

Hayden Eric Godfrey: IRIS Funding Report

I received an IRIS summer fellowship part of my award package as an incoming graduate student with the Nordic Unit of the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic. As an incoming graduate student with the program, I was expected to meet the minimum proficiency standards required of the department to be awarded the degree. This was for two primary reasons. In order to be awarded a master's degree in Scandinavian studies, I was expected to reach a point of proficiency in Swedish, my primary spoken target language, equivalent to a B2 on the European Common Framework's scale. I was also furthermore expected to continue with the graduate program after my first year of studies, after which I was required to work for the program in exchange for fee remissions and a stipend. Our program offers Swedish courses, for which I was accepted with the department's intent on having me ultimately teach the sequence. I am currently the instructor of our introductory Swedish sequence with the intent on teaching the second year of our language program next academic year, 2020-2021. This working proficiency would not have been possible without the funding provided by the fellowship.

I used the funds that I received through the IRIS fellowship in order to travel to Karis, Finland so that I could take part in a summer Swedish program at the Lärkulla Summer School. The coasts of Finland were colonized for a period of a few centuries by Sweden, which resulted in areas of Finland being populated by ethnic Swedes. I chose the program in Finland versus one in Stockholm for the reason that I believed that it would set me apart from other Swedish instructors, having more experience with Finland Swedish in addition to that spoken in and around Stockholm, which is where most of the people who study Swedish in the US ultimately go. It was through this funding that I was able to travel to Finland and take part in this language program so that my language skills would be up to part not only to be awarded the master's degree in Scandinavian, but also so that I would be able to become the language instructor that I am today for the University of Wisconsin.