

Imagine visiting a country where you don't speak the native language. Everyday tasks that you could do very easily in your home country instantly become difficult – you cannot communicate with local people, or ask for directions when you are lost. You can't order your favourite drink at a café, or even read the menu at a restaurant. You are forced to constantly search for someone who speaks the same language as you, in order to communicate.

Travelling is one of many instances that make you realise just how crucial a role languages play in society. Knowing the language of a country makes you feel included and a part of its culture.

The [Many Languages, One World](#) contest promotes language learning and multilingualism, as it challenges university students around the globe to write essays in one of the six official UN languages, which can be neither the student's first language nor his/her primary language of instruction.

2017 marks the fourth year of the Many Languages, One World Essay Contest, sponsored by ELS Educational Services and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI). Northeastern University (Boston) was the host of the 2017 Many Languages, One World Global Youth Forum, which took place between 16-25 July 2017.



For more information on the Many Languages, One World program, visit ManyLanguagesOneWorld.org