Every summer, students and teachers, artists and journalists, entrepreneurs and public servants from around the world gather at the Middlebury Language Schools to immerse themselves in the language and life of a culture that is not their own.

This year, the Language Schools celebrate the 100th anniversary of their founding. From modest beginnings in the summer of 1915, when the German School opened to 47 students, the Schools have grown in number, scope, and prestige. Today, the 11 language programs enroll some 1,500 students each summer, joining leading faculty from around the globe.

From the beginning, the Language Schools have been committed to a unique model of linguistic and cultural immersion, and the Middlebury Language Pledge is still the vital core of the experience. More than 49,000 students have attended the Language Schools, including more than 12,000 who have earned advanced degrees (Master of Arts and Doctor of Modern Languages) over the past century.

Each summer, students experience an intensive six- to eight-week immersion in the languages and customs of countries around the world. The Schools reinforce language education with a curriculum that incorporates linguistics, literature, culture, and area studies. Students have multiple opportunities to use their target language with native speakers, expert language teachers, and each other. The curriculum is supported by an extensive cocurricular program that reinforces classroom learning from morning to night.

PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT
Language Schools students emerge from this intensive experience with the tools needed to forge new connections with people from other countries and cultures. Such connections are essential in a global world.
economy that cannot function without
cross-cultural understanding and respect. A
depth understanding of other languages
and cultures is also essential to an
effective foreign policy and to intelligence
gathering and analysis. Indeed,
the Middlebury Language Schools are
playing a key role in developing a crucial
“strategic language reserve” for our
nation.
Our graduates put their language and
cultural skills to work in education,
government, journalism, international
business, non-governmental agencies,
and many other fields. Thanks to their
experience at the Language Schools,
they are equipped to address some of the
most critical issues of our times. As the
Language Schools celebrate a century of
service, Middlebury aims to increase the
Schools’ impact, expanding the network
of culturally fluent world citizens and
providing them with the tools they need
to succeed. Indeed, the Schools’ impact
and potential have never been greater.

LIVING THE LANGUAGE
Language Schools students come from
all 50 states and more than 50 countries.
They all take the Language Pledge and
promise to communicate exclusively
in the language they are studying for
as long as the program is in session.
This complete linguistic immersion
helps students to achieve dramatic
breakthroughs, no matter what their
beginning proficiency level might be.
Indeed, students receive the equivalent
of a year’s worth of language study in
seven or eight weeks during summer
immersion programs.
The Language Schools offer a rigorous
academic experience. Students are in the
classroom for the first part of the day,
followed by lunch with peers and profes-
sors. In the afternoon, students use their
newly learned language skills to partici-
pate in cocurricular activities ranging
from cooking and calligraphy to music
and martial arts. In the evening, after
in-language dinner, there are lectures
by visiting scholars, films, and cultural
celebrations. It is a 24/7 program
designed to match the needs of our
24/7 world.
The Language Schools
offer programs in 11 languages:
• Arabic
• Chinese
• French
• German
• Hebrew
• Italian
• Japanese
• Korean
• Portuguese
• Russian
• Spanish

The Language Schools faculty rep-
resents leading scholars from universities
around the globe. Guests and lecturers
come from an array of international
cultures and academic backgrounds.
Where else will you find a Haitian
novelist, a Lebanese university vice
president, German hip-hop artists, and a
Cuban historian sharing their language,
stories, and customs?
Middlebury awards Master of Arts
degrees in Arabic, Chinese, French,
German, Hebrew, Italian, Russian, and
Spanish. It also offers a Doctor of
Modern Languages degree in French,
German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.

MIDDLEBURY AT MILLS COLLEGE
In 2009, Middlebury College established
a Language Schools site on the Mills
College campus in Oakland, California.
Designed to provide the accelerated
language acquisition students expect
from the Language Schools, the Mills
site enables our West Coast students to
HELPING STUDENTS, CHANGING THE WORLD

The late Kathryn Wasserman Davis funded 100 Language Schools scholarships a year, beginning in 2007; this scholarship program continues today. The Fellows for Peace Program was established to address the tangible need for enhanced language proficiency in an increasingly globalized world. The fellowships underwrite tuition, room, and board for one summer of study at Middlebury’s Language Schools.

“In the Japanese School, every minute of your waking day is geared toward learning language. At night, you dream in the language. Even in Japan, I can’t create an environment like this.”

CLIFF STRICKLER
Japanese School

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Cliff Strickler is a watchdog for economic justice in the Tokyo office of a global law firm. His job is to broker fair, mutually beneficial business partnerships between countries. He expects to spend the rest of his life in Japan, so he wants to truly master the language. He says it is easier to do that in the Japanese School than in Tokyo, where many of his colleagues and friends speak English.

