



DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

January 13, 2019

Graduate Council
University of Utah

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of a graduate program curriculum change that our Department is proposing. One of the graduate degrees in our department is the MA in Language Pedagogy (MALP). Currently a student can emphasize Spanish, French, or German with this degree. We are proposing four new emphases under this graduate degree: pedagogical preparation for teaching Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian.

In the last few years, we have found that more and more students want a graduate language pedagogy degree with an emphasis in these additional four languages. This is not surprising since these are crucial languages nationally and internationally, both politically and culturally. And more schools across the country are offering these languages. Utah, of course, is leading the nation in Dual Language Immersion. There are already programs in Chinese and Russian. And Portuguese will soon be added. I can predict that Japanese may soon follow because of the high interest we see in this language here at the U of U.

Teachers are needed, not only in the Dual Language Immersion programs on all levels in Utah public schools, but in the regular secondary schools as well. The Department of World Languages and Cultures has a strong track record in training language teachers. Many of our former students with undergraduate and graduate degrees are already teaching in Utah schools, as well as other places in the country. But we are finding that more and more students want a master's degree in language pedagogy in these additional languages, both because they want more training and experience, but also because they want the higher salaries and status that come from having a graduate degree.

Our proposed curriculum change will bring new options for further education for teachers of language. It will be a step toward our goal of putting the University of Utah on the map nationally for excellent language pedagogy and training for teachers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret Toscano
Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Studies
Chair, Department of World Languages and Cultures



January 14, 2019

Graduate Council
302 Park Building
CAMPUS

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly endorse the proposed change in the World Languages and Cultures' graduate curriculum. The department is adding four languages to its MA in Language Pedagogy (MALP) degree. The languages—Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian—enroll very well among our own undergraduates and, particularly Chinese and Portuguese, are among the most prominent in the state's Dual Language Immersion initiative, so it makes sense for our College to provide training in language pedagogy for future teachers of these languages. The demand for Dual Language Immersion teachers is already quite high so this expansion of the MALP program clearly will provide an important service to K-12 education statewide.

At the same time, Dual Language Immersion has allowed our faculty in applied linguistics, language acquisition and language pedagogy to do important research, particularly through our Second Language Center and our status as a Language Proficiency Flagship. This work will benefit from graduate students working in a wider array of languages.

As the Chair's letter notes, the four languages to be added are not just past of our DLI profile but they crucial internationally, politically, culturally and economically. Currently they rank among our best-enrolled minors, particularly popular among Business students. I think the Department of World Languages and cultures is making a wise move to develop its national footprint as a center for language pedagogy and has chosen the right languages for doing so at this time.

I urge you to accept this programmatic change.

Sincerely,

Stuart Culver
Dean, College of Humanities