**A Guide to Eligibility for Beginners Languages**

Eligibility applications must be approved for all students before enrolling in a Stage 1 beginners level language.

An eligibility decision should be made ‘on balance’ when considering the following:

* Beginners level languages subjects are designed to be taught over 2 consecutive years at Stage 1 and Stage 2 to senior secondary students.

**Prior formal learning of the proposed language of study**

* Prior learning (if any) must be limited and distant in time. That is, the student has not studied the language beyond the equivalent of Year 8 and has not studied the language at all during the previous two calendar years.
* The study of a language program at Year 8 and Year 9 would be considered too much prior learning for a beginners level language subject.

**In-country Experience**

* Periods of stay longer than 3 months visiting or living in a country where the proposed language of study is spoken are considered too long to be eligible for the study of a beginners level language.
* Should a student’s circumstances change during the period of enrolment, for example, an extended in-country experience, the student is required to reapply for eligibility.

**Family or community linguistic experience**

* For eligibility purposes, ‘Chinese’ refers to spoken Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, or any regional Chinese dialect, and to characters in traditional form and simplified form.
* Students with prior knowledge of, or experience in, Malay are not eligible to enrol in Indonesian at beginners level.
* Students should have little or no family or community linguistic experience.

**Examples of Eligibility Outcomes**

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| **Context** | **Outcome** |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who has studied the language in Primary school, Reception – Year 7, but has no junior secondary language learning experience (i.e. a three-year gap).  | Eligible |
| A Year 10 student enrolling in Stage 1 who has studied the language in Year 7, but has no junior secondary language learning experience (i.e. a two-year break). | Eligible |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who has participated in an in-country exchange program for 6 months, lived in a homestay and participated in activities at a language-speaking school.  | Ineligible |
| A Year 10 student enrolling in Stage 1 who has studied the language in Year 7 and Year 8 (i.e. a one-year break). | Ineligible |