

**Guidance Counsellors information evening resource
Senior cycle language supports**



languagesconnect.ie

In these slides, we will present...

- The current context for language learning
- Studying languages at third level
- The languages available for study/examination
- The levels of the curricular languages
- Available supports



Language learning: the current context



Boost your skills!

- Research highlights **increased productivity** amongst those with language skills due to their associated **transversal skills** including:
 - **Adaptability** and **openness to other cultures**
 - **Enhanced divergent thinking** skills
 - **Abstract and symbolic representation** skills.
- Ireland's *National Skills Strategy 2025* also lists foreign languages and cultural awareness among the **cross-sectoral skills** which improve an individual's employability and enable occupational mobility.



Ireland needs global citizens who are multilingual and interculturally competent!

- Multilingual citizens are **more likely to actively participate in global issues**: Research led by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2022) called for further investment in learning languages as a means of solving global challenges.
- Increasing trade and cultural exchange with the EU and Asia is leading to a greater need for employees who have **capacity in language and intercultural skills**.



Languages are the key to unlocking potential in European markets for many Irish exporters



Andrew Tobin is CEO of cloud solutions firm Stryve

Patrick Torrekens
December 11 2022 02:30 AM



- “We...believe that to unlock further potential and revenue from European markets, diversification is important and multilingual capabilities are key. To this end, language capability should be viewed as an opportunity rather than a barrier to trade.”

Patrick Torrekens
Head of Enterprise Ireland France
11 December 2022

A Foreign Language is a Valuable Life Skill



Languages at Third Level and beyond

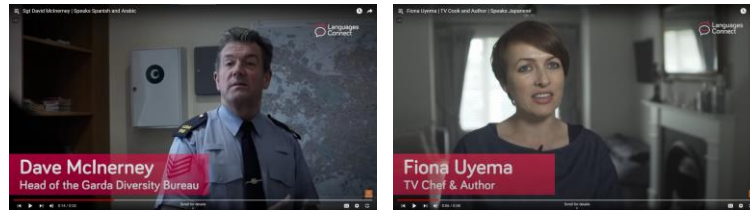


Studying Languages at Third Level

Did you know?

- Over 590 third level courses in which a language component can be included are currently available.
- Languages are available to study as a major, minor or an elective. Some courses allow for students to take up a new language, providing beginner level modules.
- Many CAO courses with a language option allow for students to study for a year abroad, either in another EU country or even further afield. Studying abroad can, in some circumstances, upgrade the final qualification to an international qualification.
- Find out more about what post-Leaving Certificate study options are available to students by visiting careersportal.ie, using the dedicated Languages Connect course filter.

Unexpected careers with languages



Working with languages



10

Dave McInerney:

“You can engage with the people, you can understand how they think, you can understand their culture, you can talk to the kids, and you can talk to the older people. They tell you things that they don't tell somebody who doesn't speak their language - it's incredible”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xVZaQafb_I&list=PL_K2lgB5S3KXDgvzHz8iKTWU-YuvaXbBL

Fiona Uyema:

“When I think back on when I was a student filling out that CAO form, I really couldn't have imagined what I would have gained from learning another language and how it has benefitted me in my work life and my personal life”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Glr741vSX0&list=PL_K2lgB5S3KVtcwLi-FXU9XhZq-u6y_TU

Many more videos on languagesconnect.ie:

<https://languagesconnect.ie/at-work/>

Leaving Certificate curricular and non- curricular languages



Leaving Certificate Languages

Curricular languages:

- French, German, Italian, Japanese, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish

Non-curricular languages:

- Any European Union language not offered as a curricular language: e.g. Dutch, Romanian
- Ukrainian (from 2025 onwards)

Curricular languages have aural, oral, reading and written assessments.

Non-curricular languages have reading and writing assessments only.



12

Languages available to study are categorised as either curricular or non-curricular. Assessment requirements differ between the two, as follows.

Curricular Languages

The below languages are curricular. They have aural, oral, reading and written assessments.

- French • German • Italian • Japanese • Lithuanian • Mandarin Chinese • Polish • Portuguese • Russian • Spanish

The following curricular languages are also available to study but do not have aural or oral assessments: Ancient Greek • Arabic • Hebrew Studies • Latin

Non-Curricular Languages

The below languages are non-curricular. They have reading and written assessments only.

- Any European Union language not offered as a curricular language: e.g. Czech, Dutch, Hungarian, Romanian
- Ukrainian (for those sitting the Leaving Certificate from 2025 onwards)

Further information regarding curricular and non-curricular languages can be found at examinations.ie

Levels of languages

CEFR A2/B1

- French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish are broadly aligned to A2/B1 levels of the CEFR.

CEFR Pre-A1/A1

- Japanese and Mandarin Chinese are pitched at *ab initio* level and broadly aligned with Pre-A1/A1 level of the CEFR



The **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** organises language proficiency in six levels, starting at A1 and progressing to C2, which can be regrouped into three broad levels: Basic User, Independent User and Proficient User. Parents and students can familiarize themselves with the past examination papers available on the State Examinations website to learn more about the standards in the final examinations.

French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish at the Leaving Certificate are broadly aligned to A2/B1 levels of the CEFR. Students of Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese with an existing knowledge of the language and two years of tuition will be well placed to reach the same standards as most other curricular MFLs.

Japanese and Mandarin Chinese are pitched at *ab initio* level and broadly aligned with Pre-A1/A1 level of the CEFR. It is entirely possible to take up either Japanese or Mandarin Chinese at Leaving Certificate level without any prior knowledge of these languages.

Russian is assessed at a slightly higher standard than other MFLs, broadly aligned with

B2 level of the CEFR.

Specific Supports for Senior Cycle



Support for Senior Cycle

Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) supports fifth and sixth year students with Saturday classes in lesser taught languages.


Students must be entering into fifth year to avail of the support.

Further information can be found at languagesconnect.ie/language-classes/



- Classes are fully financed by PPLI
- Applications open in April
- For incoming 5th year only
- Three weekly hours, in total 180 hours. Students must be able to commit to attending the lessons on Saturdays in fifth and sixth year
- Available face-to-face and online

Keep in touch

- For any queries, please contact: info@ppli.ie
- On social media:
 - Facebook: [Languages Connect](#)
 - Twitter: [LangsConnect_ie](#)
 - Instagram: [Languages Connect](#)
 - YouTube: [Languages Connect](#)
- Feedback: 



Thank you

