

## Languages FAQ – As of June 29, 2020

Language study at Yale-NUS will continue next semester in spite of the unusual circumstances we are experiencing due to COVID-19. Some language modules will be taught entirely via Zoom; others face-to-face with the option for students to connect remotely. The following FAQs address some of the issues that have been raised to date. This document will be posted on the Languages website ([languages.yale-nus.edu.sg](http://languages.yale-nus.edu.sg)) and updated as and when new information becomes available.

### General Questions

#### 1. What languages will be offered at Yale-NUS next semester?

The Canvas Module Brief site for AY20-21 Semester 1 (<https://yale-nus.instructure.com/courses/3094>) lists all the language courses offered next semester. This includes courses regularly taught on campus and those via teleconference.

#### 2. Will any courses be cancelled after Round 2?

Modules with low enrollment (<6) will be reviewed by the Dean of Faculty in consultation with the Humanities Divisional Director and the Deputy Director of Language Studies to decide whether they will continue to be offered or not.

#### 3. What other languages are available in Semester 1?

You may take any of the languages offered at NUS CLS although some courses may have limited availability. In some cases, you will be asked to complete a language placement test prior to enrolment in the module. Please check the NUS CLS website for more details. Owing to campus zoning due to COVID-19, CLS courses will be taught via Zoom.

#### 4. Can I S/U a language module?

If you do not intend to count a language module towards a major or minor, you can S/U it during the standard S/U declaration period. You should keep in mind the maximum number of S/U modules you can take during the candidature of your studies.

#### 5. Can I take a language module as an overload?

An overload (>22MCs) is certainly an option provided you have carefully considered the pros and cons of overloading. While overloads are only allowed in Module Registration Round 3, you are strongly encouraged to seek the approval of your Assistant Dean in advance (as early as Round 1). If you are considering taking a language module with low enrolment after Module Registration Round 1, please consider registering for it in Module Registration Round 2 to avoid a case of the module being cancelled. In the case that you are considering the module as an overload in Module Registration Round 3, please inform the Deputy Director of Language Studies and Registry of your intentions as early as possible.

#### 6. What is the average workload for a language course?

Language learning is an intensive endeavour. You should expect to spend an average of at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for every class session.

## 7. What do the workload numbers mean at CLS, e.g. 2-2-0-3-3?

The website and corresponding table below explain how the module workload components work: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/non-graduating/modular-system>

Component	Description	Remarks
A	No. of Lecture hours	Actual contact hours per week
B	No. of Tutorial hours	Actual contact hours per week
C	No. of Laboratory hours	Actual contact hours per week
D	No. of hours for projects, assignments, fieldwork, etc.	This caters to assignments, independent studies, fieldwork, and other forms of continuous assessment that contribute towards the final grade of the module.
E	No. of hours for preparatory work	This refers to the number of hours a student is expected to spend each week in preparing for lectures and tutorials.

For example, a French 1 module has a workload 4-2-0-0-4. This means, on a weekly basis, a student reading the module will attend 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of tutorial. Outside of class, the student is expected to put in 4 hours of preparatory work and revision.

## 8. For CLS language modules, will I have to indicate specific lecture and tutorial times for the language module I wish to study?

The Yale-NUS Registry Department will require this information in order to pre-allocate you into the respective module and sections. If you are unsure as to when a particular language module meets, please visit the NUS CLS website or contact the NUS CLS Office.

## COVID-19 Related Questions

### 1. Will Yale-NUS language courses be taught via teleconference or face-to-face (F2F)?

Some language modules at Yale-NUS such as Bangla and Sanskrit are regularly offered via teleconference. For other language modules offered in semester 1, some will be taught via teleconference while others face to face. In the case of the latter, there is an option for students to connect remotely via Zoom. Register will notify students of all relevant changes in module delivery format prior to Module Registration Round 2.

### 2. Will I be able to take CLS language modules as planned?

Yes, but all NUS CLS language modules will be taught via Zoom as students cannot commute across zones.

### 3. Will CLS placement tests be conducted via Zoom?

The different CLS language programmes are developing online placement tests over the summer. Please check the CLS website for the latest updates.

### 4. Will the content and structure of the language modules be different due to COVID-19?

While the overall learning goals of the modules remain the same, some of the assignments may be adjusted to take into account the combination of delivery and participation formats.

