

Language diplomas



Burwood (Melbourne)
Geelong (Wairn Ponds)
Online

Study one or more of some of the world's most strategically important languages – Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian and Spanish.

Whether you're brushing up or starting from scratch with a whole new language, studying a language diploma will sharpen your language skills, deepen your cultural understanding and help you stand out to employers.

Arabic

One of the six official languages of the UN, the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa form an area of critical global importance having broad strategic, economic, religious and cultural influence. The Middle East comprises the fourth largest trading block among Australia's overseas trading partners, with the total value of Australia's trade with the Middle East more than doubling in the last decade. In Australia, Arabic is the third most common language (1.4% of the total population) spoken in the home.[^]

Indonesian

Indonesia has a dynamic popular culture shaped by its history and indigenous communities over thousands of years. This is internationally acknowledged through traditional art forms. As the original 'Spice Islands', Indonesia has a long history of trade with India and China, followed by hundreds of years of European colonial rule.

Today, Indonesia is an emerging modern nation. Global business engagement includes Australian companies ANZ, Rio Tinto, Commonwealth Bank, and IAG. As a Malay dialect, Indonesian language has applicability in several South-East Asian countries, and is an asset for Australian graduates in various professions.

Chinese

China is one of Australia's biggest trading partners and Mandarin Chinese is the official language in the People's Republic of China, Taiwan and Singapore and widely used in community groups across the Asian diaspora. Chinese is also one of the five official languages of the United Nations; and in Australia, Mandarin is the second most common language (2.5% of the total population) spoken in the home (ABS Census data 2016).

Spanish

Spanish is a major international language with more than 500 million speakers on 5 continents. In addition, it is:

- the national language of more than 20 countries and the fourth most widely spoken language in the world (after Mandarin, English and Hindi)
- an official language of the United Nations and other international organisations
- the second most widely spoken language in the United States and one of the nine most common languages (excluding English) spoken in Australia.[^]

Choose your course inside ▶

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Choose your language



Diploma of Arabic

Course Code: A221

Location: Burwood (Melbourne), Online

Intakes: T1 (March)

Duration: 3 years part-time

Develop communication skills in Deakin's award-winning Arabic program and enhance your ability to connect through contextual knowledge of Middle Eastern history, culture and society. Gain fluency by developing skills in grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure through participation in activities across a range of topics. You'll also get the chance to learn about various cultural, sociolinguistic and sociocultural considerations relevant to the Arabic language.

Course units*

To be awarded a Diploma of Arabic you must successfully complete 8 credit points from the specified list of units below.

Students with no prior language study must complete:		
Level 1 Practical Arabic: An Introduction to the Language and Its Sounds Applied Arabic 1B: The Language and its Culture	Level 2 Arabic and the World 2A: Communicating Using Arabic Arabic and the World 2B: Texts and Contexts in Arabic	Level 3 Arabic and the World 3A: Contemporary Arabic in a Range of Contexts (2 credit points) Arabic and the World 3B: Applying Arabic in Complex and Contemporary Contexts (2 credit points)
Students who have completed Arabic at Level 12 or equivalent begins at second level and consists of the following units:		
Level 2 Arabic and the World 2A: Communicating Using Arabic Arabic and the World 2B: Texts and Contexts in Arabic	Level 3[#] Arabic and the World 3A: Contemporary Arabic in a Range of Contexts (2 credit points) Arabic and the World 3B: Applying Arabic in Complex and Contemporary Contexts (2 credit points)	Level 3 Popular Culture and Society in Languages Advanced Writing and Translation Skills in Languages

Diploma of Chinese

Course Code: A222

Location: Burwood (Melbourne), Waurn Ponds (Geelong), Online

Intakes: T1 (March)

Duration: 3 years part-time

Mandarin Chinese is one of the most widely spoken languages globally. By learning to speak Chinese, you can communicate with millions of Chinese-speaking people around the world.

In the Diploma of Chinese you'll gain the linguistic skills, as well as the essential cultural, historical and social perspectives to give you a leading edge in a range of exciting careers. Develop proficiency in spoken and written Chinese by taking part in activities across a range of topics focusing on grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure. You are also encouraged to select complementary units related to China and Asia in international relations, Australian studies, history, and language and culture studies.

Course units*

To be awarded a Diploma of Chinese you must successfully complete 8 credit points from the specified list of units below.

Students with no prior language study must complete:		
Level 1 Chinese 1A: An Introduction to the Language and Culture AIC181 Chinese 1B: Consolidating Skills and Knowledge in Cultural Contexts AIC182	Level 2 Chinese 2A: Communication and Culture in Everyday Chinese Societies Chinese 2B: Culture, Society and Language in Contemporary Chinese Communities	Level 3 Chinese 3A: The Four Pillars in Developing Fluency in Chinese AIC381 Chinese 3B: The Four Pillars in Finding Fluency and Your Voice in Chinese
Students who have completed Chinese at level 12 or equivalent (non-background speakers) must complete:		
Level 1 Chinese 2A Chinese 2B	Level 2 Chinese 3A (2 credit points) Chinese 3B (2 credit points)	Level 3 Popular Culture and Society in Languages Advanced Writing and Translation Skills in Languages
Students who are background speakers must complete:		
Level 1 Chinese 2C Chinese 2D	Level 2 Chinese 3C (2 credit points) Chinese 3D (2 credit points)	Level 3 Advanced Chinese for Business Purposes C Advanced Chinese for Business Purposes D



Diploma of Indonesian

Course Code: A223

Location: Burwood (Melbourne), Waurnd Ponds (Geelong), Online

Intakes: T1 (March)

Duration: 3 years part-time

Develop your Indonesian skills in grammar, vocabulary and sentence structure through participation in activities across a range of topics. You'll also get the chance to learn about various cultural, sociolinguistic and sociocultural considerations relevant to Indonesian.

