

Challenges to Language Instruction at Community Colleges with Global Heritage Speakers

Community College Language Forum 2016
The Center for Integrated Language Communities

May 6, 2016

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Queensborough Community College, CUNY, has a highly diverse student population:

- In Fall 2015, students reported 132 countries of birth and 78 native languages.
- The top ten countries of birth for all students reporting were: USA, China, Jamaica, Guyana, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, South Korea, Haiti, Ecuador, and Columbia.
- The top five languages other than English were: Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Bengali, and Urdu.

Data from QCC Factbook 2015-16

STUDENTS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH - FALL 2015

◆ 132 countries of birth, ◆ 78 native languages

COUNTRY	NUMBER	COUNTRY	NUMBER	COUNTRY	NUMBER
Afghanistan	21	Guatemala	25	Qatar	1
Albania	11	Guinea	5	Republic of Montenegro	2
Algeria	2	Guyana	343	Romania	8
Angola	2	Haiti	207	Russia	18
Anguilla	1	Honduras	9	Saudi Arabia	3
Antigua and Barbuda	3	Hong Kong	33	Senegal	1
Argentina	8	India	174	Sierra Leone	2
Armenia	2	Indonesia	2	Singapore	1
Australia	1	Iran	6	Slovakia	2
Bahamas	1	Iraq	1	Somalia	2
Bangladesh	227	Ireland	3	South Africa	2
Barbados	5	Israel	17	South Korea	210
Belarus	3	Italy	6	Spain	7
Belize	1	Jamaica	344	Sri Lanka	14
Benin	1	Japan	3	St. Kitts and Nevis	3
Bolivia	8	Jordan	1	St. Lucia	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Kazakhstan	2	St. Vincent and The Gren	8
Brazil	12	Kenya	3	Suriname	9
Bulgaria	3	Kosovo	1	Taiwan	24
Burkina Faso	3	Kuwait	1	Tajikistan	3
Cambodia	1	Lebanon	2	Thailand	3
Cameroon	3	Liberia	2	Togo	1
Canada	12	Lithuania	1	Trinidad and Tobago	116
Chile	4	Macao	1	Turkey	4
China	706	Malaysia	13	Turkmenistan	1
Colombia	175	Mali	2	Turks and Caicos Islands	1
Costa Rica	2	Malta	1	Uganda	1
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Co)	6	Mauritius	1	Ukraine	12
Cuba	5	Mexico	64	United Arab Emirates	3
Cyprus	3	Moldova	2	United Kingdom	9
Czech Republic	1	Montenegro	3	United States	6,105
Dominican Republic	215	Morocco	13	Uruguay	3
Ecuador	180	Myanmar, formerly Bur	6	Uzbekistan	26
Egypt	12	Nepal	24	Venezuela	27
El Salvador	48	Netherlands Antilles	1	Viet Nam	7
Ethiopia	1	Niger	1	Yemen	7
Fiji	1	Nigeria	65	Yugoslavia	1
France	6	Northern Mariana	1	Zaire	1
Gabon	1	Pakistan	141	Zambia	1
Gambia	1	Palestine	2	Zimbabwe	7
Georgia	1	Panama	5	Not Reported	5,288
Germany	5	Paraguay	6	Total # of Students	15,493
Ghana	27	Peru	80		
Gibraltar	1	Philippines	81		
Greece	11	Poland	25		
Grenada	7	Puerto Rico	63		

☐ : Top 10 countries: USA, China, Jamaica, Guyana, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, South Korea, Haiti, Ecuador, and Colombia.

26.4% report to be born outside the USA. 36.1% report speaking a language other than English at home.

Top 5 non-English native languages: Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu

Source: CUNYfirst and CUNY IRDB

FRESHMEN ENROLLMENT TRENDS FALL 11 TO FALL 15

QCC First-Time Freshmen by Country of Birth

TOP TEN NON-USA

	Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014		Fall 2015	
	Country	Heads	Country	Heads	Country	Heads	Country	Heads	Country	Heads
1	China	132	China	141	China	178	China	131	China	194
2	Jamaica	49	Ecuador	68	Guyana	58	Guyana	66	Guyana	87
3	Guyana	47	Jamaica	58	Ecuador	46	Jamaica	60	Jamaica	65
4	Columbia	43	Guyana	54	Jamaica	46	Bangladesh	48	Dominican Republic	50
5	South Korea	39	Columbia	50	Bangladesh	41	Haiti	47	Bangladesh	46
6	Ecuador	33	South Korea	41	South Korea	36	Dominican Republic	41	Haiti	46
7	Trinidad & Tobago	32	Dominican Republic	41	Dominican Republic	34	Ecuador	37	Columbia	43
8	India	30	Haiti	36	Haiti	29	Columbia	34	Ecuador	43
9	Haiti	28	Bangladesh	33	Columbia	26	South Korea	29	India	36
10	Dominican Republic	27	India	30	India	25	India	28	Puerto Rico	35

Data from QCC [Factbooks](#) 2014-15 and 2015-16

NATIVE LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY FRESHMEN

QCC First-Time Freshmen Native Languages

TOP FIVE LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

	Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013		Fall 2014		Fall 2015	
	Language	Heads	Language	Heads	Language	Heads	Language	Heads	Language	Heads
1	Spanish	364	Spanish	365	Spanish	260	Spanish	268	Spanish	244
2	Chinese	165	Chinese	153	Chinese	121	Chinese	121	Chinese	161
3	Korean	49	Bengali	41	Korean	35	Bengali	47	Bengali	38
4	Urdu	44	Korean	38	Bengali	34	Creole	38	Creole	30
5	Russian	39	Urdu	36	Urdu	34	Korean	35	Urdu	29

Percent of First-Time Freshmen Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home

Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
39.4%	40.6%	44.4%	43.3%	39.1%

Data from QCC [Factbooks 2014-15 and 2015-16](#)

Queensborough Community College, CUNY, offers instruction in seven languages other than English:

- Arabic
 - Chinese
 - French
 - German
 - Hebrew
 - Italian
 - Spanish

Two academic programs have Foreign Language requirements (two sequential courses), both with strong enrollments:

Program	Fall 11	Fall 12	Fall 13	Fall 14	Fall 15	Change F12 to F15	
AS - Criminal Justice AS	1,173	1,225	1,254	1,330	1,243	18	+1.5%
AA - Liberal Arts & Sciences	5,323	5,167	5,464	5,511	5,002	(165)	-3.2%
Total matriculated enrollment	15,157	14,101	14,362	14,198	13,694	(407)	-2.9%

Fall 2011 was an unusually large enrollment, so changes are noted from Fall 2012 to Fall 2015.

QCC Foreign Language Enrollments Fall 11 to Fall 15

Fall 11	Fall 12	Fall 13	Fall 14	Fall 15	Change F12 to F15	
2,997	2,966	2,646	2,206	2,065	(901)	-30.4%

- From Fall 2012 to Fall 2015, enrollment in Language courses dropped from 2,966 to 2,065, a 30.4% loss.
- The biggest losses were in German, Hebrew, Italian and French.
- Foreign language enrollment drop was far greater than for college as a whole, or for the two programs which require foreign languages.

Considerations

Shorter term -

- Placement and registration
- General Education core
- High Impact Practices; Global and Diversity Learning and Service Learning
- Culture courses

Longer term -

- Globalization of curriculum
- Expertise in language acquisition
- Pedagogical prowess
- New languages



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