TEACH LANGUAGES

In the age of the global community and multicultural societies, the gift of fluency in more than one language is a valuable commodity

If you are fortunate enough to know a second (or even third) language, you could turn this knowledge into a stimulating and rewarding career as a secondary languages teacher in public schools.

Teaching another language benefits not only our youth but our broader society as well.

Students who learn a new language develop important communication skills. They learn to understand different cultures and gain tolerance towards others. As a languages teacher you are at the forefront of that positive change.

There are currently more than 30 languages available at Higher School Certificate (HSC) level in NSW public schools. These include Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Spanish and Vietnamese.

All students are required to study a second language in the early years of high school. In addition, students in Years 7-12 can undertake further languages study.

As a languages teacher, you should also use your special interests and talents to contribute to a wide range of school activities.

Getting there

If you are interested in a career as a languages teacher you are encouraged to complete study in at least one language at HSC level.

To qualify as a languages* teacher you will need to complete, through a recognised higher education institution, a major (i.e., three years of degree-level study) in at least one language plus at least one year of professional studies in teaching that includes languages 7-12 teaching methodology.

*There may be specific cultural requirements to qualify as an Aboriginal language teacher.

Degree options

- an undergraduate degree, and a graduate entry teacher education program such as a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary), or a Master of Teaching (Secondary); or,
- an integrated undergraduate program such as a four-year Bachelor of Education (Secondary) which includes both subject content studies and teacher education; or,
- an undergraduate double degree program such as a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary).

Further information about the requirements to become a teacher in NSW, including approved initial teacher education programs, can be found on the NSW Institute of Teachers website at www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au.