

Global Languages

The core mission of Global Languages (GL) is to educate students in languages, cultures, and intercultural communication, with the broad aim of advancing their academic, career, and personal goals. As MIT students pursue an expanding spectrum of international engagements, 21G classes and immersive international experiences help prepare them to live and work in the diverse and multilingual context of a globalizing world.

Major achievements and highlights in AY2023 include:

- **New Leadership Team:** AY2023 began with the external appointment of a new director: Professor of the Practice of Literature Per Urlaub. This step completed the final phase of the unit's restructuring initiated in AY2019. Urlaub's research is in applied linguistics, second language studies, foreign language education, literacy development, and educational technology. He has served in a variety of faculty and leadership roles at the University of Texas at Austin and at Middlebury College before joining MIT on July 1, 2022. In February 2023, Paula Cogliano joined Global Languages as the Director of Administration and Finance after more than 10 years serving as Program Administrator for the MIT Concourse Program.
- **Increases in Enrollment:** AY2023 saw increases in enrollments. Most noteworthy was a growth of 8% among the students who choose a HASS concentration in one of the programs offered in Global Languages. This growth should be seen in the context of enrollment contractions in language programs across U.S. higher education. By the end of AY2023, Global Languages had 595 concentrators. About 25 percent of the graduating class this year left MIT with a concentration in one of the programs offered in Global Languages.
- **Continued excellence in teaching:** Delivering high-impact educational experiences is at the core of the unit's professional identity. Of the 69 classes the team taught in fall 2022, not a single subject or instructor was rated by our students below 6 out of 7. In the past two years, four Global Language instructors have been named winners of the student-nominated [James A. and Ruth Levitan Teaching Award in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences](#). GL intends to further invest in professional development initiatives because we recognize the direct link between such investments, instructional quality, and the attractiveness of our programs to MIT students.
- **Program Innovations:**
 - **Hybrid Approaches in Portuguese, Russian, and Japanese:** Based on their experiences of successfully delivering their classes fully remotely during the pandemic, the Portuguese, Russian, and Japanese programs have launched pilot projects to assess the impact and attractiveness of hybrid classes that blend face-to-face learning experiences with best practices in synchronous remote language teaching.
 - **Ukrainian IAP Pilot:** The assault launched by Putin's Russia on the Ukraine in February 2022 has sparked interest among MIT students in Ukrainian

language and culture. Global Languages has responded by offering an introductory course in Ukrainian Language and Culture during IAP. More details can be found below.

- **Space Development:** Global Languages aims to develop more robust communities among students, instructors and administration. This is challenging, especially given space constraints. Our instructors and administration is divided across two buildings. We would like to have more instructor offices and community spaces. Global Languages continued to adapt existing space in 16-635 into a communal space (the “Global Language Commons”). This space was used for informal meetings, collaborative work, and co-curricular activities including language exchanges and cultural events. Access was also provided for students to study or collaborate and socialize with peers using the target language. The success of this initiative serves as a “proof of concept” and justify investing more efforts into our space development in the future. In AY2023, Global Languages has formed an ad hoc committee to articulate a vision for our spaces and will work with SHASS to translate this vision into reality.
- **DEI Progress:** Global Languages made progress regarding long-standing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) goals. We solidified the program in Arabic (year-round) and for the second year held a non-credit American Sign Language class over IAP. Various discussions of DEI issues were held, especially in relation to pedagogy and hiring practices. Several speakers in the GL Colloquium and the Global Languages Pedagogy Lecture Series focused on DEI topics (more details below). The question of introducing an African language during IAP was discussed with stakeholders across the institution.
- **Administrative Initiatives:**
 - The Global Languages Steering Committee met twice in AY2023 since it was convened in AY2022 for the first time. The Senior Lecturers in Global Languages as well as faculty members from units across SHASSS engage in DLC governance by voting on curriculum matters and select personnel cases.
 - The active reintegration of Global Languages into the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning (CLTL) continued, with representation on its board by Per Urlaub; Takako Aikawa, Senior Lecturer in Japanese; and Agustín Rayo, Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Urlaub and Aikawa represented MIT Global Languages in the context of the CLTL’s annual Board Meeting at Yale University in May 2023. Through its CLTL membership, Global Languages provides funding to innovative pedagogical projects proposed by its instructors.

Finances, Fundraising, and Development

Global Languages’ recurring budget resources continued to be supplemented in support of several languages in AY2023. Alumni donations and unexpended Kuwait Project funding secured with the support of Associate Provost Philip Khoury supported instructional costs of Arabic language in its second pilot year.

