

Studying a language at the Centre for Continuing Education

Which level should I choose?

The most common question asked by students considering joining our language program is “*which level should I enrol in?*” This page is designed to be used in conjunction with the course outlines to help you choose the language level tailored to your needs. For course outlines, visit www.cce.usyd.edu.au/languages.

If, after reading through this information and the course outlines, you are still unsure which level to choose contact a CCE learning advisor on +61 2 9036 4789.

Beginners

Assumes no prior study

This level is suitable if you've picked up some of the language in day to day life or travelling but haven't done any formal study. Beginner levels concentrate on speaking and listening skills.

Level 1

Assumes 20 hours prior formal study

You should have sufficient basic grammar and vocabulary skills to enable you to construct very simple sentences in the present tense and understand how to conjugate a verb. You should be able to introduce yourself and say where you come from and what you do and be familiar with simple vocabulary such as numbers, days of the week, colours etc. Reading and writing skills are generally introduced at this level with some revision of Beginners content.

Level 2

Assumes 45 hours prior formal study

At this level you should be a little more comfortable with the language and be able to handle simple exchanges with a native speaker in the country of origin. You should be able to use a number of different verbs in the present tense and have a reasonable, if limited, vocabulary.

Level 3

Assumes 70 hours prior formal study

You should have a good grasp of basic grammar including a familiarity with verbs in present tense and a working knowledge of basic past and future tenses. You should be able to introduce the use of adjectives and simple colloquial expressions / exclamations etc. If you've travelled in the country you would be able to make basic requests and follow simple instructions without too much difficulty.

Level 4

Assumes 95 hours prior formal study

While this is not a fluency class by any means it assumes you have good basic conversational skills. Students should be able to use present, past and future tenses and make coherent simple conversation about basic topics. You should be able to express feelings, opinions and be able to get around reasonably confidently in the country of language origin. The teaching method is still structured around grammar and on expanding your vocabulary.

Levels 5 & 6

Assumes 120 to 145 hours prior formal study

These classes will follow on directly from the preceding level so it helps to look over the outlines for these classes carefully. Classes will generally be structured around a recommended textbook or handouts provided in class, introducing or working further with difficult grammatical structures. Typical Level 5 or 6 students will feel reasonably comfortable with the language and will be able to express themselves without too much difficulty but will still need to work on refining ways of expressing more abstract ideas such as moods, feelings, opinions etc.

Advanced or conversation classes

These classes are conducted entirely in the target language and are generally built around a theme - cinema, gastronomy, literature etc. Native-speaker fluency is not a pre-requisite but an ability to understand and to be able to express thoughts and opinions in the target language with relative ease is. There is generally no recommended textbook at this level; you will be working with authentic materials in the target language - audio-visual materials or handouts in class. Many classes at this level will require students to do a presentation in class in the target language - less terrifying than it seems and a great way to build confidence in your ability to express yourself in another language.

Q&A



What if the language I want or the level I need is not offered?

We try and offer as many languages and levels as we can. If the language or the level you want does not appear in the program, visit www.cce.usyd.edu.au/preregister and register your interest.

Are all teachers native speakers?

Wherever possible our teachers are native speakers with formal language teaching qualifications (often at postgraduate level). Teacher biographies are available at www.cce.usyd.edu.au.



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Find out more

Visit www.cce.usyd.edu.au/languages

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