

Languages FAQ – As of October 23, 2020

Language study at Yale-NUS will continue next semester in spite of the unusual circumstances due to COVID-19. The current plan is for language modules at Yale-NUS to be taught in person; NUS CLS has not made a final decision yet but it is likely that their courses will continue to be taught via Zoom if NUS zoning and safe distancing restrictions remain in place. 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) and updated as and when new information becomes available.

1. GENERAL QUESTIONS
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1. General Questions

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

The Canvas Module Brief site for AY20-21 Semester 2 (<https://yale-nus.instructure.com/courses/3720>) lists all the Yale-NUS language courses offered next semester.

2. What other languages are available in Semester 2?

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.

3. Will any courses be cancelled after Round 2?

For modules taught on campus, the minimum cap is as follows: 6 (beginning level), 5 (intermediate), and 4 (advanced). Modules with enrollment below these numbers 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 should be offered or not.

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 officially recorded in Module Registration Round 3, you are strongly encouraged to seek the approval from your Assistant Dean before Round 1 and notify Registry when granted. 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 its cancellation. In the case that you decide to overload with a language module, please inform Registry and the Deputy Director of Language Studies of your intention as early as possible as this may prevent a course from being cancelled.

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?

For NUS CLS courses with a lecture + tutorial format, Registry Department will require your preferred lecture time in order to pre-allocate you into it. If you are unsure as to when a particular language module meets, please visit the NUS CLS website or contact the NUS CLS Office. In terms of the course tutorials, you will select the one that works best for you in Rounds 2 or 3.

2. COVID-19 Related Questions

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

As of now, we expect all Yale-NUS language courses to be offered in person. 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, at the moment, the plan is for all NUS CLS language modules to be taught via Zoom as students cannot commute across zones.

3. Will CLS placement tests be conducted via Zoom?

The different CLS language programmes have developed 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. 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 or via Zoom. 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 2 but this may change as Phase 3 begins.

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 and remember that you can access **Mango Languages** via the Library's website to keep practicing during the break.

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>

3. 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 Faculty 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 the module brief or visit <https://nusmods.com/>.

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

Yes. 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 2.5MC to avoid overloads.

We have recently added a 2.5 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 2.5MC 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.

11. Is there a placement test for Spanish at Yale-NUS?

Yes, there is. Email the Spanish faculty for details.

4. NUS CLS Placement Tests

Placement tests are for students who do not meet the pre-requisites of advanced level NUS CLS modules. Students who are taking placement tests are to follow up with NUS CLS directly. Information on modules offered, NUS CLS coordinators and placement tests dates, will be published on the NUS CLS website. You will be notified of the outcome of the placement test by NUS CLS. Thereafter, you can proceed to register for the module via ModReg@EduRec during Round 2 or Round 3.

5. Important Notes about Placement Tests

- If you have no prior knowledge of the language that you are interested to study, you do **not** need to sit for any placement tests. Please register for the beginning level NUS CLS module(s) in [Canvas](#) (link active only in Round 1) in Round 1 or ModReg@EduRec in Round 2 and Round 3.
- If enrolment in the NUS CLS module leads to an overload, you **will not be pre-allocated** to the module. Instead, you will have to drop one of your allocated modules and register for the NUS CLS module via ModReg@EduRec during Round 2 or Round 3. If you have obtained approval from your Assistant Dean to overload, notify Registry asap. You may then register for the overload NUS CLS module in Round 3.
- For NUS CLS modules with multiple tutorial class options, you will only be pre-allocated to the main lecture class and you will need to select your tutorial section via ModReg@EduRec in Round 3.
- Please refer [here](#) for the NUS ModReg schedule for the timeline for tutorials selection.
- Owing to campus zoning due to COVID-19, NUS CLS modules are likely to be taught via Zoom in Semester 2, AY2020/2021.

6. 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 2 Module Brief:** <https://yale-nus.instructure.com/courses/3720>
- **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/>