

Why are you interested in Duolingo? *

Right around the time Duolingo was released, I graduated with bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics and realized two things. One, I wanted to be a researcher, as it would allow me to keep learning for the rest of my life. Two, while I loved problem solving, I did not care about any topic within mathematics or physics enough to want to dedicate my life to it, whereas I was spending time learning languages for fun. Experiences like learning Polish pronunciation as a research participant in a full-time two-week experiment and playing Duolingo on my phone to learn Spanish inspired me to obtain a Master's and PhD degree focusing on second language learning. I've followed along with Duolingo over the years, seeing the exercises get better and the curricula expand, and I can't think of a place where I'd rather work. This was especially clear to me after giving a research talk at Duolingo in January 2021; getting to spend a full day meeting with other experts who think about language learning all day long felt like coming home.