The T.T. and W.F. Chao Foundation made a generous gift to support Chinese language and culture immersion programs. We took students to Shenzhen, China, in January 2020. But the pandemic put the program on hold. We were able to take students to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in AY2023. We are currently actively planning for a program in China in IAP 2024.

Events

The Global Languages Pedagogy Lecture Series in February featured a talk by Uju Anya (Carnegie Mellon University), a scholar of language learning and Black experiences in multilingualism. Her talk was entitled, “Antiracist, Equity-Minded, and Inclusive Language Teaching Practices.” In April, the series sponsored a virtual talk by Kris Aric Knisely (University of Arizona) on “Trans Remaking and Reimagining: Toward Gender-Justice in the Language Classroom.” In the October, the series sponsored Jonathan Perkins (University of Kansas) speaking on “OER Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” In September, the series presented a virtual roundtable discussion on “Machine Translation and L2 Pedagogy” featuring talks by Emily Hellmich and Kimberly Vinall (University of California at Berkeley), Takako Aikawa (MIT), Stephen Snyder (Middlebury College). Per Urlaub moderated and senior lecturer in French Eva Dessen (MIT) was a respondent.

The Global Languages colloquium series spring event “Approaches to Hybrid Courses” was held in March. The panelists were Takako Aikawa, who presented on “Approaches to Hybrid Courses: Development of the hybrid Japanese classes with synchronous zoom instruction”; and lecturer in Portuguese Nilma Dominique and senior lecturer in Russian Maria Khotimsky, who presented on “Reflections on Hybrid Teaching Mode in Portuguese and Russian Classes.” The fall colloquium series in October presented Javier Barroso speaking on “*Rise 360* and *H5P* for Language Learning: Uses and Pitfalls,” and lecturer in Chinese Tong Chen presented on “Learning Chinese and Understanding Chinese Social Changes through Chinese Songs.” The series was convened by lecturer in Japanese Masami Ikeda.

Global France Seminar, with support of Global Languages, brought several speakers who were invited and hosted by faculty from the Literature and History sections. These events included a lecture by Mary Hunter (McGill University); a film showing of “The Parisienne Demystified” followed by a conversation with filmmaker Rokhaya Diallo; and Annabel Kim, Roy G. Clouse (Harvard University).

Global Languages took advantage of many opportunities to promote its classes and programs, and host an array of events, large and small scale, to increase visibility and build a sense of community within and across language groups. In October, the “Heritage meets Heritage” drew more than fifty students for food, games, and group discussions on growing up in linguistically diverse homes. A “Languages of Love” event was held in February with over 40 Global Languages students who came to enjoy pizza, trivia, and small group discussions that focused on the ways that love and friendship is expressed in different languages and cultures. Global Languages recognized student achievement at its annual Spring Fest. Also in the spring, the Chinese group and German group held separate award ceremonies for their outstanding students.

Other events included: Nilma Dominique continued the monthly *Solta a Língua* gatherings for Portuguese students and speakers of the language for Brazilian food and comradeship.

Emily Goodling, who started her first year as a lecturer in German, began hosting a regular “Stammtisch” or German conversation table. In the fall, lecturer in Spanish Javier Barroso initiated a series of events in honor of Dias de los Muertos / Day of the Dead. Hee-Jeong Jeong, Senior Lecturer in Korean, again celebrated Hangeul Day, or Korean Alphabet Day, with her students in October with Korean food, music, and trivia games. In the spring, the French group sponsored a film series showing three French-language films in March and April for students of French, and French speakers across campus.

Academics

Curriculum

Global Languages launched a pilot of Arabic in AY2022 with 21G.951 Arabic I and 21G.952 Arabic II being offered for the first time in the Independent Activities Period (IAP) and the spring term, respectively. Arabic section enrollments grew this year. Two more sections were added over previous offerings, including a second section of Arabic I in the fall, and Arabic III as a special subject. This year classes were taught by lecturer in Arabic Muna Bruce. A proposal to make Arabic III a permanent subject will be put forward in AY2024.

Global Languages offered a 9-unit class special subject in IAP, Introduction to Ukrainian Language and Culture taught by Irina Kovalchuk. In addition to basic language introduction, eight students became acquainted with Ukrainian music, food, and history through this course. Global Languages intends to offer it again in IAP 2024.

Global Languages also offered, for the second year in a row, a non-credit-bearing introductory American Sign Language class open to the MIT community in IAP taught by Andrew Bottoms. The positive reaction to this offering was robust, with many more participants attempting to register than could be accommodated within the class cap of 20. These opportunities are continued progress toward the longstanding goal of promoting diversity and inclusion in language and culture curricula.

