analyst, or Foreign Area Officer (FAO) in such organizations as:
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)
- Pacific Command (PACOM)
- Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)
- Defense Intelligence Agency
- Office of Special Investigations (OSI)
- Central Command (CENTCOM)
- Security Cooperation Organizations
- Special Operations Command (SOCOM)
- Africa Command (AFRICOM)
- Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)
- U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE)

USAFA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
(FAS Majors and FL Minors favorably weighted in selection process)

SEMESTER PROGRAMS
- Attend a foreign military academy or civilian university for a semester
- Study and live abroad, focused on the language and culture
- Who may apply: 2- and 3 degrees with excellent foreign language, academic, and military records
- When: Fall semester

SUMMER LANGUAGE IMMERSIONS
- Groups of cadets, led by a USAFA faculty member, spend 4 weeks abroad studying one of the 8 languages taught at USAFA
- Who may apply: 2- and 3 degrees who intend to minor in a foreign language
- When: 1st period summer

FOREIGN ACADEMY VISITS
- Groups of cadets, escorted by a USAFA faculty member, spend one week visiting a foreign military academy
- Who may apply: All except 4-degrees
- When: Usually during Spring Break

CULTURAL IMMERSIONS
- Groups of cadets, led by a USAFA faculty member, spend up to 3 weeks immersed in the culture of a country or region
- The immersion requires rigorous academic preparation under faculty guidance
- Who may apply: All except 4-degrees
- When: Spring Break or Summer

Learning a foreign language will help prepare you to compete for the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) as a second lieutenant and the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program as a captain.

*You can validate up to two of the five language courses.
Why Choose a Foreign Areas Studies Major?
The Foreign Areas Studies Major is designed to equip you with the knowledge to be a more effective operator in today’s globally complex environment, as well as providing you with the foundations to develop more intensive expertise with respect to foreign cultures during your career.

Air Force officers from all fields and specialties in the twenty-first century will find themselves working with many cultures and becoming globally engaged. This global engagement requires global skills. The Foreign Area Studies major is designed to give future officers broad-based, foreign area-related expertise such that they are globally and culturally aware and engaged.

“We live in a global world. We have to understand that world if we … are going to be able to not only defend this country, but to extend our relationships to others so that we can work together to defend the world that we live in.”
- The Honorable Leon Panetta
Past Secretary of Defense

“Cultural understanding is extremely important to our ability to affect positive outcomes. As we pursue our national interests in an interconnected, globalized world, we must be cognizant not only of socio-economic and political institutions; we must genuinely and increasingly appreciate linguistic, regional, and cultural constructs.”
- General Norton A. Schwartz
Former Air Force Chief of Staff
**THE FOREIGN AREA STUDIES MAJOR AT A GLANCE:**

Foreign Area Studies is the interdisciplinary study of one of six geo-cultural regions of the globe: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Slavic Region. Each program centers on foreign language, history, military and strategic studies, political science, economics, geography, and cultural coursework in a region of specialization, as well as a comparative framework for understanding cross-cultural dynamics.

Foreign Area Studies majors will select a disciplinary emphasis (History, Military & Strategic Studies, or Political Science) that will determine which methods course, capstone course, and regional courses they take. In addition, Foreign Area Studies majors can earn an academic minor in a foreign language.

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**USAFA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS: 143 Semester Hours**

A. 93 Semester hours of Dean’s academic core courses.
B. 5 Semester hours of Director of Athletics core courses.
C. 45 Semester hours of majors’ courses
   1. Foreign Language I
   2. Foreign Language II
   3. Foreign Language III
   4. Foreign Language IV
   5. – 8. Various history, political science, and Military & Strategic Studies courses related to one of the six geo-cultural regions on which you choose to concentrate: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Slavic Region
   9. – 10. Research Methods and Capstone courses in History, Military & Strategic Studies, or Political Science
   11. International Economics
   12. Human Geography
   13. U.S. Foreign Policy Option
   14. FAS Elective I
   15. FAS Elective II

Cadets must complete at least four Foreign Language courses at the 200-level or higher in the same language

Learning a foreign language will help prepare you to compete for the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP) as a second lieutenant and the Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program as a captain.