Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar (MULTI)
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The Summer 2022 MULTI program ran from June 20 - August 12, 2022. Being part of the greater WISLI learning community, MULTI students were eligible to attend any public lecture, event, or workshop hosted by WISLI for Summer 2022. This included professional development events such as the WISLI Student Conference, a Language Sustainment Workshop, and the Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) Virtual Career Fair.

The Summer 2023 MULTI program will run from June 19 - August 11, 2023.

The Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar, (MULTI) hosted by the Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI), is an 8-credit program developed by Professor Katrina Daly Thompson and led by Dr. Adeola Agoke of the UW-Madison African Cultural Studies department. MULTI supports students to engage in online, performance-based self-instructional language study of a less commonly taught language (LCTL). The target audience for this program includes:

1. Students who have achieved such an advanced language proficiency that traditional programs no longer serve their learning needs, or
2. Students who are studying extremely rare languages that are otherwise not offered in the classroom

This program is intended to complement existing summer language programs; as such, students who are eligible to enroll in a traditional language program are not competitive candidates for the Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar.
The MULTI program is housed in the Department of African Cultural Studies (ACS) at UW-Madison, which provides research and teaching in the languages and expressive cultures of Africa and Africans around the world. MULTI was adapted from their academic year-long version of the course.

The Institute for Regional and International Studies National Resource Center (IRIS NRC) supports and enhances global awareness and inspires informed thinking about the complexities of our world. IRIS NRC provides instructional support for MULTI and the teaching of less commonly taught languages.

Eligibility is limited to students of least commonly or never taught African, Southeast Asian, or South Asian languages and students at post-advanced levels of study in African languages where conventional instructional options do not exist.

Eligibility is limited to graduate students with advanced expertise in the target language or another language directly relevant to the student’s professional goals.

Final determination of eligibility is linked to the submission and approval of the fellow’s individualized plan of study by an International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) program officer in the manner of an independent study.

Students who wish to apply for a FLAS should contact the FLAS coordinator at their home institution and/or the African Studies Program FLAS Coordinator at the UW-Madison, Dr. Olayinka Olagbegi-Adegbite (olagbegiolay@wisc.edu), to discuss their eligibility and the application process. Future iterations of this course may expand FLAS eligibility to include Southeast Asian and South Asian languages; check our website for the latest information.

In Summer 2022, MULTI instructor Dr. Adeola Agoke led a workshop for WISLI students, faculty, and staff on “Developing Strategies for Sustained Language Learning.” Existing experience of language learners in many classroom contexts has shown consistent challenges with sustained language learning after a certain period. Building on the theory of second language acquisition and strategies for self-instructional learning, this workshop provided tools for using available learning resources and strategies for metacognitive processes to develop skills for self-instructional learning. Through an insight into performance assessment design and useful learning practices, learners can continue to make meaningful progress in their learning. A recording of this workshop is available on MULTI’s website and on WISLI’s Youtube channel.