

1. ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies – what languages can be studied?

Under the current framework and suite of omnibus courses for senior secondary languages in the ACT, there are three course documents – one each for beginning, continuing and advanced levels. These course documents encompass the requirements for all modern languages. An appendix provides details of language -specific content for each of the accredited languages. Currently, these are Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. The courses – Beginning, Continuing and Advanced Modern Languages – are accessible via links on the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) website at https://www.bsss.act.edu.au/asset_lists/atmcv_courses.

2. What are the course levels, which ones are delivered and which provider will run these next year?

Beginning courses are for students with minimum prior experience in the language. Continuing courses are suitable for students with a basic working knowledge of everyday usage in the language (for example, completion of language studies in Years 9-10), while Advanced courses are for students who are background speakers with significant prior use of the language. The levels are described in detail in the [BSSS Language Eligibility Form](#).

CIT Solutions will take on the delivery of senior secondary languages programs as a specialist education provider from the start of 2024. CAL currently runs courses in French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil in 2023. The Centre for Modern Languages at CIT Solutions will continue to offer these in 2024. We welcome this initiative by CIT Solutions and look forward to working with them to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Our CIT Solutions colleagues presented an information session jointly with us on Thursday 21 September 2023. For more details, please refer to the Events page on CAL website.

3. How are decisions made on the courses to run?

Programs will generally run in languages for which there are enough student enrolments to cover the costs of delivering a program, such as teacher salaries, online services, venue hire, printing and publishing, BSSS . We are currently working with a new provider to ensure ongoing delivery of programs in 2024. Subject to formal endorsement of the new arrangements, we expect that they will begin taking enrolments for 2024 in the last week of September 2023.

4. What teacher qualifications are required of teachers recruited for the programs?

As outlined on the Programs page on the CAL website, to ensure effective delivery of the curriculum, teaching staff members are required to have:

- Working with Vulnerable People (WwVP) registration
- Teacher Quality Institute (TQI) registration or Permission to Teach *
- High level speaking and writing skills in the target language
- Evidence of a sound understanding of language teaching methodology
- ICT capabilities including the ability to identify suitable source documents in the target language and to curate online learning resources for access by students

5. What is the schedule for program delivery?

The venue for all CAL language classes is Ainslie School, 33 Donaldson Street, Braddon. In 2023, French, Spanish and Tamil classes are held on Wednesday evenings. German, Japanese and Korean classes are on Thursday evenings. Current information on days and venues is on the [Programs page on CAL website](#). Scheduling updates are posted on the programs page prior to commencement of each school year and at other times when there are scheduling changes.

The teaching program is based on two hours on-site and two hours off-site, with the off-site work programmed by the teacher online for students. Students are accountable to do the work set to gain work-required attendance recognition. The minimum standard deliverable time for a senior secondary full semester unit is 55 hours. Our program delivers above that figure, generally 60+ hours per semester. We teach from Week 2 to Week 18 in Semester 1 and from Week 1 to Week 16 or 17, depending on assessment end-dates for BSSS, in Semester 2.

6. Can a student enrol in a senior secondary course before commencing Year 11?

Provision for commencement in senior secondary studies before Year 11 is documented in the ACT BSSS Policy and Procedures Manual (available from BSSS website at <https://www.bsss.act.edu.au>) under the heading “Early Access Students” and in Appendix 5: Guidelines for Early Access. The purpose of early access is to enable high school students (generally in Years 9-10) to engage in senior secondary studies ahead of others in their year cohort. BSSS guidelines from 2024 will require that early access students undertake their senior secondary studies through their day schools.

7. How does scaling work for students who study languages through CAL?

Each program with CAL will be in the CAL languages scaling group and will be moderated by us with our other languages. The cohort goes by graduating year, so the 2023 Year 11 intake belongs to the 2024 Year 12 graduation cohort. If the CAL languages cohort has 10 or fewer students, ACT BSSS generally uses small group procedures (see the BSSS Policy & Procedures Manual, section 5.4.2). Under these procedures, a languages specialist from another college will usually review Year 12 portfolios (portfolios are sent to BSSS in two stages, as below).

In earlier years (2017 to 2020), small group portfolios for Year 12 cohorts, were collected by ACT BSSS around mid-August (for the previous three semesters) and towards the end of November (for the fourth semester). The small group portfolios consisted of the same kind of documentation that is required for moderation days. However, with increasing numbers from 2021 onwards, we use in-house meshing of scores across our Year 12 CAL cohorts, because numbers in the year group have risen above the standard BSSS small group threshold of ten.

For more information about scaling, see:

- Scaling and the ATAR (ACT BSSS)
- ACT BSSS Policy and Procedures Manual, available from BSSS website, including sections 4.3.6.2 (Procedures for calculating unit scores), 5.4.1 (Course combination into scaling groups), and 6 (ACT Scaling Test).

8. Do students have access to university entrance incentives to study languages?

For information about possible extra ATAR points, see the ANU’s online page about the national access scheme at <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/national-access-scheme>. The ANU’s online page states that a Major (essentially a two-year sequence of units) is required.

9. How do students access places in CAL programs and what are the costs?

CAL offers language courses at continuing and advanced levels, and, some cases, also at beginning level. For more about levels, see section 2 on the previous page. Students usually enrol with us for their senior secondary years, but there are also early access provisions – see section 6 above. It is important that families confer with day schools, so that course advisers know that a subject is being undertaken with us as an external provider and that it will count towards the student’s study package.

Student enrolment fees are the sole source of operating funds for senior secondary language programs run by CAL. Operational costs in delivering senior secondary programs in languages include teacher salaries, venue hire, public liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, teaching resources, and online services such as web hosting. Additional operational costs from 2024 will include certified unit fees charged to specialist education providers by the BSSS, and ACT Certification System (ACS) fees for the use and maintenance of IT systems for administration of assessment in Years 11/12.

Fees for 2024 will be published by CIT Solutions at the end of October 2024. They are based on delivery of a program for a term, not per lesson, and are invoiced each semester. Student places may be sponsored by the family or the school, as negotiated with the day school. Once you have decided that our programs suit your needs, we will send you the CAL enrolment form and the BSSS languages eligibility form so that we can set up a place for you in your chosen program.

10. What are the assessment tasks during each semester?

With the new languages curriculum, implemented in 2020, we run one assessment task for each of the macro skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) each semester, alternating between enquiry-based mode and test mode for each of the tasks from one semester to the next.

There are details about assessment items in unit outlines, in summaries of topic focus areas on class pages on the [Languages.Org.Au](https://www.languages.org.au) website, and in assessment task descriptions on the [Programs page on CAL website](#). Scheduling of assessment tasks is shown also on the [Events page on CAL website](#), with a pencil-and-paper icon to help identify the relevant entries in the calendar.

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