

Aurora Speltz, B.A. Arabic, Spanish, and International Affairs, Class of 2023

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Aurora Speltz is a student in the WKU Department of Modern Languages from Richmond, KY. Currently, she is completing her bachelor’s degree in Arabic, Spanish, and International Affairs. Most recently, Speltz returned from Jordan where used her Arabic in an immersive context and augmented her understanding of the local language and culture. Now, she is on the WKU QatarDebate Team which will travel to Turkey in the summer of 2022 for an international debate, consisting of universities from all over the world.

Speltz’s career goals include possibly interpreting or working for the U.S. Department of State. Her language combination will certainly open these doors, and as she puts it, “Arabic especially is needed at [the U.S. Department of] State to foster international relations in the Arab World. Second languages are inherently necessary for interpreting.” Speltz’s academic goals include taking a course in Spanish and Arabic translation at WKU. Such courses are sometimes included in the rotation of language courses at WKU, to satisfy varied student interests and future careers.

Speltz also shared advice with WKU Modern Languages for language majors. In her own words, “Learning a language requires you to let go of fear, accept that you will make mistakes, and embrace them as part of the learning process.” Speltz noted upon the effects of language learning: Though it can be long, it can also be a very valuable process. It can be a life-changing experience which helps students learn how to deal with mistakes and communicate in a new language and culture.

