

UT's South Asia Institute grant to fund language program

The National Security Education Program awarded a grant of more than \$700,000 to UT's South Asia Institute to establish the nation's first National Flagship Language Program in both Hindi and Urdu.

The grant will fund the new Hindi and Urdu Flagship Program, which will enroll 10 students, for the 2007-2008 school year, said James Brow, director of the South Asia Institute.

Students in the language intensive program are expected to achieve near native fluency of Hindi and Urdu, which are both widely spoken and significant in the modern world, Brow said. During the third year of the program, students will study abroad at a prominent Indian university, he said.

Students will major in different fields while participating in the program, said Sarah Green, associate director of the institute.

The program will use modern technology to increase language proficiency, Green said. Students will receive iPods with availability to audio-visual materials in Hindi and Urdu.

The program considers Hindi and Urdu important languages in South Asia's professional arenas and in today's global marketplace, Green said. UT was awarded the grant because of its outstanding language faculty in Hindi and Urdu, she said.

— Joseph Boone