**5. Will language tutoring continue next semester?**

Yes, but tutors and tutees may opt to meet via teleconference.

**6. Will the module schedule be altered to maintain safe-distancing rules?**

In cases of modules with large number of students, there may be a need to combine sessions, meet in larger venues or to split the group into two. Students will also be able to request remote access. Please contact the course instructor for specific details.

**7. Will I be able to meet with my professor during office hours?**

Yes, at Yale-NUS, you will be able to meet with your professor F2F with the standard safety measures in place. In the case of CLS courses, you will have to arrange to meet with them via teleconference.

**8. Will there be language tables in the dining halls?**

Given the need for safe distancing and the challenges in keeping the dining halls running during the pandemic, it is unlikely that we will have language tables in Semester 1.

**9. How can I prepare to make the most of my Zoom language classes?**

There are many readily available Zoom tutorials and tips available online to help you improve your learning experience via teleconference (<https://bit.ly/morezoom>). If you come across any useful resources on language learning via Zoom, please share them with us at [languages@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:languages@yale-nus.edu.sg) And remember that you can access **Mango Languages** via the Library's website to keep practicing during the summer.

**10. Where can I find more information related to COVID-19 and Yale-NUS?**

Please visit the student portal at <https://students.yale-nus.edu.sg>

## Sample Student Questionnaire Questions

**1. I've been learning French for 7 years and I want to continue learning French while I'm at Yale-NUS College.**

If you've taken French before, you should contact NUS CLS to take their French placement test. It is possible that your level of competency is more advanced than any of the language modules offered. In this case, we encourage you to make use of the available library materials (e.g. books and films) and online resources to continue improving your French. You can also consider pursuing an Independent Language Study and Research (ILSR) [module](#).

**2. Can we study more than one language? Or audit one? I am interested in Chinese but also want to study Spanish during my College career.**

Taking more than one language is not recommended given the number of other electives available and the time demands imposed by studying a foreign language. You should discuss this with your Academic Advisor and Assistant Dean. To audit a class, you will need to obtain the approval of the respective instructor.

**3. Do I need to know Modern Chinese to take up Classical Chinese?**

Yes. Classical Chinese is for students with at least two years of prior study of Modern Chinese or its equivalent.

**4. Do IB language exams replace language placement tests?**

No, they do not.

**5. How many days a week do we have class?**

This varies across the various languages and institutions. You should check the NUS CLS website for detailed information on the languages they teach. For those offered at Yale-NUS, please consult with the respective instructors.

**6. Do the professors teaching language modules have office hours for consultation?**

You may visit <https://students.yale-nus.edu.sg> to access a list of faculty office hours.

**7. I am not entirely sure of which Chinese module I should take. I speak it at home, studied it in Junior College, and have done an intensive Chinese language course during the summer.**

If you have studied Chinese before, you should check with the respective instructor who will assess your competency via an interview or placement test. In some cases, there may not be a class offered at the right level for you.

**8. I took a Latin course during the Summer and I would like to continue on with Latin next semester. Can I skip a level?**

You should discuss this with the Latin instructor as there is no Latin placement test at this point.

**9. I would like to see more language modules offered at a conversational level or as 2MC to avoid overloads.**

We have recently added a 2 MC module in Sign Language and plan to continue offering this module in coming semesters. There is also the option of requesting to complete a 2MC Independent Language Study and Research module.

**10. If I decide not to start learning a new language in my first year, will this be a problem?**

Although it is recommended that you start to learn a language early in your college career, you can certainly do so at different stages along the way.

## Useful Resources

- **Languages Website:** <http://languages.yale-nus.edu.sg>
- **NUS Centre for Language Studies:** <https://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cls/>
- **ModReg:** <https://modreg.yale-nus.edu.sg>
- **AY20-21 Sem 1 Module Brief:** <https://yale-nus.instructure.com/courses/3094>
- **Student Portal:** <https://students.yale-nus.edu.sg>
- **NUS Modular System:** <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/academic-information-policies/non-graduating/modular-system>
- **ILSR:** <https://languages.yale-nus.edu.sg/advising/independent-language-study-research/>
- **Mango Languages:** <https://library.yale-nus.edu.sg/services/library-on-demand/>