

Larissa Frisby, Biology and Chinese, Class of 2025

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Larissa Frisby is a first-year student on the Hill, majoring in Biology (with a Pre-Veterinary concentration). However, this freshman from Pagosa Springs, Colorado is not only planning to change the world via medicine and animal care. In addition to her major course of study in biology, Frisby is also majoring in Chinese and is a student of the Chinese Flagship Program because, as she explains, “The ability to communicate with many different people and achieve a common goal” is a worthwhile pursuit. Based on a recent success of Frisby’s, she is well on her way to that goal: in February 2022, Frisby was announced as a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship which she will use during the summer 2022 to study abroad in Taiwan.

The kind of immersion and usage of language that Frisby will experience this summer constitute the reasons that she decided to major in Chinese at WKU. During high school, she studied Spanish and Korean and she knew, upon hearing about the WKU Chinese Flagship Program, that it would be an opportunity to augment her academic interests and knowledge. Although initially worried about the course load, Frisby took a huge liking to Chinese during her first semester and decided to major in the language. According to her, she likes the challenges given by using language in a communicative context with native speakers. Her success in gaining the Gilman and augmenting her Chinese studies Frisby attributes to Lindsey Houchin of the WKU Office of Scholar Development who helped her with the application process.

For anyone considering becoming a language major, Frisby strongly recommends this track. Students who wholeheartedly love language and wish to use it in their future careers will have great benefits as they move onto other chapters of their life after university. Through the study, according to Frisby, you also create connections

with people who share the same international goals and passions as you. In her own words, "... language is extraordinarily complex, yet so rewarding once you reach the end of the tunnel."

