



McMaster Exchange Program

Language Assessment

Studying in a Second Language

No doubt one of the most popular reasons for going abroad is to be immersed in another culture and practice or pick up a new language. This may be for personal reasons, such as a love of languages, or for professional reasons, such as developing the skills to work and thrive in an international context.

If you intend to follow courses in a language other than English, you will be required to submit a language assessment as part of your exchange application. Students will be assessed by a McMaster language assessor who will determine a student's readiness to study in that language while abroad.

How to arrange a language assessment

To arrange a language assessment, email the appropriate department contact to set-up a language assessment. Please bring the language assessment form with you to the meeting.

Language	Contact	Department	Notes
French	Nicholas Serruys	Department of French	Students should have the equivalent of at least A- in 1A06/2M06 and B- in 2B03/2BB3. For external proficiency scores, a minimum B1 is required. French immersion/native language speakers may be required to take a French language course to support academic writing skills as a condition of approval.
German	Nicolai Penner	Department of Linguistics and Languages	
Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Spanish	Wendy D'Angelo	Department of Linguistics and Languages	

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ASSESSMENT OF LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Student's Name: _____

Student Number: _____

(FOLLOWING PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY A LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR)

Assessment of _____ language

Name of Evaluator: _____

Position/Title: _____

Telephone: __ (____) _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return a copy of this assessment to the student. Please also return a copy to:

Jenna Levi

Education Abroad Coordinator

International Student Services, GH 110

McMaster University

levij@mcmaster.ca

How was the evaluation determined?

- Based on knowledge of student's course work in a language class
- Written examination; test name and date administered _____
- Oral examination; date administered: _____

Please indicate your opinion of the student's present language ability in each of the following categories.

1. ORAL COMPREHENSION

- None
- Limited to slow, uncomplicated sentences
- Understands simple conversation
- Understands conversation on simple academic topics
- Understands sophisticated discussion on academic topics

2. SPEAKING ABILITY

- None
- Able to complete structurally simple, short phrases
- Uses basic grammatical structure, speaking with limited vocabulary
- Uses structural patterns, but not with consistent accuracy; adequate to participate in conversational topics
- Has control over structure patterns; can handle a wide range of conversational situations.

3. READING ABILITY

- None
- Limited to simple vocabulary and sentences structure
- Understands conventional topics and non-technical subjects
- Understands materials which contain idioms and specialized terminology
- Understands sophisticated materials, including those in proposed field of study

4. WRITING ABILITY

- None
- Writes simple sentences on conventional topics with some errors in spelling and structure
- Writes on academic topics with a few errors in structure and spelling
- Writes on academic topics with idiomatic ease of expression and feeling for the style of the language

What is your opinion of the student's ability to pursue university-level course work in this language?

- Will require considerable training before necessary competence can be attained
- Will require additional training before beginning the exchange
- Should be able to manage adequately after a short period of adjustment abroad
- Should have no difficulty

Please mark as appropriate:

- I **do not** approve the student for study in this language
- I **conditionally** approve the student for study abroad in this language
- I **unconditionally** approve the student for study abroad in this language

Please add any comments relating to the student's linguistic ability.

In case of **conditional** approval, what are the conditions the student must satisfy to receive clearance for study abroad? List any suggestions (e.g. one more term of language preparation/intensive summer language program).

- I _____ (student name) understand that it is my responsibility to follow up on the conditions noted above and supply proof of completion to MacAbroad. I understand that MacAbroad reserves the right to withdraw my exchange nomination should I not meet the conditions noted in this language assessment.