



**ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies
Languages Eligibility Form
for enrolment in courses of study**

ACT BSSS Languages Eligibility Form

All students who are enrolling in an ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies Language course are required to complete a Language Eligibility Criteria Form.

There are three criteria:

- a) education
- b) in-country experiences
- c) use of language out of the classroom.

The criteria for enrolment have been designed to assess the degree to which a student has had previous experience in, and exposure to, the language they wish to study. Schools place students in a course based on hours of experience and demonstrated achievement.

The objective of the language enrolment process is to determine distinctions between students who have significantly different experience, knowledge, and proficiency in a language. Students should enrol in courses that match their experience and can extend them in the language.

Research into language acquisition has shown that people who learn a language during their 'critical period', that is between birth and around 10 years of age, have an advantage over those who learn the language outside of this period. It has also shown that children who are immersed in a language, for example, through growing up with the language at home, or spending time in a country where the language is widely used and/or through attending a school where the language is the language used for teaching most subjects, have an advantage over other learners. Literacy in the language, particularly scripted and character-based languages, is also to be considered in placing students.

We acknowledge that for many ACT students, a compulsory language study in their primary years likely consisted of less than one hour per week and may have been largely cultural studies. This does not equate with the research information around what is considered advantageous language acquisition "learned" during the critical period. Bilingual programs may also be limited in the language learned. Additionally, studies in school years 7-8 may also have been limited in linguistic scope and depth.

BSSS language courses

In the ACT there are three differentiated senior secondary language courses that meet the specific language learning needs of particular groups of students:

- Beginning
- Continuing
- Advanced.

Within each of these groups there are differences in proficiency in using the language and knowledge of its cultural systems.

Evidence may be required if the application is queried. While the student's file in school may suffice, evidence required by the school to support an application may include:

- year 7-10 school reports
- student's reports from schools attended both inside and outside Australia, if applicable
- any additional information to be provided for residency, travel, and schooling
- other as requested by the principal.

*The school will set the date on which applications are due, evidence required, the process of notification of acceptance into a course and any appeals process.

School will use the *Matrix for Decision Making* to determine the course for the student. Refer to Attachment 1.

Personal details

This section asks about your personal information.

1. What is your Family Name (s)?

2. What is your Personal name (s)?

3. What do you want to be called?

4. What is your student number?

5. Your Language(s)

Please list the languages which you commonly use at home and in your day-to-day life. Please tell us if you can read and write in those languages.

For example - English, Dari, and Farsi, can't read and write in Dari. Can read and write, speak, and listen in Farsi. Studying EAL for English.

6. What language(s) do you want to study for years eleven and twelve?

For example- French

Criterion A - Education

This section focusses on how long and how many hours you have studied the language/s you want to study. Language of instruction or medium of instruction means the language used by teachers to talk to students when teaching and managing them. It also means the language of the textbooks and assignments in most subjects. Most likely it is the language used in Mathematics, Science and Physical Education and the Arts.

7. Which option/s best describe you for each language you want to study? Write the name of the language against the chosen option for each language.

- Less than 80 hours a year of Language studies in previous two years
- Less than 200 hours of successful Language study from kindergarten to year 8, at school, community language school, or/and intensive language school
- More than 80 hours of successful language study in previous two years with good results
- 1-5 years at a school where the language is the medium of instruction, but limited ability to read and write now
- 1-5 years at a school where the language is the medium of instruction, but good ability to read and write now
- More than 5 years in a school where the language is the medium of instruction and can read and write like an educated high school student.

8. List the schools you have studied at from Kindergarten to Year Ten. Please include Intensive Language schools and Community Language Schools. (Refer to all grades from K to 10) Record the number of hours per week spent on the target language.

Below are **examples** of student learning profiles and how you might record your learning experience.

Example 1: Joseph Pinkerton

- 2010-2015 Kindergarten to Year 6 – Sydney German International School, Excellent results in German and English
- 2016-2017 Years 7-8- Telopea Park School, German four hours per week with an average of A grades
- 2018-2019 Years 9-10 Telopea Park School, French

Example 2: Mohammed Fakro

2009/10- 2011/12 Kindergarten to Year Two- Bahrain Bayan School, Bahrain, bilingual education Modern Standard Arabic and English

- 2012/13-2016/17 Year Three to Year Seven- King's School, Qatar, bilingual education Modern Standards Arabic and English
- 2017/18 Year Eight - American International School of Paris, English Medium school, French three hours per week, C grades
- 2018/19 Year Nine - Canadian Community School of Paris, English Medium School, French eight hours per week, with C grades
- 2017-2019 Years 8 and Nine - Ecole Communautaire de Langue Arabe du Samedi, St Denis, Modern Standard Arabic - two hours per week
- 2019 Year Ten - Stromlo High School (Second Semester), French three hours per week

Please write your answer here:

Criteria B – In-Country Experiences

This section asks about time you have spent in places where the language you want to learn is used.

