

# Call for Applications

## Language Ambassadors

for the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures  
at Illinois State University

### What is a Language Ambassador?

Language Ambassadors are a prestigious, department-mentored internship position through the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Illinois State University. These student representatives are champions of language study, sharing their experiences and insights with current and prospective students, modeling continued development of their own multilingual abilities, and amplifying the voices of others. Language Ambassadors promote the study of language and culture by encouraging students to take language courses, building community in the department, and organizing events and activities in collaboration with faculty, staff, and peers, and with the guidance of a faculty mentor.

### What will you gain as a Language Ambassador?

- **Strong communication skills** – through outreach, presentations, and social media engagement (in English and in your target language)
- **Leadership and teamwork** – by organizing events and fostering community among language learners
- **Opportunities for creativity and collaboration with faculty** to plan activities and initiatives
- **Enhanced language proficiency** through guided and independent practice with a faculty mentor
- **Academic credit.** Up to three credits of FRE/GER/ITA/JPN/SPA/**LAN 398** Professional Practice Internship credit that you may apply toward your language major. To count toward a language major, some of the learning outcomes must be in the target language.
- **A scholarship of up to \$4,000** funded by the Joseph L. Laurenti Memorial Endowment.

### Who Should Apply?

We are looking for **enthusiastic majors or minors** in French, German, Spanish, East Asian Studies, Italian Studies, or Classical Studies **who**:

- See their own and others' cultural and linguistic identities as strengths to be shared and assets for the future.
- Love learning other languages and cultures and sharing their insights with others
- Develop concrete arguments for the value of language study for one's personal and/or professional future.

- Have a record of strong academic performance.
- Are ready to work as active partners with faculty, staff, and peers, and are prepared to show up on time and follow through on commitments.
- Can commit 9-12 hours per week (for a 3-credit-hour internship; prorated for fewer credit hours)

### How do I apply?

- Complete the [online application](#). You'll need to provide basic information about yourself, a resume, the name of one professor who could recommend you for the program, and brief statements about your ideas for the position and what would make you a great Language Ambassador.
- **Deadline for applications for Fall 2026: Friday, April 17, 2026.**
- The selection committee will interview qualified applicants at the end of April.

### What next?

- Upon acceptance, you will be assigned a faculty advisor, with whom you will work out the details and expectations for the internship before the start of the semester, documented in the internship syllabus. Activities may include any of the following: organizing a Festival LAN event showcasing LAN RSOs, study abroad programs, and information on how to major/minor in a language; organizing alumni speakers or other events; preparing promotional materials for prospective students; speaking to high school students; speaking to other departments; organizing a cultural event in the target language (book club, poetry reading, careers panel, etc.); translating materials; working with beginning and intermediate learners to boost their confidence and proficiency; other activities of your choosing.
- You'll need to register for the determined number of credit hours, and the scholarship will be applied to your student account in Fall 2026.
- You will work with your faculty mentor and other members of the department as needed to carry out the activities and expectations outlined in the internship syllabus.