



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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 developing awareness of global issues.

- UW NRCs provide materials for K-12 and community college teachers, librarians, and students, annually reaching approximately 71,500 students from more than 350 schools across Wisconsin.
- Since 2023, UW centers have awarded FLAS grants to students from 17 states—more than half of the FLAS awards have gone to students from Wisconsin.
- NRCs support regional and international teaching across campus. Affiliated faculty come from 70+ departments, including business, global health, and agriculture.
- UW centers collaborate on intensive summer language institutes, which serve a national audience of learners.

Title VI at UW–Madison

[IRIS.WISC.EDU/TITLEVI](https://iris.wisc.edu/titlevi)

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 less than \$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 global partners. Many alumni obtained their current jobs because of language skills and regularly use these skills in their work.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Through Title VI support, UW NRCs play a vital role in advancing economic prosperity by equipping Wisconsin businesses and industries with global expertise. Partnering with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, NRCs provide cultural awareness programming to support international trade delegations. NRCs collaborate with the Madison International Trade Association to offer expert speakers on global trade issues, trends, and legislation, empowering businesses to compete internationally. Additionally, NRCs facilitate international internships in technology, business, health, education, engineering, and data science, ensuring a globally competent workforce that drives economic growth.

SPOTLIGHT ON ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTED BY TITLE VI FUNDING

CRITICAL LANGUAGE TRAINING

Title VI helps support the Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI), which provide instruction in over **30 less commonly taught languages**—many considered **critical to U.S. security and prosperity**, such as Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bengali, Burmese, Hindi, Indonesian, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

By offering intensive language training and professional development opportunities, such as the Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL) Career Fair, WISLI **strengthens the global workforce**. These efforts help prepare multilingual professionals who can drive international business, diplomacy, and cross-cultural collaboration.

The African Studies Program supported the **teaching of 16 priority African languages identified by the U.S. government as areas of national need** in the Multilanguage Seminar.

The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia hosts the Central Eurasian Studies Summer Institute, which offers all levels of **intensive Kazakh, Tajik, Uyghur, and Uzbek language study**.

DEFENSE AND DIPLOMACY

The Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) organizes regular **briefings on East Asian security issues** with UW's **Navy and Air Force ROTC** programs. Recent briefings have included a Rear Admiral in the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, a retired U.S. Ambassador to South Korea, and a 35-year veteran of the CIA.

CEAS organizes events on campus and around Wisconsin, highlighting national security and economic issues connecting the U.S. and East Asia. Recent events include the impact of **North Korean troops in the Ukraine conflict**, the **leadership crisis in the Republic of Korea**, and how **escalating trade tensions with China** are impacting the Wisconsin economy.

European Studies and the IRIS NRC organize regular events featuring major diplomats, foreign government officials, and officials from the Department of State. These visitors place **Wisconsin at the forefront of global diplomacy**.

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) organized **nine public events and exhibits** on American soldiers in the Vietnam War that drew **over 1,000 attendees and significant media attention from across Wisconsin**.

CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING AND GLOBAL AWARENESS

European Studies has partnered with German-based industry through the German-American Chamber of Commerce for over a decade to provide specific export and import expertise to Wisconsin-based small- to medium-sized enterprises.

The READ AFRICA program supports public libraries in **every district in the state of Wisconsin** by providing new children's, youth, and adult books about Africa selected by faculty experts. The Children's African Story Hour program has shared award-winning children's literature that celebrates the African continent with more than **1,000 children across Wisconsin**.

The Center for South Asia has hosted the Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA) since 1970. The largest conference on South Asian studies, the ACSA **attracts 1,200 attendees each year**, including K-12 educators, members of the public, scholars, and non-profit and government stakeholders.

CSEAS maintains a **4-year initiative to support Madison Area Technical College (MATC)** in creating a Hmong Studies curriculum that will strengthen MATC's engagement with Hmong-American students and its Southeast Asia offerings.

The Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Center has cultivated a multi-year partnership with the College of Menominee Nation to explore indigenous traditions and curricular internationalization.