Creating Global Citizens and Scholars

From French film festivals to Italian music concerts, from celebrations of the Chinese New Year to modern versions of Euripides, the Department of Foreign Languages brings the global community home to our Elon community. Our multi-lingual, multi-cultural faculty hail from nine different countries and teach eight different languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Latin and Spanish), offering students international prospects for their future academic and professional lives.

Our faculty:

- have been recognized for outstanding teaching and service to the community by the university, and for service leadership and excellence in teaching by the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as received multiple internal and external grants to fund their disciplinary research and their scholarship of teaching and learning.
- have published textbooks for language teaching, books of literary criticism and are in the process of publishing an encyclopedia of hispanophone literature.
- regularly publish peer-reviewed articles in books and in top journals and present their research at national and international conferences.
- are outstanding mentors to Elon College Fellows, Honors Fellows, and budding undergraduate researchers.
- travel abroad frequently, developing and leading study abroad programs in Mexico, Honduras, Spain, France, Peru, Costa Rica and Japan.

The students who pursue advanced study in foreign languages at Elon exemplify the model of the Global Citizen. Since Fall 2009,

- 490 students have gained cultural and linguistic competency abroad in non-Anglophone countries.
- At least 10 students mentored by DFL faculty have presented at SURF, many in their foreign language of study, and several more have presented at national or international conferences.
- Nine students have pursued graduate study using their language skills in language and literature, international relations, business, law, etc.
- 17 students have worked, interned or pursued graduate study abroad during or after Elon.

Engaging with the world at home:

- With our faculty’s support, students create their own international communities on campus through learning communities as well as at weekly conversation tables.
- Professors and students regularly use their language skills for local outreach to international communities through the Amigos Club and volunteering with the Avalon African Refugee Center in Greensboro, N.C.
- Spanish and education students also work with the Spanish-immersion program at Elon Elementary School.