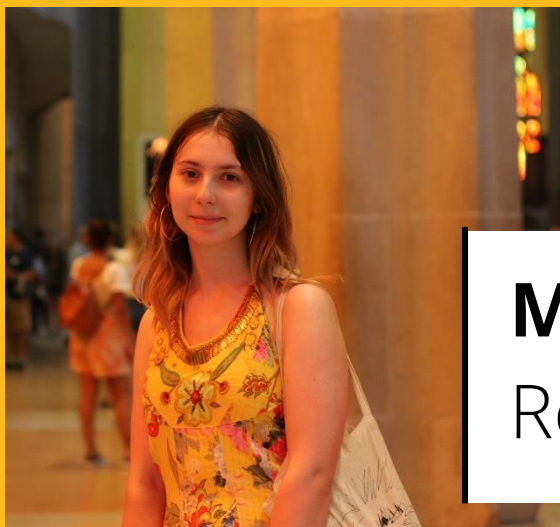




More than words: Real Life Stories

1. What is your name and what course are you studying?

Isabelle Hatton-Williams, I am a student at the University of Manchester studying French and Japanese.

2. What languages do you speak (native and additional languages)?

I speak English (maternally) and French (paternally), although I am only verbally fluent in French so am studying it to reach a native proficiency. I am also learning Japanese and can get by conversationally in Spanish!

3. When did you decide to learn another language and why?

I've been learning French from my dad my whole life, but started to really apply myself to it around when I turned 15, because I realised the joy in being able to meet people from different countries and backgrounds (and found a love for travelling!

4. How has being able to speak more than one language helped you in your personal life?

I have made so many friends across France, which has led to free travel and also new experiences and friendships I would never get to experience in England. I have met so many different people I would never have been able to before.

5. What has been the most impactful thing about learning a language on your life to date?

Definitely the freedom of having friends in France. I have been so much more enriched!

6. What is your favourite foreign language word or phrase and why?

猫をかぶる (neko wo kaburu) to wear a cat in Japanese! It means to hide your bad side.

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7. Is there another language you would like to learn?

I think Japanese is enough for me!
I wish I could speak better Spanish because of all the amazing travel opportunities it would give me.

8. If you could give one piece of advice to students thinking about learning another language, what would it be?

Immerse yourself in your target language as much as you possibly can! Having friends, watching films, and if possible, visiting the country, help so much. Also having a show/band you like helps your enthusiasm stay when it gets hard.