Overview

The Victorian Government’s Vision for Languages Education reinforces the Government’s commitment to extend and improve languages education by ensuring that all Prep to Year 10 students in government schools are learning a language by 2025, starting with Prep in 2015.

To support the achievement of this commitment, Languages Teaching Scholarships will be available over three years (2012-13 to 2014-15) to increase the number of qualified languages teachers available to Victorian schools.

Scholarships will be available to two categories of aspiring teachers who are proficient in a language.

Graduate Diploma of Education

Languages Teaching Scholarships will be awarded to successful applicants upon their enrolment in a Graduate Diploma of Education. Entry into these courses requires completion of an appropriate undergraduate degree (or equivalent). Information about courses on offer is available from the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website: www.vtac.edu.au

All applicants must apply through VTAC for entry into a Graduate Diploma of Education before submitting an online scholarship application to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Secondary education applicants are required to nominate either two single or one double method for each course preference in their VTAC application. Languages Teaching Scholarships will only be awarded to applicants who have been accepted into a course with LOTE as one of their teaching methods.

Primary education applicants are required to nominate the primary double method only in their VTAC application. To be eligible for a Languages Teaching Scholarship, primary education applicants will also need to undertake a LOTE Methodology, which is required to become a qualified languages teacher. Before applying through VTAC, applicants should contact their preferred university to ensure they can undertake a LOTE Methodology as part of their Graduate Diploma of Education.

Scholarship categories

Languages Teaching Scholarships are available for two categories of aspiring teachers:

**CATEGORY A:** Language instructors and education support staff employed in Victorian government schools who have native/fluent proficiency in a language and undergraduate tertiary qualifications in any discipline.

Category A scholarships will provide:

- $6,000 to scholarship recipients upon their enrolment in a Graduate Diploma of Education
- up to $5,000 to the scholarship recipient’s school to support their course attendance if applicable.

**CATEGORY B:** Language instructors employed in complementary languages education providers (the Victorian School of Languages and Community Languages Schools) who have native/fluent proficiency in a language and undergraduate tertiary qualifications in any discipline.

Category B scholarships will provide:

- $6,000 to scholarship recipients upon their enrolment in a Graduate Diploma of Education.
Languages Teaching Scholarships
For aspiring teachers
Round 1 General information

Eligibility criteria
All applicants must:
• be employed as a language instructor or education support staff in a Victorian government school, OR employed as a language instructor in the Victorian School of Languages or a Community Languages School
• have an undergraduate tertiary qualification (bachelor degree or equivalent, as determined by VTAC) in any discipline
• be able to demonstrate their language proficiency through an advanced level tertiary languages major or a Statement of Equivalence
• have applied through VTAC for entry into a Graduate Diploma of Education
• for secondary education courses, have listed Languages Other Than English (LOTE) as one of their teaching methods
• for primary education courses, have ensured they can complete a LOTE Methodology as part of their course
• meet VTAC and university requirements and timelines.

Statement of Equivalence
Applicants without a tertiary languages qualification are required to demonstrate their language proficiency through a Statement of Equivalence. The Statement of Equivalence assesses applicants’ oral and written language proficiency and cultural literacy.

A Statement of Equivalence, if required, must be obtained before applicants submit their VTAC application.

Further information about Statements of Equivalence, including Victorian universities which offer Statement of Equivalence testing, is available at:


How to apply
To apply for a Languages Teaching Scholarship, applicants must:
• confirm their language proficiency meets the required criteria, including obtaining a Statement of Equivalence if required
• apply through VTAC for Graduate Diploma of Education courses. VTAC applications opened on 6 August 2012
• submit an online scholarship application form at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/LTSASPIRING

Scholarship applications open Monday 13 August and close 5.00pm Friday 12 October 2012.

Successful applicants will be notified in January 2013.

Scholarship selection
Applicants will be short-listed based on the responses they provide in their online application. The selection process will include a telephone and/or face-to-face interview in November 2012.

All scholarship applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will be considered. Priority will be given to applicants who:
• have previously worked in the languages education field
• are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and/or are fluent in an Indigenous language
• live or are willing to work in rural or regional Victoria.

Further information
For further information regarding Languages Teaching Scholarships contact the Languages, EAL and Multicultural Strategy Division on 9637 2318 or by email at languages.scholarships@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Languages Teaching Scholarships
For aspiring teachers
Round 1 Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible for a Languages Teaching Scholarship?

