

Meghan Pierce, International Affairs and Arabic, Class of 2024

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“My knowledge of Arabic has not only helped my language studies, but it has also supplemented and enriched my studies in International Affairs. Whether it has been taking generalized classes like International Politics or Comparative Politics, or more specialized courses like History of the Middle East or Political Terrorism, my knowledge and appreciation for one particular culture completely enhanced those experiences.”



Meghan Pierce is a second-year undergraduate student from Bowling Green, Kentucky. Growing up, her community was not very diverse, and she did not know anyone who was bilingual. She began taking an Arabic class in order to graduate with honors from the Gatton Academy, but now she is majoring in the language and says it has become one of her academic passions. This semester, Meghan was awarded a Gilman scholarship that she will use to study abroad in Amman, Jordan.

Meghan says that learning a language has made it easier for her to engage with all cultures and people. She says this is her favorite part of studying a language, and it will be a useful skill in her future career. Her only complaint about language study is that it is difficult to put her studies into practice outside of the classroom. There are few other students majoring in Arabic, and this can make it difficult to create an immersive language-learning experience.

As a result, she encourages students who may be interested in studying a language to participate in language-based clubs. She explains that these clubs hold meetings used to practice language, which is an incredibly beneficial experience in a country where this language is uncommon. These club meetings can help replicate an immersive language experience, similar to studying abroad. These clubs also have other meetings that are culturally-based and help students learn more about foreign countries.

She advises all students not to be afraid to add a language course just to try it out! Meghan tried an Arabic course, and she discovered a new passion and met-- what she calls-- “some of WKU’s best faculty members,” Dr. DiMeo and Dr. Guerwane.

Meghan will use her Gilman award to help fund a study abroad trip to Jordan. She says, “This program will provide me with an intensive language experience in an authentic atmosphere while also offering invaluable internship opportunities located within Amman.” We are proud of Meghan and her accomplishments, and we cannot wait to see the incredible things she does throughout the rest of her years at WKU.

