

Canberra Academy of Languages

Charter of the organisation – updated 14 May 2018

Purpose of the Canberra Academy of Languages

The Canberra Academy of Languages is a not-for-profit organisation, established as a specialist facility in 2016 with the purpose of expanding opportunities for language learning in the Canberra region preparing students as local and global citizens.

Rationale

The need for a specialist facility for language learning in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is clear. Canberra as the national capital should foster engagement with the global community and should build capacity among people of the Canberra region to participate effectively in that global community. As well, as a major regional centre, the city should provide opportunities for language learning reflecting the presence of groups here, both those with connections to Indigenous languages and those with connections to languages and cultures outside Australia.

Values

We value excellence, equity and a civil society. The Canberra Academy of Languages aspires to foster and support these values for the reasons below:

1. Excellence in language learning requires scope for continuity. In the interests of continuity, it is imperative that students should have access to continued learning in their chosen languages as part of their senior secondary education.
2. Equity in language learning requires that the option to continue learning a language as part of a senior secondary education program should be available to students throughout the educational jurisdiction.
3. A civil society gives recognition and active support to linguistic and cultural diversity and recognises the importance of language rights, including the right of learners to aspire to, or to maintain and develop, bilingual or multilingual capabilities.

Programs

Languages and levels (such as Beginning/Continuing/Advanced senior secondary courses in languages) to be considered for inclusion in programs will be identified taking account of advice from schools, colleges and the community. Decisions on classes to run each year will be taken on the basis of four criteria:

1. The academy will provide language learning programs in selected languages for which courses have been endorsed by the responsible agency, such as the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies.
2. Courses will run for which there is sufficient demand to generate viable numbers that will enable the academy to meet financial commitments including teacher salaries, public liability insurance and provision of learning resources for access by students.
3. Availability of suitably qualified teachers will be taken into account in deciding programs to run from year to year.
4. Programs will complement existing provisions for language learning in the ACT.

Curriculum development

Where an area of language learning is identified as having significance for the Canberra region and as having no existing provisions, the academy may collaborate with interested stakeholders to lead or participate in the development of relevant courses for accreditation by the responsible agency.