Course units*

To be awarded a Diploma of Indonesian you must successfully complete 8 credit points from the specified list of units below.

Students with no prior language study must complete:		
Level 1 Our Northern Neighbour: Understanding Indonesia Introduction to Indonesian Language	Level 2 Formal and Informal Indonesian Contextualising Indonesian Language	Level 3[#] Sociolinguistic Contexts of Formal Indonesian Language (2 credit points) Professional and Academic Indonesian (2 credit points)
Students who have completed Indonesian at level 12 or equivalent (non-background speakers) must complete:		
Level 1 Formal and Informal Indonesian Contextualising Indonesian Language	Level 2 Sociolinguistic Contexts of Formal Indonesian Language (2 credit points) Professional and Academic Indonesian (2 credit points)	Level 3 Popular Culture and Society in Languages Advanced Writing and Translation Skills in Languages

[^] According to ABS Census Data 2016

* Students must also complete a 0-credit-point DAI001 Academic Integrity Module.

Approved Study Abroad may replace EITHER unit.



Diploma of Spanish

Course Code: A224

Location: Burwood (Melbourne), Waurnd Ponds (Geelong), Online

Intake: T1 (March)

Duration: 3 years part-time

Deakin's Diploma of Spanish is a great complement to your studies, giving you a global perspective and boosting your employability. You'll develop fluency in Spanish through a communicative approach, and by developing skills through guided activities that target listening, speaking, reading and writing competencies. Completing six language-acquisition units will ensure you gain a high level of proficiency in Spanish. Through two thematic units, you'll develop a nuanced understanding of the cultural, historical, sociolinguistic and political dimensions of the societies and cultures that make up the Spanish speaking world.

Course units*

To be awarded a Diploma of Spanish you must successfully complete 8 credit points from the specified list of units below.

Students with no prior language study must complete:		
Level 1 Hola!: Welcome to the Hispanic World, Its Language and Cultures Spanish and You: Spanish for Everyday Life	Level 2 Building Language Skills for Real Life Spanish Use Introduction to the Spanish-Speaking World Through Its Arts, Histories and Cultures Spanish in Diverse Contexts: Language and Societies in the Spanish Speaking World	Level 3 Getting into the Flow: Building Fluency and Competency in Spanish Cultures of Resistance in the Spanish - Speaking World Engaging the Contemporary Hispanic World with Fluency
Students who have completed Spanish at level 12 or equivalent (non-background speakers) must complete:		
Level 1 Building Language Skills for Real Life Spanish Use Introduction to the Spanish-Speaking World Through Its Arts, Histories and Cultures Spanish in Diverse Contexts: Language and Societies in the Spanish Speaking World	Level 2 Getting into the Flow: Building Fluency and Competency in Spanish Cultures of Resistance in the Spanish - Speaking World Engaging the Contemporary Hispanic World with Fluency	Level 3 Selected Topics in Spanish* Advanced Topics in Spanish [^] <i>*ALS360 will be replaced by AIX300 Popular Culture and Society in Languages from 2023</i> <i>*ALS370 will be replaced by AIX301 Advanced Writing and Translation Skills in Languages from 2023</i>

'I've had the opportunity to learn from staff from a multitude of Arab nations. Each one has brought their experience and knowledge of culture – contributing to a nuanced understanding of the language. The academic staff work hard to create opportunities for us here and abroad, from international debate teams to in-country programs.'

Chithra Mandalam

Diploma of Arabic graduate



Discover more student stories on the Arts and Education Content Hub.

International experience

First-hand experiences with other countries and cultures let you develop the practical and soft skills required to pursue a global career. We are leaders in global mobility and work with you to tailor your experience to match your major interests or geographic interests around the world. Opportunities include short study tours, internationally-focused internships here in Australia or overseas, language study, or longer study abroad exchange experiences. You will get personal support to design an international experience that best fits your career aspirations.

Career opportunities

Studying a language at university equips you with transferable language skills that will give you a competitive edge and expand your employment options in Australia and overseas.

You will graduate with valuable language and intercultural skills, international connections and experience. Combined with other studies, a language diploma could lead to roles in business, diplomacy, education, foreign policy and international development.

Applying to Deakin

Apply directly to Deakin

All other applications can be submitted directly to the university:

deakin.edu.au/apply

APPLY NOW

We're here to help

Deakin is here to support you. From your application through to graduation, we offer many support services to ensure you feel confident throughout your studies:

- **Study support**
- **Career services**
- **Online study experience**
- **Fees and scholarships**
- **Health and wellbeing**

Pathways into Deakin

Use the pathways finder tool to discover how to get into your dream course when you don't quite meet the entry requirements:

deakin.edu.au/pathways

1800 693 888

ask@deakin.edu.au

deakin.edu.au/languages

While the information provided here was correct at the time of publication in July 2023, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of the course and unit offerings.