The English for Heritage Language Speakers Program
Language Proficiency in Government Service:
The English for Heritage Language Speakers Program

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Program Fundamentals

- Legislation authored by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in FY2005
- Providing English instruction to U.S. citizens who are native speakers of a critical language
- Scholarships to individuals instructed at an institution of higher education
- Federal service requirement of at least one year
Program History

- 2005: Feasibility study conducted by CAL
- 2006: Program initiated at Georgetown University and the University of Washington
  Language groups: Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Russian
- 2007–2008: Program in place at Georgetown University and the University of Washington
  Expansion to additional language groups
- 2009–2011: Program at Georgetown only
  Language groups recruited for 2011: Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Dari, Persian, Farsi, Pashto, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Igbo, Hausa, Somali, Swahili
Language Proficiency

Entrance Requirements

- ILR Level 3 / ACTFL Superior in the native language
  Only speaking proficiency is tested (OPI)
- ILR Level 2 / ACTFL Advanced-Low in English
  Listening and reading tests: ELPT from DLI-ELC
  Speaking test: OPI
  Writing test: modified DLI-ELC writing test

Exit Goals

- ILR Level 3 / ACTFL Superior in four English modalities
Instructional Program

- **Six-month intensive program**
  - Reading and Writing for Professionals
  - Professional Oral Communications
  - News Analysis
  - Career Skills

- **Two-month part-time program**
  - Professional Writing
  - Career Skills
Capstone: Open Source Analytical Research Project

- Topics provided by federal agencies and matched to scholars’ backgrounds and expertise
- Scholars conduct research in English and the heritage language
- Each scholar works with a federal agency mentor
- Scholars present their analyses at a formal symposium and in a written paper
English Language Proficiency Outcomes

Demographic data and outcomes are reported for the 104 scholars who have participated in the Georgetown University program.

- 2006: 7 Scholars
- 2007: 16 Scholars
- 2008: 16 Scholars
- 2009: 28 Scholars
- 2010: 37 Scholars
Demographics: Gender

More men (60%) have participated in the program than women (40%)
Demographics: Age

- Scholars’ average age is 45
  - Mean = 44.75
  - Median = 45

- The youngest scholar is 26 and the oldest is 64
Participant Age Summary (2006-2010)
Demographics: Years in the US

Scholars have lived in the U.S. for an average of almost 16 years, ranging from 3 to 42 years.
Demographics: Language Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>43.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dari</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdu</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Farsi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swahili</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farsi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igbo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Cantonese, Hausa, Korean, Pashto)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics: Other Languages Spoken

- 63.5% of scholars reported speaking at least one other language

- French was the most commonly spoken other language, with 22.1% of scholars speaking French
### Demographics: Educational Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Degree Received</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Collected</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics: Educational Background

- 42 scholars have an additional second degree, and 6 scholars indicated a third degree.
- 62% of scholars have received at least one degree taught primarily in English.
- 55.7% of scholars have received at least one degree from a university in the U.S.
Reading Results (2006-2010)

- **Level 3**
  - EXIT SCORE: ~63
  - ENTRY SCORE: ~60

- **Level 2+**
  - EXIT SCORE: ~35
  - ENTRY SCORE: ~40

- **Level 2**
  - EXIT SCORE: ~8
  - ENTRY SCORE: ~5

- **Level 1+**
  - EXIT SCORE: ~2
  - ENTRY SCORE: ~1
Increases in Scores: Reading

- The ceiling effect strongly influenced improvements in reading
  - 50 out of the 104 scholars remained at Level 3

- However, results show that
  - 13 scholars improved across the 2+/3 threshold
  - 1 scholar improved from Level 2 to Level 3
Listening Results (2006-2010)
Increases in Scores: Listening

- 10 scholars crossed the 2+/3 threshold in Listening
- 2 scholars raised their score from Level 2 to Level 3
- 18 scholars improved from Level 2 to Level 2+
Speaking Results (2006-2010)

- Superior
- Advanced High
- Advanced Mid
- Advanced Low
- Intermediate High
- Intermediate Mid
- Intermediate Low

EXIT SCORE
ENTRY SCORE
Increases in Scores: Speaking

- 13 scholars crossed the threshold from the Intermediate Level to the Advanced Level
- 7 scholars crossed the threshold from the Advanced Level to the Superior Level
- 6 scholars improved within the Intermediate Level
- 15 scholars improved within the Advanced Level
Writing Results (2006-2010)

- Superior
- Superior Low
- Advanced High
- Advanced Mid
- Advanced Low
- Intermediate High
- Intermediate Mid

EXIT SCORE
ENTRY SCORE
Increases in Scores: Writing

- 10 scholars crossed the threshold from the Intermediate Level to the Advanced Level
- 11 scholars crossed the threshold from the Advanced Level to the Superior Level
- 5 scholars improved within the Intermediate Level
- 25 scholars improved within the Advanced Level
- 3 scholars improved within the Superior Level
EHLS Graduates’ Current Employment

- CIA – Open Source Works
- National Ground Intelligence Center, INSCOM
- DIA
- DLIFLC
- NGA
- FSI
- ODNI – Open Source Center
- US Naval Academy
- DOD Contractors (Concepts & Strategies, L-3, SAIC)
Thank You!