

Maddy Johnson, Spanish and International Business, Class of 2024

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Maddy Johnson is a current Hilltopper, originally from Crestwood, KY, who is majoring in international business through the Gordon Ford College of Business. However, she is also pairing her degree in international business with Spanish, one of the languages offered by the WKU Department of Modern Languages. Each semester, the Spanish program at WKU offers a wide variety of courses in language, literature, culture, civilization, and film, allowing students to understand Spanish language and culture applicable to their future careers. Johnson has realized how important Spanish can be to her career and said, "I would like to work in the hotel industry in Spain or in any Latin American country."

Language proficiency is very important, according to Johnson, because it creates strong, interpersonal connections. "I want to be able to connect with more people than just the people I have grown up with," she said. "The world is large, [so] it's important to understand other cultures and people that live on this earth with us. As our world advances, our relationships with people on the other side of the world becomes closer and more important. It is vital, right now and in the future, to be able to communicate with people other than the ones who speak your language." To develop these important skills, Johnson commented that she hopes to study abroad in Salamanca, Spain soon to maximize her language proficiency via immersive experiences.

Johnson shared some advice she had on language learning. She told Modern Languages, "No matter how difficult a class is or how annoyed you are with yourself that you are not understanding something, remember that you are learning a new language! This is no easy feat... this is a way of communication, culture, and understanding. It is going to take some time, so be patient with yourself."