“In a conflict that is shaped so much by different national narratives, it is important to be able to understand those narratives in their own language.”

CHRISTA BRYANT
School of Hebrew

Christa Bryant is the Christian Science Monitor’s Jerusalem bureau chief, covering Israel and the Palestinian territories, as well as regional issues. She previously served as Middle East editor, coordinating the newspaper’s network of correspondents from Tripoli to Tehran. A Kathryn Davis Fellowship in the School of Hebrew has given her a solid grasp of that language. Now, she says, she needs to learn Arabic.

“I’m interested in figuring out what I can do with my education. So far in my life, I have been receiving, but my time will come to give back.”

BINIYAM ESTIFANOS ’14
Portuguese School

Biniyam Estifanos was born in Ethiopia and moved to New York City with his family when he was 12. A motivated student, he was consistently at the top of his class, and he was selected to attend Middlebury College as a Posse Scholar. He enrolled in the Portuguese School to prepare for his junior year abroad in Brazil. A political science major, he hopes to pursue a higher degree in international law after a stint in the Peace Corps.
experience the power of the Language Schools closer to home, and it gives our East Coast students an opportunity to explore the liveliness and cultural diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area.

THE SCHOOLS ABROAD

In addition to the 11 Language Schools, Middlebury provides study abroad opportunities in 36 cities in 16 countries through the Middlebury-C.V. Starr Schools Abroad. Students can combine a summer at the Language Schools with a semester or a year at one of the Schools Abroad.

Schools Abroad students are committed to language and cultural immersion. They want an authentic experience in every respect: academic, social, and professional. In almost all programs, students at a Middlebury-C.V. Starr School Abroad pledge to speak only the language they are learning, like students in the Language Schools. In 2013–14, Middlebury began offering a program in India where instruction is in English; however, as at other sites abroad, students are immersed in the culture and also study Hindi while there. This fall, Middlebury inaugurated its first study abroad site in the United Kingdom, taking over the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, where students are associate members of Keble College, one of Oxford’s largest colleges.

The challenge at the Schools Abroad is more than linguistic. It involves adjusting to a new way of teaching, learning, and living—an education in itself.

SUPPORT THE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

In this centennial year of the Language Schools, Middlebury seeks the support of donors with the vision and ambition to help realize the Schools’ potential.

The Language Schools highest fund-raising priority is financial aid. Year after year, more than half of the students who apply to the summer Language Schools cannot come. When asked why, the answer is invariably the same: there is no better program, and they are no less eager to learn the language than when they applied, but they can’t afford the Language Schools tuition and fees in addition to their student loans and other financial obligations.

The Language Schools awarded $4.5 million in financial aid in summer 2014. Forty-nine percent of students received some aid. Except in the master’s programs, the average grant is significantly less than the $8,635 to $11,425 cost of a Language Schools summer. Increasing the funding for financial aid would provide stipends to more students and increase the size of the grants we are able to award. That would enable a significant number of students to come to Middlebury who otherwise would be unable to do so. Annual gifts of $5,000 can create an expendable named scholarship, which is awarded to one or more specific students. Named endowed scholarships have a threshold level of $100,000 and can be funded over a period of time. Through the Centennial Challenge, every gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total of $500,000.

Donors can make an endowment gift at any level to the Ron and Jessica Liebowitz Centennial Fellowships Fund, which honors the Middlebury president and his wife. The first awards were made in the summer of 2014 to 13 fellows. These exceptional students ranged from a middle school French teacher from a small Vermont town to a veteran of the war in Iraq, who is studying Arabic at Mills College in California in preparation for teaching Middle East studies.

SUPPORTING A SCHOOL

Donors can also make a gift in support of a specific school. This could provide broad-based support for their school of choice or build financial aid resources. Donors who commit $100,000 can also create named endowments for a designated school to support that school’s director, professors, practitioners, and artists.

SUPPORTING FACULTY

When students and alumni of the Language Schools talk about their experiences, they describe the life-changing impact of teachers deeply dedicated to students’ learning and personal growth. As part of our centennial celebration, we seek gifts to recruit and retain leading language scholars and support faculty development and curricular innovation.

Gifts will also advance language technology and support the development of online courses and materials. These digital tools will be a critical element of the Language Schools’ second century, whether they are enhancing classroom learning, helping students take their first steps in a language or maintain fluency, or supporting instruction in less-commonly-taught languages.

“Language reveals a culture. Speak the language, read the literature, and your outlook changes and is never quite the same.”

TED TRUSCOTT ’83 AND KATHY O’CONNOR TRUSCOTT ’83 | Centennial Challenge Donors