To be eligible for a Languages Teaching Scholarship, aspiring teacher applicants must:

- be employed as a language instructor or education support staff in a Victorian government school, or as a language instructor in a complementary languages education provider
- be proficient in a language other than English, evidenced by tertiary languages qualifications, or a Statement of Equivalence
- meet VTAC and university requirements for the Graduate Diploma of Education. See VTAC’s entrance requirements page: www.vtac.edu.au/who/entry-req.html
- meet the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) minimum academic study requirements for LOTE Methodology study. See the VIT specialist area guidelines: www.vit.vic.edu.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/PDF/1672_Specialist-Area-Guidelines-Nov08.pdf

I’m not an Australian Citizen, am I eligible?

Languages Teaching Scholarships are only available to Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents.

I completed my undergraduate degree overseas, can I still apply?

Applicants who completed their studies overseas may apply for Languages Teaching Scholarships. VTAC will assess overseas qualifications to determine whether they meet the entry requirements for a Graduate Diploma of Education. These applicants may also need to obtain a Statement of Equivalence to demonstrate their language proficiency.

Will some languages or courses be given priority over others?

Priority will not be given to any particular language, course or university. However, current demand from schools for teachers of particular languages will be taken into account during the selection process.

How and when do I obtain a Statement of Equivalence?

Applicants without an advanced level languages major are required to demonstrate their language proficiency through a Statement of Equivalence. Applicants are responsible for arranging and paying for their Statement of Equivalence. The cost of a Statement of Equivalence varies from $150 to $500 depending on the language and provider.

Successful applicants will be reimbursed for the cost of their Statement of Equivalence once they enrol in their course and present a receipt from the provider.

Applicants who need to obtain a Statement of Equivalence must do so before submitting their VTAC application.

For a list of Victorian universities that offer Statement of Equivalence testing see: www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/lote/proflearn.htm

How do I know if I have completed an advanced level major in a language?

An advanced level major is usually six units of language study in a post-VCE stream or eight units in a beginners stream.

When will I commence my studies if I apply for a Round 1 Scholarship?

Aspiring teacher applicants who apply for Round 1 scholarships must commence their Graduate Diploma of Education at the beginning of the 2013 academic year.
Languages Teaching Scholarships
For aspiring teachers
Round 1 Frequently Asked Questions

Can I study part-time?
Applicants who apply for entry into part-time courses are eligible to receive a Languages Teaching Scholarship. However, their scholarship payment will be split over the period they are studying. Part-time students may be required to pay tax on their scholarship payment. See Will I have to pay tax on my scholarship?

Can I defer my studies?
Scholarship recipients must commence their course in the year their Languages Teaching Scholarship is awarded. Only applicants who are ready to commence their course in 2013 should apply for a Round 1 scholarship. Applicants who wish to study in 2014 or 2015 should apply in Round 2 or 3.

Can I choose a primary or secondary Graduate Diploma of Education course?
Applicants can choose a primary, secondary or P-12 Graduate Diploma of Education, however they must ensure they meet the entry requirements for the course. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure they can complete a LOTE Methodology if they choose a primary course, as not all universities permit this. This may also involve additional university course fees.

Which teaching methods can I nominate in my VTAC application?
Applicants who wish to undertake a secondary level course must nominate LOTE as one of their teaching methods in their VTAC application. Applicants may select any other method they are qualified for as their second method.

Applicants applying for primary level courses are required to nominate the primary double method on their VTAC application and must ensure they are able to study LOTE as an additional method at their nominated universities.

I'm currently completing a Graduate Diploma of Education, am I eligible for a Languages Teaching Scholarship?
Aspiring teachers currently completing a Graduate Diploma of Education are not eligible for this scholarship. They may be eligible to participate in other initiatives offered by the Department. Details of scholarships and incentives are available at: www.education.vic.gov.au/careers/teaching/default.htm

What do I have to do if I am awarded a Languages Teaching Scholarship?
All applicants will receive an email advising them of the outcome of their application following VTAC Round 1 offers in January 2013. Scholarship recipients will be required to provide proof of their course enrolment, including enrolment in a LOTE Methodology, before they receive their scholarship payment.

What if I receive a scholarship but don’t complete my teaching course?
Any scholarship recipient who fails or discontinues their course or components of their course will be required to pay the costs of re-enrolling. Recipients who withdraw their enrolment at any point in the course will be required to repay the amount of their scholarship in full.

Will I have to pay tax on my scholarship?
Aspiring teacher scholarship recipients may be required to pay income tax on their scholarship payment. Applicants should seek independent financial advice when considering applying for a Languages Teaching Scholarship.