Carleton Language Mission Statement

Language is the way that members of a culture organize and encode their thoughts, allowing them to communicate with each other. Moreover, language shapes one’s relationship with other people, and different languages will shape that relationship differently.

At Carleton we want students to understand the way language is embedded within cultural practices and worldviews. To this end, we expect all students to cross linguistic borders, experiencing another language “from the inside.” In addition to the practical benefits a degree of competency in a language can offer (including basic communication, the ability to read foreign texts, and more), the study of a foreign language provides students with a fuller understanding of the role played by their own native tongue. Also, crucially, it requires each student to experience the challenges of dealing with other cultures and peoples on their own terms.