An inaugural Summer 2021 cohort of 8 students from UW-Madison and outside institutions studied a total of 7 different less commonly taught languages from around the world: Lingala, Manding, Javanese, Maa, Hmong, Nepali, Bahasa Melayu. Their levels ranged from elementary, intermediate, advanced, & advanced+.
The Department of African Cultural Studies (ACS) provides research and teaching in the languages and expressive cultures of Africa and Africans around the world. The Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar program is housed in ACS and was adapted from their academic year-long version of the course to be open to students pursuing self-directed language study for any less commonly taught global language. For the Summer 2021 Multilanguage program, ACS generously provided stipends for language partners for Multilanguage students studying rarely-taught African languages, while the Language Programs Office (LPO), the administrative home of WISLI, provided similar stipends for students pursuing non-African languages. These language partners were critical to the success of the Summer 2021 program.

Next Summer 2022’s Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar will run from June 20th until August 12th, 2022. Summer 2022 applications will open in mid-November. As this is an online asynchronous course, students can take part from anywhere. As language partners are a crucial aspect of this program, applicants are encouraged to seek out language partners as they apply so that they have identified individuals by the start of the course.

Students enrolled in this program may be eligible to use a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) award to pay their tuition and fees. Please contact us at multilanguage@lpo.wisc.edu for more information on what’s available.