Kenneth Hale Scholarship Endowment

The Department of Linguistics has established a Scholarship Fund to further the documentation and maintenance of Native American Languages. It is given to outstanding NAMA students to assist with the costs of their education. With support from our alumni and friends we are able to continue funding our M.A. in Native American Languages & Linguistics students.

Dr. Kenneth Hale (MIT) grew up in Arizona, and taught at the U of Arizona in the 1960’s. His life-long goals of recording and encouraging the maintenance of Native American languages, and the support of Native American students, are well known to us all. The field of Linguistics as a whole has been profoundly affected by the work and example of Professor Hale, who transformed the nature of research on minority languages, and brought recognition to the urgent necessity of work on these languages, many of which are on the edge of becoming dormant.

Do you want to give a 100% tax deductible donation to the Kenneth Hale Scholarship Endowment? Make checks payable to:
University of AZ Foundation/Ken Hale Endowment, P.O. Box 210025, Tucson AZ 85721
Or donate online (with a credit card):
https://linguistics.arizona.edu/node/544

How to apply to the NAMA Program

The Department of Linguistics accepts applications for admissions to graduate study for only the Summer term each year. The application becomes available in September through the Graduate College website. The application deadline for International Applicants is December 15 and Domestic Applicants is January 15. We typically accept applications beyond the January 15 deadline.

QUESTIONS
For questions about the application and its process, please contact Graduate Program Coordinator Stephanie Amado at samado@email.arizona.edu +1 (520) 621-2113

For questions about the program, please contact NAMA Program Director, Dr. Wilson de Lima Silva at wdelimasilva@arizona.edu

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Department of Linguistics
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What is NAMA?

A Master of Arts program for community language activists who wish to train in the kinds of skills and experiences needed to work on maintaining, revitalizing, and documenting their native languages.

Students interested in NAMA can either be native speakers or second language learners of their language, or non-indigenous students who have studied a particular Native American language and work in close collaboration with that language community.

The NAMA Program welcomes students from all the subcontinents of the Americas who want to contribute to language revitalization and documentation.

Program of Study

The NAMA Program is designed to be completed in 15 months, and begins as a summer admit program: During the first summer session the student completes coursework in the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI).

In the Fall and Spring semesters there is a core NAMA seminar focusing on descriptive linguistics. These seminars are designed to help students to develop a thesis project.

Besides these core courses, NAMA students take elective courses according to their area of interest.

An important partner of the NAMA Program is AILDI, a stand alone institute that provides critical training in indigenous language teaching, immersion, technology, curriculum development and language policy.

What can I do with a NAMA degree?

NAMA graduates often work for their tribe’s language programs or institutions of higher education, in teaching and administrative positions for tribal language programs.

Several NAMA alumni have gone on to complete PhDs in related fields. Some are now faculty at universities teaching and doing research in language maintenance and revitalization.

Fellowship Opportunity

The NAMA degree is considered a Work-Ready Master’s Program. The UA Graduate college, with the assistance of the Marshall Foundation has created the Arizona Works Tuition Scholarship in order to incentivize Arizonans to enroll in UA Master’s programs.

For information visit: linguistics.arizona.edu/NAMA

@NAMA.program