

The Accord School of Language-Intensive Summer Course "C"

Undergraduate Language Grant (ULG) | Submitted by a First Year in Weinberg

*This cover page is meant to focus your reading of the sample proposal, summarizing important aspects of proposal writing that the author did well or could have improved. **Review the following sections before reading the sample.** The proposal is also annotated throughout to highlight key elements of the proposal's structure and content.*



Proposal Strengths	Areas for Improvement
Student defines a dream career and carefully lays out a plan that will provide not only language skills, but also the other skills required for the job.	The student didn't really discuss how the program selected fit eligibility criteria (minimum of 120 hours of instruction, minimum 6 weeks).
Student has specific internship and study abroad plans that will build on language skills acquired through this grant; student leverages the prerequisites for these programs to make an argument for why language needs to be studied intensively <i>this</i> summer.	
Student selected language program with unique features including an afternoon business class in French on topics like resumes and writing business emails. School also equipped to teach international students where English is not the first language.	



Other Key Features to Take Note Of
First year students are largely constructing hypothetical plans for their future years, whereas older students are often able to show what they have already accomplished. Younger students must have clear plans for future summers and academic years, so the committee doesn't have room to think, "Why can't this student complete the language program next year?"
Student just began learning French this year (as a first year), so they successfully make this argument with limited prior experience.

I plan to use my Undergraduate Language Grant to study French in the Accord School of Language in Paris. Their "Intensive Course 'C'" will drastically improve my French language skills and help me develop intercultural competency. Fluency in French will prepare me for a career as a diplomat working for the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), and allow me to explore my interest in the role of France in a post-Brexit Europe. Since French is the official language of Geneva, and one of the two official languages of United Nations, fluency in French is essential for my future goals. However, as I am only starting to learn French as a freshman, many of my academic and professional aspirations cannot be fulfilled during my four years at Northwestern at my current pace of studying French. The language skills acquired this summer will allow me to take higher level courses early on, and take the steps I need to ultimately achieve my career goals.

First paragraph functions like abstract.
Overview of 3 main arguments

Defines goal (and why)

As someone deeply passionate about diplomacy and international relations, I want to work for the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) because of my strong interest in European affairs, specifically the role of France in a post-Brexit Europe. As many companies are transferring their headquarters from London to Paris, I feel that the role of France in shaping the economic situation in and out of EU is fascinating. Although internship and work opportunities in UNOG only require fluency in English or French, the city of Geneva uses French as its official language, and I feel that the ability to communicate and write in French is still important to my success there, or any other positions concerning foreign affairs. ULG will be the essential component for my career and research in Geneva, and other French-speaking cities in the world.

In order to work for the UNOG, I need not only language skills, but also a deep understanding of international affairs, exceptional research skills, and some work experience in international organizations. I will outline my specific plans to achieve each of those goals, but only ULG will allow me to fulfill all of them while being able to graduate on time. In order to develop a stronger understanding to the role of France in European affairs, I plan to go on an exchange in Science Po in Paris, in the spring of my sophomore year (2019), for its excellent education on International Relations, and special location. Since I plan to complete all four courses in French while at Science Po's Paris campus, I am required to have taken at least two years of college level French, and am highly recommended to have completed two 200-level courses before enrollment. However, since I just began learning French as a freshman, I would not be able to take any 200-level classes before my junior year in 2019, which means that I would not be able to do the Exchange Program before then. While taking half of the classes in English is an option, I feel that taking all classes in French will give me more opportunities to hear from French students, and fully immerse myself in the French culture. Therefore, I think completing the two recommended 200-level French courses will be more instrumental to my academic success. Being able to study French over this summer with ULG funding means that I can test out of a year of intermediate French upon my return, and take two 200-level courses by the end of my junior year in 2020. Therefore, ULG is crucial for me to complete all the tasks in the limited time I have here.

Argument #1:
Why is language of study essential for your future goals?

