Tatiana Vdovina ’18
German major
First: Financial analyst, Kite Realty Group
Now: Ph.D. student, business administration, Washington University in St. Louis

“I took my first German class as a sophomore and found there was so much more to studying German than learning the vocabulary and grammar — even my introductory-level classes featured insights into German and European cultures, international relations and politics, and multiculturalism.

“Most importantly, the curriculum emphasized how language can affect — and be affected by — society and historical events. The faculty members are all knowledgeable and there to help every student, whether they study German as a major or simply take a class out of interest.

“Even though I haven’t used German directly in my career so far, my experience has proven beneficial. As a financial analyst, I wrote market research reports and presented my findings. The many papers I wrote in my German classes gave me a good grasp of how to best express the issue at hand, the research process, and the main takeaways. On a daily basis, having a rich sociocultural perspective helped me better understand why people visited our shopping centers — and how American consumers adopted habits seen in Europe.

“As I move on to graduate studies, the knowledge and skills I gained as an undergraduate will continue to serve me well.”