James Woodley ’18
Chinese major
International graduate program,
Standard Chartered Bank

“When I arrived at Notre Dame, I had no idea what I wanted to major in, but I had studied Chinese before college and decided to keep it up. I found myself doing my Chinese homework first every day and realized my Chinese classes were the ones I was looking forward to the most — from there, I knew I had found my major.

“Having class five days a week really helped me develop my language skills — speaking a foreign language every day is the only way to learn. I also wrote an honors thesis, and the Chinese faculty could not have been more accommodating and helpful.

“I currently work at an international bank with a large focus on Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. My program sent me to Shanghai for a month of training, and my Chinese language skills were invaluable. Also, studying Chinese culture and politics has been incredibly helpful for understanding the markets we work in and the political landscapes we face.”

Curriculum requirements
Completion of third-year Chinese (majors strongly encouraged to complete fourth-year and/or advanced Chinese)
3 upper-division three-credit courses in Chinese literature and culture
Additional coursework in Asian Studies

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