Current work towards goal

In order to prepare myself for my independent research on post-Brexit Europe in the summer of sophomore year, I am enrolled in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Science workshop, and will work for Dr. Morgan Kaplan as his Research Assistant this February. The workshop will help me learn about how to apply for the summer research grant offered by Northwestern, while the Research Assistant position will enable me to witness first-hand how

Argument focuses on all other skills that will be required in addition to French, with clear plan to gain all these skills



Student recently began learning language; argument uses this to student's advantage rather than being a limitation



research in Political Science is conducted, as I will be researching an international conflict of my choice to add to Dr. Kaplan's new book, and transcribe his interviews with survivors of Middle Eastern conflicts. After these two experiences, I will be better equipped to conduct my own field research in France, which are very important for my academic aspirations, as not many research has been done on post-Brexit Europe. As French language skills acquired this summer will enable me to conduct such field research Paris and read materials in their original language, ULG will be vital for the successful completion of my independent research in the summer of 2019.

Future work towards goal

Before working for the UNOG, I feel that relevant internship experience in international organizations will be very helpful. Therefore, after completing the Exchange Program in Science Po in Spring of 2019, I want to participate in the Brussels Field Studies program in the fall of my junior year, which consists of a 5-week education on Belgium's contemporary role in Europe, and a 12-week internship at a local organization. Since Brussels is home to many important international organizations, it will open up abundant internship choices for me. As French is also one of the most widely-spoken languages in Brussels, French languages skills acquired this summer will give me great advantage when it comes to interacting people from a diverse background, and looking for internships in Brussels, Geneva, and other French speaking countries in the world.

After the Brussels Field Studies program, I also want to take on an internship in my junior summer at the International Trade Center (ITC), an organization affiliated with the United Nations, because I want to learn more about how international trade will be affected by Brexit. Since ITC is also located in Geneva, and there are many internships that require proficiency in French, my French language skills will lead to wider range of internship opportunities. Moreover, as an international student, I feel the need to seek internships in international institutions outside of the US, because my citizenship restricts the amount of internships available here. By learning French this summer, I will not only lay the foundation for many programs I want to pursue, but also accumulate more experience before working for the UNOG.

It is important that I participate in the intensive language program this year, because I have many plans for all the other summers ahead, while French language skills are essential for most of them. With the research project in sophomore summer, and the ITC internship in junior summer, I am left with only this summer to complete this intensive French language program. Moreover, as I plan to double major in International Studies and Statistics, I will have more limited room for non-major classes like French. I feel that this French Language program can help me improve my French language level much faster, allowing me to pursue all of my goals in the four years here, while being able to graduate on time.

I chose the language program offered by the Accord School of Language because of its comprehensive teaching methods and the afternoon business French course. This afternoon class of smaller size will help me learn how to write resumes, letters, and emails in French, which will be useful when I take on internships and seek employment at UNOG. Moreover, the school's experience in educating international students makes them a great fit for me. Since I won't be learning French in my native language, Chinese, I feel that a school with a curriculum that considers the difficulties faced by international students is the best option for my language education.

Unique aspects of the program – good fit for international students, help with professional development

First year students need to articulate clear plans for all future summers and academic years

Should have mentioned hours of instruction and other characteristics that help it satisfy ULG program eligibility

Argument #2: Why THIS summer, and why not during academic year?

Argument #3: Why this program (and city/country, if relevant)?

<u>Budget Considerations</u>	
Airfare:	(average the price of typical flights, and account for the fact that you will not be able to buy tickets for a few months until your grant is accepted)
Tuition:	(you may need to convert tuition costs into USD)
Local Travel:	(travel from international airport to language program site; commuting to language program, etc)
Housing:	(may be included within program costs, or you may be expected to figure this out yourself)
Meals:	(estimate reasonable amount per day, multiplied by length of program – may need to subtract out meals provided by program)
Health Insurance & Vaccines:	(Northwestern’s Office of Global Safety & Security requires you have travel insurance – check out their website and look into the travel health section. It includes information on recommended immunizations and insurance)
Visas	(Visas may or may not be required, pending the length of trip and host country)
Total Expenses	Add up the above expenses
Potential Other Funding Sources	Examples include: Critical Language Scholarship, Boren Award for International Study, Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS), Gilman Scholarship, Buffett Supplemental Grant
ULG Requested Amount	(Max request \$5,000 or up to 75% of the combined expenses above)