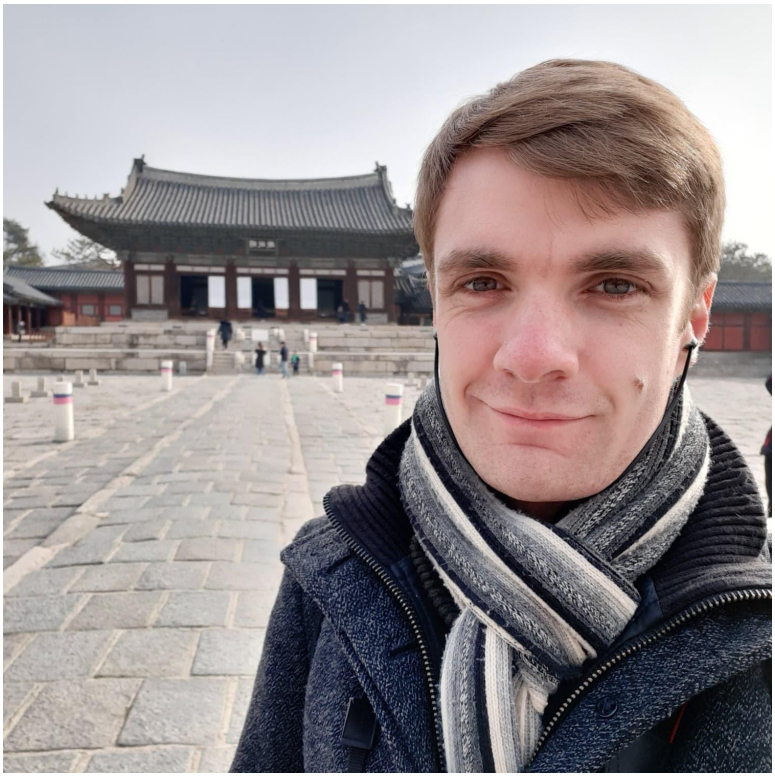
Our 2024 Duolingo Research Grant Winners!

Since 2020, Duolingo has supported graduate student researchers through the Duolingo Research Grant program. Our 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 cohorts included doctoral students whose work focused on language learning and teaching, early (K-3) English literacy, and elementary mathematics with technology!

This year, we've expanded the scope of our grant to also include Music Learning. Today we're announcing our 2024 Duolingo Research Grant recipients. Their work improves teaching and learning, here at Duolingo and around the world.

Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Jamie Adams (He/him/his)



Department of Language and Linguistic Science, University of York, UK

The influence of Pinyin and Zhuyin tone diacritics on the perception of Mandarin tone by L1 English speakers

Pinyin and Zhuyin are writing systems used to transcribe Chinese characters. Both use diacritics to represent tone – changes in pitch that convey different meanings. This study explores how the placement of these diacritics affects tone perception and whether either system facilitates tone learning.

Google Scholar
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X
Instagram

Matt Coss (He/him/él/他)

Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, Michigan State University, USA

Evaluating outcomes and fidelity in a task-based university language program

Task-based language teaching (TBLT) is a language teaching method in which students “learn by doing,” learning a language by completing real-world tasks. My study explores how a large university language program is implementing TBLT and what language proficiency levels students achieve as a result.

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Bouchra El Harrak (She/her/hers)

Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Arizona, USA

Morphological processing in Spanish: Inflection and derivation in second language learners

This study investigates how second language learners of Spanish recognize morphologically complex Spanish words in real time. How long does it take for readers to identify words depending on their morphological complexity? The goal is to better understand the processes behind understanding and organizing a second language in the mind.

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Instagram

Carolin Jolitz (She/her/hers)

Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures, The Pennsylvania State University, USA

The effects of multimedia input mode and grapheme-phoneme correspondence instruction on L2 pronunciation and perception learning in beginner German learners

This study investigates the role of captions in interactive video homework assignments on the pronunciation and perception skills of beginner German learners. It focuses on letters and letter combinations that appear in both English and German but are pronounced differently in each language, such as <z>, <ei>, and <ie>.

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Chisom Obasih (She/her/hers)

Department of Languages, Cultures & Applied Linguistics, Carnegie Mellon University, USA

Gradient categorization, linguistic diversity, and second language acquisition: Evidence from the use of multilingual training items in the perceptual learning of L2 phonemic contrasts

This study explores how experience with different languages impacts how listeners hear and learn foreign language speech. Listeners learn difficult target language sounds by training with words from the target language and another language with similar sounds. Results can inform new strategies to make learning L2 speech easier for adults.

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Chihiro Honda (She/her/hers)

Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo, SUNY, USA

Investigations on cognitive mechanisms involved in music learning: The effects of perceptual discrimination and categorization of pitch on vocal imitation

Vocal imitation plays an important role in learning music and language. This research examines which cognitive strategies help music learning and how they are connected to language ability, by focusing on vocal imitation. This work will broaden our understanding of how music and language are connected in our brains.

Google Scholar

Akshaya Jeyasri Kannan (She/her/hers)

Department of Psychology, School of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University, UK

Hearing words in a sea of noise: Do musical training and language learning help?

Understanding speech in noisy environments becomes difficult as we age, despite having normal hearing abilities. This study aims to find out the factors causing the decline in this mechanism for the elderly population and whether they benefit from musical training and language learning.

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