Majors in International Relations must display oral and written proficiency in a foreign language. Thorough language study is an essential tool for developing cultural literacy and sensitivity that are important goals of the major.

The level of proficiency required is **eight semesters or the equivalent in a single language**—the highest level attainable for students who begin a new language at Tufts.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**
- Courses used for the IR language requirement must be taught entirely in the target language. Not all courses at the 30/100 level are taught in the target language. Courses utilizing English at these levels will not count toward the IR language requirement.
- No double-counting. A course used for the language requirement may not also be used for the Core or Thematic Concentration Requirements.
- Please refer to the respective language departments for questions, restrictions, and study abroad course transfer for the language requirement.

**Students who speak a native language other than English** are NOT automatically exempt from the IR Language Requirement. **Exemptions may be granted only in certain cases as follows:**
- You can demonstrate that you graduated from a foreign high school where a language other than English was the language of instruction.
- You can demonstrate that in an English-language international school the critical topics (e.g., history, politics, literature, and religion) were taught in a language other than English. **By no means will foreign students be granted automatic exemptions from the IR Language Requirement if they attended international schools where English was the only language of instruction.**
- You take a placement exam to determine the level of your oral, written, and cultural proficiency in your native language. If you are not exempted from all eight semesters, you will need to arrange for subsequent coursework.

**Students seeking exemption should work with the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Education when they arrive at Tufts to determine their level of exemption.**

If you are seeking exemption, please do not delay. Assuming you are exempt can often lead to complications in completing the IR major and may postpone graduation.