



متشكرم

Sidee  
tahai?

~

Trevligt  
att träffas!

唔好意思,  
打搞晒

*Ar  
mhait  
leat  
cupan  
tae?*

ਆਉ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਿਖੀਏ!

Большое  
спасибо!

नमस्ते, आप कैसे हैं?

Parles  
anglés?

# DILS

Learn any language  
you need to  
succeed through  
Directed Independent  
Language Study

Parles anglés?

# You don't say? DILS can help!

**Do your future professional or academic goals take you to faraway places with languages not offered by the University of Miami curriculum?**

**Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) is a free program open to all undergraduate and graduate UM students who want to become proficient in a language and culture they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to learn.**

**Through DILS you can pursue any language that will help you achieve your goals, provided it is not available in the formal UM curriculum.**

**Some of the languages DILS students have studied include Cantonese, Persian, Swahili, Irish, Arabic, Nahuatl, Russian, Turkish, Swedish, Hindi, and Punjabi.**

## Self-Motivated Learning

Learning a language through DILS does not involve traditional classroom instruction. Instead, students pursue an individual program of study that supports their particular academic interests and professional goals. There is no “teacher” in the program; students work on their own using designated instructional materials and meet twice a week with their assigned Language Partner.

Language Partners are native speakers of the languages that DILS students have chosen to study. They meet with students for 60-minute practice sessions twice a week to exercise the use of language in the many



forms it might take. Practice sessions can include free conversation or more task-based activities to reinforce vocabulary and pronunciation—but the ultimate goal is to facilitate use of the language in an authentic way. Language Partners model the language, give corrective feedback, and build confidence. All are enthusiastic about sharing their language and culture with UM students!



## Creative Cultural Immersion

In addition to one-on-one and group discussions with Language Partners and other students for speaking practice, the DILS program encourages students to participate in activities related to the language and culture they are studying. These may include attending films, plays, and art exhibits; interviewing speakers of the target language; and creating videos and skits.

If you have friends who speak the language, or if you are aware of communities in your area where the language is spoken, try out your newly acquired skills! The ultimate goal is for students to develop the habit of thinking in the language they study rather than translating from their dominant language. Devoting time to your language practice on a daily basis is essential for your success.

## Tracking Progress

Students are expected to monitor their progress, review their goals regularly, and adjust their learning strategies as needed. They are required to submit weekly self-evaluation progress reports to the DILS director, Dr. Maria Kosinski.

At the end of the semester is a 30-minute oral examination. Language study in the DILS program does not carry course credit, but all students who take the final exam will receive notification in their transcript.

## Apply!

Students wishing to enroll in the DILS program should complete an application form during the semester preceding the one in which they would like to begin language study. Acceptance into the DILS program is selective. Applicants must outline their short-term and long-term goals related to language study. Undergraduate students need the approval of their academic advisor to apply.

**More information, including an application form, is available on the DILS website: [www.as.miami.edu/dils](http://www.as.miami.edu/dils). Or you can e-mail the DILS director, Dr. Maria Kosinski, at [DILS@miami.edu](mailto:DILS@miami.edu).**

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