

Isabel Eliassen, B.A. Chinese, B.A. Linguistics, B.A. International Affairs, Class of 2021

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Isabel Eliassen is a WKU alumni who graduated from the Chinese Flagship program with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chinese in 2021. During her time within the Department of Modern Languages, she also studied Russian. Additionally, she earned degrees in International Affairs and Linguistics.

Now, Isabel is a Policy Associate for The Council of State Governments (CSG), a non-partisan nonprofit that works with all three branches of government across all 50 states. In her job, she tracks legislation, works with administrators, coordinates meetings, conducts research, and gives presentations. Because she works on tracking changes to potential legislation, she feels that her background in linguistics and language is very important. In this role, paying attention to slight changes in wording is crucial, and this would not come as easily to Isabel without her linguistics and language knowledge.

She says that the best thing students can do is have experiences that they will be able to talk about in future job interviews. She stated, “Whether the experience is good or bad, if students learned a lesson or demonstrated a skill, it may be something they can bring up at a job interview. Study abroad, especially long-term programs, can be great for this, but so can internships, jobs, study abroad, research experience, and even group projects.” She encourages students to create these experiences early and take advantage of all that WKU has to offer.

