

# ISABELLA CASTRO

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## EDUCATION

### **Bachelor of Arts, International Studies - Europe Focused**

**July 2023 - May 2027**

### **Bachelor of Arts, Dual Languages - French and Russian**

Minor in Latin American Studies

*University of Florida*, Gainesville, FL | GPA: 3.95/4.00 | UF Honors Program | International Scholar

### **Learn Russian in the European Union (Critical Languages Scholarship)**

**June 2025 - August 2025**

Daugavpils, Latvia

## CULTURAL & INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Haskell Scholar**

**August 2025 - Present**

Bob Graham Center for Public Service, University of Florida

- Researching far-right movements in European politics, examining their impact on democracy, governance, and the rise of populism across Europe.

### **Critical Languages Scholarship Digital Ambassador**

**June 2025 - August 2025**

U.S. Department of the State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS), Daugavpils, Latvia

- Interviewed CLS participants and wrote a blog that is pending CLS publication.
- Documented cultural immersion through weekly photography and digital media contributions.

### **Research Intern**

**August 2024 - December 2024**

Center for European Studies (CES), University of Florida

- Evaluated 20+ news articles weekly to curate content for the "News from Europe" website.
- Authored a blog post on EU sanctions and Russia's circumvention strategies via Central Asia.
- Assisted with event setup and supported lectures, panels, and international guest visits.

### **Global Solution Conversation Participant**

**February 2025 - March 2025**

U.S. Department of the State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs program administered by the Aspen Institute, Remote Beyond 120, University of Florida

- Engaged in discussions with university students from the Halabja Kurdish-speaking region of Iraq, fostering cross-cultural understanding.
- Collaborated with Iraqi students to brainstorm potential solutions for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Oral History Intern**

**January 2025 - April 2025**

Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP), nonprofit, University of Florida

- Transcribed and edited oral histories, including one bilingual English-Spanish interview.
- Interviewed a former city councilman and adapted questions in real time for clarity and depth.
- Conducted fieldwork in Pensacola documenting community experiences with environmental injustice.

### **English Teaching Intern**

**January 2025 - April 2025**

Latina Women's League, nonprofit, University of Florida

- Co-designed and led weekly English language lesson plans for 5+ immigrants.
- Developed accessible, culturally responsive activities to support language acquisition and community integration.

## ADDITIONAL

- **Relevant Coursework:** International Relations, International Perspectives, U.S. European Perspectives: Social Science Perspective, Intermediate French 2, French Grammar and Composition.
- **Languages:** Bilingual in English and Spanish, Intermediate-High in French (self-assessed), and Intermediate-Mid in Russian (ACTFL OPI, 2025).
- **Technical:** Canva, Adobe Premiere, and iMovie.
- **Selected Achievements:** 2025-2027 Obama-Chesky Voyager, U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (Russian) Award 2025, Haskell Scholars Award (Research) 2025, Emerging Scholars Award (Research) 2025, Bob Graham Center: Global Intern Fellowship 2025, Freshman Leadership Council: Outstanding Member Award 2024, International Baccalaureate Diploma recipient 2023.