



About Nigeria

There are about 400 languages spoken in Nigeria. Nigeria has the highest ethnic group, language and population density of any country on the African continent. Three of the phyla into which the languages of Africa are classified appear in Nigeria: they are Afro-Asiatic, Nilo-Saharan, and Niger Congo. The Hausa language, which is perhaps the most important language of West Africa, has more speakers than any other Nigerian language. Historically, the Hausa speech community was reinforced during colonial times when the British adopted Hausa as the language of administration for the entire Northern Region of Nigeria, thereby contributing to the volume and density of Hausa speakers in Nigeria.

For more
information

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Hausa

Boston University

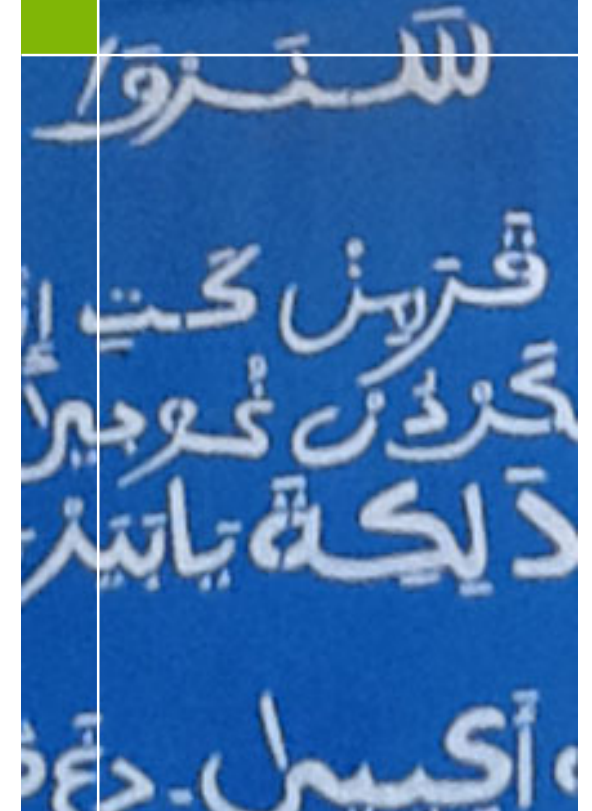


Image above is taken from a hospital sign in northern Nigeria written in Hausa *ajami*.

Did you know?

Hausa is spoken as a first language by about 25 million people, and as a second language by about 18 million more.

Hausa is one of Africa's most commonly spoken languages after Arabic, French, English, Portuguese, and Swahili. It is a lingua franca and a language of trade in West Africa. It is spoken in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Eritrea, Germany, Ghana, Niger, Sudan, and Togo.

Hausa has been written in *ajami*, an Arabic alphabet, since the early 17th century.

Radio stations like the BBC, Radio France Internationale, China Radio International, Voice of Russia, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, and IRIB all broadcast in Hausa.



Two BU students and their instructor in Niamey, Niger, in 2011, overlooking the flooded Niger River.

Courses & Minors

BU's program in Hausa is unique. It is the only one in the US to teach students literacy in *ajami*, an adapted Arabic script used by many in West Africa whose only schooling comes with the study of the Koran. All language courses use the communicative approach and develop proficiency in the four skills—oral expression, listening comprehension, reading, and writing—while also emphasizing cultural understanding. Hausa language courses can be used to meet the CAS language requirements.

LA 111 -112 First Year Hausa
LA 211-212 Second Year Hausa
LA 311-312 Third Year Hausa
LA 411-412 Fourth Year Hausa
LA 491/492 - Directed Study: Hausa

Two Minors: African Studies or African Languages & Literature

Each semester more than 75 courses are offered across campus with at least 25% Africa content. Consider a few options:

ID 116 - Africa Today: The Beat of Popular Culture
AN 312 - Peoples & Cultures of Africa
AH 429 - Photography & Africa: Race & Representation
MU 340 - Musical Cultures of the World
HI 348 - Colonialism in Africa: Impact & Aftermath
IR 351 - Africa in International Politics
PO 378 - International Human Rights: Applying Human Rights in Africa
AH 429 - Photography & Africa: Race & Representation
AA 588 - Women, Power, & Culture in Africa
AN 524 - Language & Culture Contacts in Contemporary Africa
AN 532 - Literacy & Islam in Africa
AN 593, 594 - Seminar: Topics in Cultural Anthropology

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships for Undergraduates (FLAS)

Get paid to study Hausa or any other African language at BU! FLAS awards cover \$10,000 tuition and \$2500 stipend per semester. Applicants are eligible after their first year of language study. Applications are due annually on February 15th.