Takako Aikawa debuted a new subject, 21G.510 Project-based Japanese Learning with Multimedia in the spring. Also, she taught Japanese V and VI as “licensed experiments,” which included weekly synchronous meetings to complement the in-person instructional hours.

Maria Khotimsky and Nilma Dominique also taught their “tier I” subjects as experimental versions. Khotimsky taught Russian II, III, and IV under a hybrid model which moved one of the four weekly instructional hours from the classroom to asynchronous modules released each week. Dominique also used this model for Portuguese I, II, III, IV. The licensed experiments received positive feedback from students and the experiments were renewed by the CoC for AY2024. After next year, these instructors will determine if the hybrid models become the permanent format for these subjects. Two classes previously offered as special subjects were confirmed this spring by faculty governance committees and will be offered as full subjects in AY2024: Senior lecturer in German Dagmar Jaeger’s class 21G.408 German Conversation Practice: Online Immersion; and Spanish lecturer Ana Yáñez’s class 21G.707 Graphic Stories: Spanish and Latin American Comics.

In AY2023 S. C. Fang Professor of Chinese Language and Culture Wiebke Denecke, in the Literature section, debuted two courses taught in English with cross-listings in Global Languages. One was 21G.041 Foundations of East Asian Literature: From Confucius to the Beats, which is applicable to both the Chinese and Japanese minor programs. The second one was 21G.066 Gateway to Korean Literature and Culture.

As usual, several rotating topics were offered in AY2023, some new and some repeated. Lecturer in French Isadora Nicholas taught 21G.312 Basic Themes in French Literature and Culture on the recent Netflix series from France: *Le Monde de Lupin: The Netflix Series*. Also under 21G.312, lecturer in French Cathy Culot brought back “A Tour of Belgium in 80 Days.” Cynthia L. Reed Professor of French Studies and Language Bruno Perreau, from the Literature section, taught the tier III class, 21G.346 North America through French Eyes in the spring. Associate Professor of Media Studies and Latin American Studies Paloma Duong from CMS introduced a new advanced topic under 21G.735, entitled, *Apocalyptic Fictions: In/And Latin America*. Baoli Yang, a part-time lecturer in Chinese, taught 21G.S06 Special Subject: *Journey to the West*.

Two programs bringing students abroad were re-introduced this year. Senior Lecturer in Chinese, Haohsiang Liao brought a cohort of 10 students to Taiwan for a six-unit special subject, 21G.S05 IAP Chinese Abroad, geared for intermediate level speakers of Chinese, hosted in collaboration National Sun Yat-sen University. Associate Professor of French Studies and History Catherine Clark brought eight students to Paris for a linguistic and cultural immersion experience through the January Scholars in France program over IAP, under the theme, “The Politics of Food.” JSF is offered annually through the support of the French Initiatives Endowment Fund.

AY2023 Enrollments

Student enrollments in 21G subjects in AY2023 was 2,092, which represents an increase of 2.5% over AY2022 (2,041) and up over 9% as compared to AY2021 figures (1,904). The figures for overall enrollments include English Language Studies (ELS) subjects. ELS subjects moved to Comparative Media Studies/Writing in AY2022, but are still listed as 21G subjects. Below is a table of language-by-language enrollments. The table does not include ELS subjects.

| | AY2022 | AY2023 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Arabic | 26 | 39 |
| Chinese | 399 | 409 |
| French | 273 | 281 |
| German | 198 | 155 |
| Japanese | 293 | 303 |
| Korean | 147 | 164 |
| Portuguese | 32 | 57 |
| Russian | 85 | 117 |
| Spanish | 345 | 367 |
| Studies in International Literatures & Cultures | 67 | 46 |

In AY2021 the number of Global Languages concentrators dipped to 418. In AY2022, the number increased to an all-time high (at the time) of 548. That number was bettered this year with a new high of 595 (an 8% increase).

| | AY2022 | AY2023 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Chinese | 104 | 123 |
| French | 91 | 102 |
| German | 42 | 42 |
| Japanese | 88 | 91 |
| Korean | 30 | 57 |
| Portuguese | 6 | 4 |
| Russian | 15 | 18 |
| Spanish | 144 | 139 |
| Other Languages | 20 | 13 |
| Theory of Language | 4 | 3 |
| Studies in International Literatures & Cultures | 4 | 3 |

Minors are available for five languages in 21G, shown in the table below. Overall minor program enrollment stood at 83 students in AY2023 (up from 81 students in AY2022).

| | AY2022 | AY2023 |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Chinese | 21 | 21 |
| French | 14 | 21 |
| German | 7 | 7 |
| Japanese | 18 | 13 |
| Spanish | 21 | 21 |

Personnel

Faculty

Effective AY2023, Per Urlaub was appointed director of Global Languages and Professor of the Practice in the Literature unit.

