TITLE VI CENTERS

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is home to eight prestigious National Resource Centers (NRCs).

- African Studies Program
- Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program
- Institute for Regional and International Studies
- Center for East Asian Studies
- Center for European Studies
- Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia
- Center for South Asia
- Center for Southeast Asian Studies

NRCs are critical to maintaining international engagement, leadership, and scholarship for the U.S. UW NRCs:

- Support regional and international teaching across campus. Affiliated faculty come from 70+ departments, including business, global health, and agriculture.
- Conduct research on global studies, world regions, and less commonly taught languages.
- Engage Wisconsin teachers and students through training programs and outreach activities.
- Collaborate on intensive summer language institutes which serve a national audience of learners.

OVERVIEW

HEA-Title VI and Fulbright Hays are the foundation for international education in the United States, building competencies critical to our national security, economic competitiveness, and global engagement.

With support of Title VI funding, the University of Wisconsin–Madison has trained close to 6,000 Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellows, has awarded over 5,000 degrees and certificates through UW NRCs, and teaches up to 40 languages each semester. These activities, which produce new generations of foreign area and strategic language experts, are essential to U.S. security and competitiveness.

With a modest, annual investment of $4 million at the UW, the university has created an unrivaled training system that produces linguistically and culturally proficient graduates to meet national needs.

VALUABLE JOB SKILLS ACROSS SECTORS

Individuals trained in languages and international issues fulfill important roles in the military, government, and private sector. UW NRC alumni leverage skills to work internationally or with foreign clients or collaborators. Many alumni obtained their current job because of language skills and regularly use these skills in their work.

SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY

- Title VI funding creates and sustains the language and culture learning architecture on which other programs build to provide the nation with a language-enabled, culturally knowledgeable corps.
- Title VI helps support the Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI), which provide instruction in over 30 less commonly taught languages—many of which are considered critical to U.S. national interests.
- With support from Title VI funding, NRCs create opportunities for exchange between individuals representing the campus, state, and nation, developing lasting connections and grounds for future cooperation.
From 2018–2021, 484 FLAS scholarships were awarded for the study of 50 languages; the top 3 were Arabic, Russian, and Portuguese.

The Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) Career Fairs organized by the Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes connected over 500 LCTL learners with professional development and career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

Faculty affiliates of the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia have given dozens of media interviews since the crisis in Ukraine began; the center hosted a public forum on the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 3/2/2022 with 510 attendees joining in-person and remotely, featuring faculty affiliates from 4 different disciplines.

The Wisconsin International Resource Consortium (WIRC) is the outreach collaborative of Wisconsin NRCs which provides broad regional and international education events and thematic workshops for K-12 and community college educators. WIRC works closely with the Wisconsin Department for Public Instruction to provide expertise, and to organize the biennial Global Learning Summit, which brought 85 high school teachers and to campus in 2020.

WIRC hosted the teacher workshop “Empowering Educators to Teach on Genocide,” in partnership with Holocaust Education Resource Center and WI Department of Public Instruction, with 58 attendees.

The Center for East Asian Studies, Institute for Regional and International Studies, Center for South Asia, and African Studies Program have together awarded 114 grants to public and school libraries across Wisconsin, to enhance their collections in regional and global themes.

The Center for European Studies, The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies hosted the K-12 and community college educators workshop, “Cyber-Capabilities and Accelerating Global Change.”


The Institute for Regional and International Studies has hosted several events for K-12 educators on the Hmong-American experience, including “The Hmong Experience in Wisconsin” with Green Bay author Pao Lor (46 participants).

The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia hosts a weekly lecture series featuring regional experts; lecture recordings are shared in a free podcast with an average of 400 plays per episode. A recent lecture was “Truculent Nationalism: The Russian People and Foreign Policy.”

2019–2021 program participants and beneficiaries hailed from across Wisconsin:

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