

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TEACHER OBSERVER PROGRAM
FOR WORLD LANGUAGE TEACHERS
2024 GOVERNOR’S WORLD LANGUAGE ACADEMIES

General Information

During the summer of 2024, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will again conduct the *Virginia Governor’s World Language Academies* for selected high school students, with full-immersion French, German, and Spanish Academies; a Latin Academy; and a partial-immersion Japanese Academy. The residential programs will last approximately three weeks and a full schedule of academic and recreational activities is being planned to challenge and engage the students. The dates and locations are below.

Governor’s Japanese Academy Governor’s Latin Academy	June 23-July 14, 2024	Randolph-Macon College Ashland
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Each Academy will also serve as a demonstration center for a limited number of Virginia World language teachers. A small group of teachers will be accepted as observers and seminar participants for up to one week during the second week of each Academy’s operation. The goal of this participation is to improve teachers’ skills in working with students at their own schools. No observers will be invited during the first or last week of the program.

Teacher observers may choose to participate from two to seven days during the second week of the program. Lodging will be provided on the host site at the cost of approximately \$25 per night; the cost for meals is approximately \$30 per day. (These costs are estimates only and are subject to change.) Participants are also responsible for other expenses that may be incurred for field trips and events scheduled during their visit and for their own transportation to and from the Academy.

Participants who complete this program may be eligible to receive points toward renewal of their teaching licenses. All decisions regarding the awarding of points for this experience will be made by each participant’s designated advisor at the employing educational agency.

Eligibility

Preference will be given to applicants who:

- currently teach a minimum of two classes of the language of the Academy; or
- are enrolled in final year of Teacher Preparation program.

Applicants must:

- have a background check* on file with current employer.

**Applicants whose current employer cannot provide verification of a background check must submit to and pass a background check prior to the start of the observation period.*

Responsibilities

Teachers selected to participate in this program will be provided many opportunities to share in the activities of the Academy and to evaluate a variety of instructional strategies and curriculum materials. They will be expected to reside on campus and participate fully in all activities designed for them, including exclusive use of the target language, if observing a full-immersion Academy. However, they must remember that they are “guests,” not faculty members, and resist the temptation to teach the students or advise the faculty unless called upon to do so by the director or lead teacher.

Program coordinator will provide certification of completion, which may be used for documentation, to each teacher. Persons who intend to seek points toward relicensure should consult their local advisors in advance. They should also ask if reimbursement for professional development is available from their school division.

Application Deadline

The application must be postmarked no later than **May 1, 2024**. General questions about the teacher observation opportunities may be directed to the appropriate program coordinator.

Questions regarding specific Academy programs may be directed to the director of the appropriate language Academy at one of the email addresses below after March 1, 2024.

VAJapaneseAcademy@gmail.com

VALatinAcademy@gmail.com

Application Procedure

Applications are required to be submitted as an attached PDF formatted file by email or mailed to the appropriate program coordinator below by **May 1, 2024**:

Japanese, Latin

Dr. Bartolo Natoli, Program Coordinator
Governor’s World Language Academies
Department of Classics
Randolph-Macon College
P.O. Box 5005
Ashland, VA 23005-5505

Email: bartolonatoli@rmc.edu

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by Friday, **May 24, 2024**, at the latest.