School of Languages and Cultures

Diploma of Language Studies
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Get a language passport for the world!
The Diploma of Language Studies

The Diploma of Language Studies is our most flexible way to study a language. We will provide you with strong language skills and cultural understanding without impacting on your other studies.

This Diploma of Language Studies allows you to study a language either alongside your undergraduate or postgraduate degree, or after you have completed undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

The diploma is designed as a separate qualification so that you won’t face problems with trying to fit in another major or additional junior credit points. It is also ideal for people who have already completed an undergraduate degree.

Who can take the Diploma?

To be eligible for admission, you must either be currently enrolled in, or have been awarded, an undergraduate or postgraduate course. The diploma is open to you if you:

− are enrolled at the University of Sydney
− are enrolled at another recognised tertiary institution in an undergraduate, postgraduate, or combined degree
− have been awarded, or are eligible for the award of an undergraduate degree from a recognised tertiary institution.

Please note: The Diploma of Language Studies is not available to international students.
Languages you can study

There are 14 languages available to study in the standard mode, with selected languages(*) also available in an accelerated mode:

- Arabic Language and Cultures
- Chinese Studies*
- French Studies*
- Germanic Studies
- Greek (Ancient)
- Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies
- Hebrew (Classical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Indonesian Studies
- Italian Studies
- Japanese Studies*
- Korean Studies*
- Latin
- Spanish*

The requirements for the Diploma are the same as for a major in a language: 48 credit points in your chosen language studies area.

For complete beginners, this is usually six language units and two culture units. As with our language majors, students at higher levels can take the diploma by following an intermediate or advanced pathway.

This will impact on how long it takes to complete the accelerated mode. Please speak to the degree director if you have any questions about this or need help planning your studies.

For more information, please see Sydney Courses:

- sydney.edu.au/courses
Fast-track your diploma

The diploma is delivered in two modes: standard and accelerated. The standard mode takes three years to complete and classes are taken during semester. Accelerated mode is taught during intensive sessions (between semesters) and online, and allows total beginners to finish a diploma in 15 months.

Chinese, French, Japanese, Korean and Spanish are currently offered in the accelerated mode.

Sample pathways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard mode</th>
<th>Accelerated mode</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>December intensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Level 1</td>
<td>Language Level 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>February intensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Level 2</td>
<td>Language Level 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Level 3</td>
<td>Culture Unit 1 (taught online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Semester 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Level 4</td>
<td>Culture Unit 2 (taught online)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1 or 2</td>
<td>July intensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture unit 1 (taught face to face)</td>
<td>Language Level 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>December intensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Level 5</td>
<td>Language Level 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>January intensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Level 6</td>
<td>Language Level 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1 or 2</td>
<td>February intensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture unit 1 (taught face to face)</td>
<td>Language Level 6</td>
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</table>

Note that these pathways are relevant to complete beginners. See the handbook and speak to the diploma director to see how you could plan out your course.
During my first year at university, I became interested in Korean popular music (K-pop), and so was interested in studying Korean, but didn’t have the units to do so. Later on, my Honours supervisor advised me about the Diploma of Language Studies. Once I found out about the accelerated format, the timing was perfect, and I decided to pursue my interest in learning Korean.

Studying Korean at the University of Sydney is one of the best decisions I’ve made. The teachers and resources are amazing, and it neatly fits around your other studies. I enjoyed my Diploma so much that I’ve decided that I want to be able to teach Korean to other people. This has led me to enrol in a Master of Teaching (Secondary Education) to become a high-school language teacher.

“Victoria Rene Gapps
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Bachelor of Science majoring in Asian Studies and History and Philosophy of Science
A traditional exchange lasts for a semester or year. Due to the format of the Diploma of Language Studies, it is usually not possible to meet the specific requirements for exchange, so we do not typically recommend this option. However, there are other ways you can build overseas study into your diploma.

If you are interested in overseas study, plan ahead, check study dates and complete your paperwork as soon as possible. If you have any questions about how a period of exchange can fit into your diploma, contact the diploma director.

Independent Study Abroad

This involves making all of your own arrangements for your period of exchange such as contacting the university, finding appropriate classes to take, getting departmental approval for subjects, gaining admission and payment of fees.

On return to Australia you are then granted credit for your study, dependent on approval from the department. This is a great option for students who want to spend a period of time overseas studying in the country of their chosen language. We would generally recommend a short-term exchange where possible and study during the summer or winter breaks.

In-country study

We have partnered with two of China’s most prestigious universities: Fudan University in Shanghai and Peking University in Beijing, to deliver a program for undergraduate students. This program is offered intensively between semesters.

Follow the experiences of students who have studied in China here:
- blogs.usyd.edu.au/china-exchange

Overseas study and the accelerated mode

Please note that any period of exchange may extend the amount of time it takes to complete the diploma, depending on what credit is granted on your return.

If you are completing your diploma alongside another degree and are going on exchange for that degree, you may have the option of studying your chosen language while overseas. You must seek permission from your home Faculty to take a language unit while on exchange.

For more information, visit:
- sydney.edu.au/study/study-abroad-and-student-exchange.html
The ornate West Gate of Peking University in Beijing, where you can embark on a valuable in-country study experience of language and cultural immersion.
全球十五亿人的母语
Coup de foudre pour le français
日本語を勉強しよう
한국어 재미 짱
Aprende español

For more information, visit:
sydney.edu.au/courses

Additional contact details:
1800 SYD UNI (1800 793 864) (inside Australia)
+61 2 8627 1444 (outside Australia)
sydney.edu.au/ask

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