Academic Instructional Staff

Eva Dessen joined Global Languages as senior lecturer of French. Emily Goodling joined Global Languages as lecturer of German. Three lecturers were reappointed as Lecturer II: Nilma Dominique (Portuguese), Leanna Rezvani (French), and Ana Yanez (Spanish). Two successful searches were conducted this year resulting in the appointment of Liana Ewald as senior lecturer in Spanish and Ayae Uwabo as lecturer in Japanese. Both appointments are effective AY2024.

Administrative and Support Staff

Paula Cogliano joined Global Languages in February as the Director of Administration and Finance. Other administrative and support staff include a systems administrator / instructional technologist; an undergraduate academic administrator; and two support staff.

Publications

Nilma Dominique wrote a preface for *Conexões: O Ensino de Português nos Estados Unidos* [Connections. Teaching Portuguese in the United States], K. da Silva and E. da Silva (eds.). Maria Khotimsky published “British Literature in World Literature Publishing House Editions,” in the article cluster issue *British Literature in the Soviet Union*, in the *Slavic and East European Journal*. She also published “Lessons of the Pandemic: Digital Tools for Online and F2F Instruction in the Russian as a Foreign Language Classroom” in the *Student-Centered Approaches to Teaching Russian: Insights, Strategies, and Adaptations* in December. Lecturer in Chinese Min-Min Liang co-authored *Modern Chinese for Heritage Beginners*, published in April by Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, London, England. Lecturer in French Leanna Rezvani published “Bringing the Francophone World into the Classroom with Online Concerts” in the *AATF National Bulletin*, Vol. 498 (2). Per Urlaub and Eva Dessein co-authored “Machine translation tools and Foreign Language Education” in *Frontiers Journal*. Urlaub and Dessein also co-authored “Sense of Place, Imaginative Mobility, and Intercultural Awareness Through a Map-Making Project in a Study-Abroad Program,” in *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, Vol. 35, Issue 2. Per Urlaub’s book chapter “Literary Reading in the Second Language: Blending Perspectives from Applied Linguistics and Literary Theory” was published in *Rehumanizing the Language Curriculum* (New York: Peter Lang, 2023)

Honors, Grants, and Awards

The SHASS Levitan Teaching Award honored two Global Languages lecturers: Nilma Dominique and Emily Goodling. Min-Min Liang was recipient of the 2023 MAFLT LCTL Innovation Award (Best Classroom Innovation Award). Maria Khotimsky continued her two-year STARTALK grant from the National Security Agency for the development of curricular materials for Russian for STEM fields. Lecturer in Chinese Kang Zhou received a grant from the Innovation Fund of the MindHeartHand initiative for his project, “Tea and Ink Fragrance.” Zhou also received funding from the 2023 Alumni Class Fund, for his project “Contemporary Chinese Society and Culture in the Lens.” Eva Dessein received funding from the 2023 Alumni Class Fund, for her project, “Designing a Global-Simulation Based French Language Course.”

Service

Global Languages members held various leadership and service roles in professional societies and groups, as well as on committees at the Institute. The following is a selected list. Javier Barroso served as co-lead of MIT’s Latino Employee Resource Group. He worked with the Office of Minority Education on several projects and was the keynote speaker at their New Parents and Students Welcome event. Tong Chen served on the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) Board of Directors and as chair of the CLTA National Collegiate Honor’s Society. Nilma Dominique serves as Co-Director of Test Development for the National Portuguese Examinations for the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Eva Dessein served as a reviewer for *Frontiers: The International Journal on Study Abroad*. Panpan Gao served as the Treasurer and Board member of the New England Chinese Language Teachers Association. Hee-Jeong Jeong was selected as a vice-president of the New England Association of College Korean Educators (NEACKE). She was also a journal reviewer for *The Korean Language in*

America, Penn State University Press. Jeong was also an abstract reviewer for the AATK Conference 2023. Maria Khotimsky co-organized a “Spotlight on Ukraine” talk series. Khotimsky also worked with the Burchard Scholars committee this year. Min-Min Liang served as the Secretary of the ACTFL Heritage Languages Special Interest Group and was elected to serve as Vice Chair. Haohsiang Liao served as a Program committee chair, The 9th International Conference for Chinese Heritage Education, National Council of Associations of Chinese Language Schools (NCACLS) and as an External Reviewer, Research Proposal and Ethics Review Panel, Singapore Centre for Chinese Language (SCCL). Lecturer in Japanese Wakana Maekawa served as a judge for the 12th Annual Japanese Language Speech and Essay Contest.

Per Urlaub

Professor of the Practice, Literature Section

Director, Global Languages