9. Have you been in a place where the language is used? Write the name of the language against the chosen option for each language.

- No, I have not.
- Less than one year in a place where the language is used
- One to five years in a place where the language is used with little involvement with the wider community, e.g., limited shopping, restaurants
- One to five years in a place where the language is used, with some involvement in the wider community e.g., shopping, restaurants, social activities
- More than five years in a place where the language is used, with some involvement in the wider community, e.g., sports, family, friends, schooling

10. Have you lived or visited where the language/s are used? Please describe experiences from K-10

Example 1: Joseph Pinkerton

- 2016 - One month family holiday in Switzerland and Austria

or

Example 2: Mohammed Fakro

- 2007 - Two months in Nice, France on a family holiday.
- July 2017 to May 2019 - Two years living in France with Family, Arabic spoken at home, English medium school, spoke English and Gulf Arabic with school friends, some use of French at shops and in French class etc.
- Dec 2019 - One week in New Caledonia

Please write your answer here:

Criteria C - Use of language out of school

This section asks how much you already use the language outside of the classroom. This is about talking with family, enjoying media, and reading and writing.

11. How do you use the language/s day to day outside of school? Write the name of the language against the chosen option/s for each language.

- I don't use the language outside of school for more than homework.
- I regularly enjoy movies and shows in the language, but using subtitles in your language
- I regularly study the language using an app on my phone
- Nearly every day I use the language with my family to talk about simple things like food and school
- I use the language to talk with family members about personal problems and important things
- I use the language regularly in my part-time job
- I regularly watch movies and shows in the language for fun without sub-titles in any language
- I regularly listen to music in the language for fun
- I often use the language with my friends and on social media, listening, reading, writing, and speaking
- I read books in the language for fun

12. Describe ways you use the language in your day-to-day life.

Example 1: Joseph Pinkerton

I like to watch movies and read books in German sometimes. I chat on Instagram with people in Switzerland. I have some cousins in Switzerland that I message with in Swiss German. I chat with my friends from the Sydney German School in German. Mum and I talk in German sometimes when we are shopping or cooking, but she prefers Swiss German. I try to talk to my Grandparents in Swiss German as well.

or

Example 2: Mohammed Fakra

I speak Gulf Arabic at home with my family. Sometimes we watch movies in French, but I need the subtitles in English or Modern Standard Arabic. I like some French rappers and musicians, but only sometimes. I message in English with my friends in France. I sometimes watch movies in Egyptian or Lebanese Arabic, or the news in Standard Arabic. I do French on Duolingo sometimes.

Please write your answer here:

Declaration

In this section you agree that you have answered the questions accurately. A student who provides incorrect or misleading information in support of his/her application for permission to enrol has breached BSSS rules and may be withdrawn from the course. Academic Integrity is expected from all students undertaking the Senior Secondary Certificate.

13. You must agree to the following to submit the form:

- I agree that all the information provided is true and complete.
- I will provide evidence about my language studies and capability if required.
- I acknowledge that providing false information may result in not being assessed in a languages subject.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Matrix for Decision Making

PATHWAY	CRITERIA FOR PERMISSION TO ENROL IN A BSSS LANGUAGE COURSE		
	Education	Residency and/or time spent in-country	Use of the language outside the classroom
Beginning language courses	Little, or no formal education (from pre-primary) in schools where the language is a language of instruction They may have had some instruction in primary school or early high school elective language classes Language and cultural awareness instruction comprised less than 200 hours in total, P-10, including education in community organisations and less than a total 80 hours of language classes across Years 9 and 10	Less than one year in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Nil or very infrequent use of the language outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language is permitted
Continuing language courses	One (1) to five (5) years in total of formal education (from pre-primary) in schools where the language is a language of instruction, including education in community organisations or Two or more years of successful* study in the language at high school including Year 9 and 10	Between one (1) and five (5) years in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Use of the language outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language is permitted
Advanced language courses	More than five (5) years in total of successful formal education in schools where the language is a language of instruction, including 2 years in high school, and or education in community organisations and or intensive language courses	More than five (5) years in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Sophisticated use of the language (spoken and written) outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language

*Grades of 'C' and/or equivalent and above.