

The advantages of being bilingual or multilingual...



Kevin Hudon

Programs Administration Officer
Office of Acadian Affairs and
Francophonie
Former MODL Student

Being bilingual in French and English has helped me navigate this country, other parts of the world, and everyday life with confidence. During times of hardship, it has opened doors to new opportunities, and in moments of loneliness, it has helped me connect with others. When I approach new challenges I find myself to be more flexible and empathetic. It helps me understand other people and cultures, and allows me to appreciate complexities of the human experience from different perspectives. Studying languages at MSVU allowed me to fully immerse myself in the language. The small class sizes created close-knit groups of friends who shared similar passions and supported one another throughout the learning process. My professors and I were on a first-name basis, so I always felt comfortable approaching them about any assignment. Their dedication and enthusiasm were unmatched, and they consistently inspired me in elevating the quality of my work.



Serena Wu

Former Student Recruitment Officer
Mount Saint Vincent University

Based on my own experience, being multilingual has changed my life in so many ways. First, it's opened doors to opportunities like my exchange to Spain and China, my previous role at Dalhousie's International Centre, and my current position as a student recruitment officer at MSVU. It's also played a big role in my music, allowing me to connect with French-speaking audiences and access certain grants and opportunities specifically for Francophone artists. Beyond that, it's helped me build close friendships and connections with people from all over, especially French and Spanish speakers, and has made my travel experiences much more immersive and interesting.

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Corinne Gilroy
Manager of Library Operations
Mount Saint Vincent
University
Former MODL Student

If my Spanish degree comes up in casual conversation with friends or family, someone will inevitably ask *Why Spanish? What are you going to do with that? Why not French?* As if career advancement is the only conceivable reason to learn another language, and as if the only “useful” language for an anglophone to learn is French! And sure, there are some significant advantages to being fully bilingual in both of Canada’s official languages. But I didn’t have access to French Immersion growing up, so I would’ve always been on my back foot if career advancement were my main language learning goal. Instead, I returned to language learning in mid-life for personal reasons such as maintaining my mental dexterity and indulging my love of reading and writing. And these are very real advantages, too! Multilingualism literally changes our brains. I can feel it happening whenever I “get in the zone” practicing Spanish. All my English thoughts and preoccupations float away. I also see the Spanish language as a very important connection to millions of our neighbours throughout the Americas, their cultures, their histories, and one of the most important traditions of radical emancipatory politics in the world.

What is your experience of studying languages at MSVU?

I love being a student; accessible lifelong learning is a privilege of working at a university that I never take for granted. Language learning at MSVU introduced me to an entirely new part of the Mount Community beyond my day-to-day work. Advocating for MODL wherever / whenever possible has become labour of love and, I think, a fitting complement to my role as our Library Manager. Earning a concentration in a “small” program of study such as our Spanish Concentration gave me a lot of freedom and fit well with my intrinsic motivations for studying and learning. I was able to complete two directed studies, as well as classes at St. Mary’s and Toronto Metropolitan.

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Konner Russell
French Teacher
Citadel High School
Former MODL Student

Being bilingual has been a cornerstone of my life for a long time. I was put into French Immersion from a young age and I have always loved the process of learning and mastering a new language. I've been able to experience things and immerse myself in different cultures more fully due to my bilingualism, not to mention the job opportunities which come along with being able to speak French. Connecting with others through a shared language is unlike anything else; it truly opens up new worlds.

Studying French at MSVU was a wonderful time in my life: I learned so much, my professors matched my passion, and I was even able to study abroad in France, which was an unparalleled experience. My understanding and appreciation of language grew so much during my time at the Mount, and I look back on those years with appreciation, gratitude, and fondness.



Peer-Christian Fritz
CEO & Owner – RevAIQ
Part-Time Faculty MSVU (Tourism & French)
University Lecturer IMC Austria (Tourism)

Being multilingual has been one of the most transformative advantages in both my professional and personal life. Professionally, it opened doors I never imagined—new roles, international opportunities, and a career trajectory that accelerated because I could bridge cultures and communicate across borders. It allowed me to live and work in different parts of the world, adapting quickly and contributing meaningfully in diverse environments.

On a personal level, speaking multiple languages has been deeply enriching. It helped me connect with people from different backgrounds in a genuine way, building relationships that would have never existed otherwise. It broadened my perspective, strengthened my empathy, and made the world feel both bigger and more accessible. Being multilingual hasn't just been a skill—it's been a gateway to experiences that shaped who I am today.