

History

During the summer of 1986 a pilot French Academy was conducted by the Virginia Department of Education. The Academy was inordinately successful judging from the evaluations of students, parents, the Academy faculty and staff, the Virginia Department of Education staff, and other visitors. The students could and most did speak French most of the time.

The pilot French Academy led to subsequent programs, and **since 1987**, the Virginia Department of Education has sponsored Governor's Foreign Language Academies, summer residential programs for Virginia's most motivated and talented foreign language students. As of 2019, approximately **9,300 students** have completed one of the programs.

The three full-immersion programs in **French, German, and Spanish** provide an intensive experience and unique challenge for students who have excelled in language study to continue learning in a total immersion environment.

The **Latin** Academy provides an intensive experience for students who have excelled in Latin to continue their study in a setting unavailable in the regular school environment and introduces the students to classical Greek.

The partial-immersion **Japanese** Academy provides an opportunity for interested students to be introduced to these cultures and languages, which are not widely taught across the Commonwealth. Intermediate classes may also be available to students who have previously studied Japanese.

Comments from student evaluations

"The goal of the academy is to live the language, not to be a summer camp, and I feel that that's what we did here. This experience was so amazing and I wish I could do it again."

"All I really want to say is that I had one of the best experiences of my life here at the academy. Everything was great; the people, the teachers, the events, and on and on and on. Thank you so much."

"...it was amazing how much I learned in such a short time."

"I would absolutely attend this program 10,000,000 times more if I could!! I absolutely loved every single second."



For more information, please contact

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2020 Virginia Governor's World Language Academies



Full-Immersion
Governor's Academies
June 20 – July 11, 2020
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA

French
German
Spanish

Program Coordinator
Dr. Dick Kuettner
KuettnerD@wlu.edu



Partial-Immersion
Governor's Academies
June 21 – July 12, 2020
Randolph-Macon College
Ashland, VA

Japanese
Latin

Program Coordinator
Dr. Bart Natoli
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A typical day

- Wake-up, breakfast
- Classes, such as:
 - The economics of Latin America
 - The unification of Germany
 - Life in France seen from an economic perspective
 - Great works of art
 - Literary samplings
- Lunch
- Another class (or two)
- Afternoon activities/projects, such as:
 - Journal writing
 - Memory DVD production
 - Theater
 - Crafts
 - Cooking
 - Dance
 - Music
- Afternoon sports, games
- Dinner
- Evening program, such as:
 - Films
 - Music
 - Dances
 - Theater
 - Competitions
 - Guest speakers
 - Student & faculty talent presentations

In addition there will be field trips, and other special activities.

A distinguishing feature of the Academies is that everyone wants to be there and wants to learn. Excellent students and excellent faculty create a highly stimulating environment.

Faculty

In addition to the host site Program Coordinator, each Academy has a director, a lead teacher, and several additional teachers. Most are Virginia public secondary school teachers, with some private school teachers and college professors. Each Academy also employs three to six young people as resident assistants. They are native speakers, college language majors, and/or former Academy students.

STUDENT AND STAFF APPLICATIONS ONLINE after Oct. 4, 2019 AT:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/foreign_language/language_academies/applications.shtml

*Director applications due by Nov. 30, 2019
Teacher applications due by Jan. 29, 2020*

*Student applications must be postmarked by
Jan. 27, 2020*

Teacher Observers Welcome!

World language teachers and supervisors may earn points toward relicensure by attending an Academy as an observer for 2-7 days, pending approval of their local school administration. Applications for the teacher observer program are online at the Web address above under “staff applications” and are due by

May 15, 2020

Eligibility

All world language academy applicants

- must be nominated by a public high school from a Virginia public school division or by an accredited private school;
- must be at least juniors but may be mature sophomores during the current school year, 2019-2020;
- must not have graduated before the opening of the Academy;
- must be eligible to attend public school in Virginia tuition-free (i.e., Virginia residents);
- may apply to only one Governor’s summer residential program per year; and
- may attend only one Governor’s summer residential program during their high school career.

Additional Language Requirements

French, German, or Spanish Academy applicants must

- have completed at least level three of the language prior to the beginning of the Academy;
- have developed good proficiency in using this language; and
- be committed to speaking only the language of the Academy for three weeks.

Latin Academy applicants must

- have completed at least level two of Latin prior to the beginning of the academy;
- have the recommendation of the Latin language teacher; and
- attain minimum competency on the Latin proficiency test.

Japanese Academy applicants must

- have completed at least level two of any world language prior to the beginning of the Academy; and
- have the recommendation of a foreign language teacher.

Students who are already fluent speakers or have participated in an equivalent program should not apply to the Academy of that language.