The Language House is a language immersion residence hall in the Cornell West Campus housing system, specifically for students who seek opportunities to practice a foreign language in an informal, everyday setting. Currently located in Boldt Hall/Alice Cook House on west campus, the Language House supports sections in Arabic, French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin. The Native Speakers live in Boldt Hall and are critical to the success of the Language House. The job requires approximately 10 hours a week, varying according to the time of the semester.

The Language House Mission is as follows:

The Language House Program has four central goals:

1) The program helps students gain speaking fluency and listening comprehension more quickly, thoroughly, and idiomatically than is normally possible in the classroom setting.
2) The improvements in linguistic competence are accompanied by increased intellectual understanding and psychological connectiveness to the cultures in which the languages are spoken.
3) The shared learning and living experiences should foster a sense of group identity while at Cornell as well as create enduring friendships that will continue long after students leave the university.
4) The Language House experience should create citizens who by virtue of their linguistic and cultural expertise and their robust interest in a larger world, will be prepared to flourish in a global community.

These goals are realized by offering a residential setting in which residents, the peer Native Speaker staff, faculty, staff from Campus Life as well as many others from Cornell and elsewhere participate in daily activities and special events designed to promote language and cultural learning in a supportive and congenial setting.

Native Speaker Responsibilities:

- Help improve the residents’ fluency in the target language by serving as informal teachers and mentors in the residence hall and creating an environment conducive to language practice and intercultural learning
- Encourage the use of the target language at every opportunity while the members are in the house, at dinners together, or at any other group activity and including written correspondences
- Dine 4 times per week with student residents
- Design and lead weekly “conversation hours” or alternate activities
- Work in cooperation with the other native speakers, and the program director, to organize additional activities that engage the whole language house in language and/or cultural events
- Assist the students in organizing possible trips to nearby cities and/or overseas, and accompany them on these excursions
Engage residents with the Language House Fellows and others in the Cornell community proficient in the target language and/or relevant cultures

Participate as needed in marketing and recruitment efforts on behalf of the Language House

Meet regularly with the LH program director and staff team of Alice Cook House

Submit periodic programming reports

Work with the Alice Cook House staff in matters of resident conduct and safety

Qualifications

Full time, graduate and upperclass undergraduate students from Cornell are eligible for the position of Native Speaker.

- Fluency in the target language. The Native Speakers must be able to speak, read, and write with absolute fluency. They must also be able to speak slowly and clearly, moderating their speech patterns to meet the situational needs of the residents.
- English fluency.
- Interest in and knowledge about their own cultural background and willingness to share this cultural knowledge with students. Knowledge of important holidays, basic cuisine, modern popular culture, history, politics, art, movies, etc. and a sense of how this knowledge can be conveyed to students in stimulating ways.
- Experience working with people who are learning a new language. Some teaching experience preferable.
- Experience organizing activities.
- Experience organizing trips and/or leading trips overseas is desirable.
- Connection to other people, departments, clubs, etc. within the Cornell community whose activities are relevant to the target language and cultures
- Patient, sensitive to the needs of others, flexible.
- Organized yet creative. Responsible.
- Team oriented, social personality.

Remuneration

Each Native Speaker will receive a single room in Boldt Hall and a Cook House meal plan subsidy of 50% in their first year. The Native Speaker is responsible to pay the additional 50%.

Returning native speakers will receive a single room in Boldt Hall and a full Cook House meal plan.

Please note:

- TAs may be ineligible to apply due to the number of hours worked, but exceptions may be made with written approval from the appropriate director of graduate studies and special committee chairs.
- Students on financial aid are also invited to apply for this position, but they should know that the native speaker remuneration package might affect their aid package as a whole. They will therefore be asked to check with their financial aid counselors before accepting the position.