

2021 Language Program Distance Education

Secondary: For students in years 7-12 (VCE)

Primary: For students in years 5-6 (selected languages)

Learn **Arabic** | **Chinese** | **Classical Greek** | **French** | **German** | **Greek** | **Hindi**
Indonesian | **Italian** | **Japanese** | **Latin** | **Punjabi** | **Spanish** | **Vietnamese**

Face to face classes are also available for over 40 languages - see our separate brochure



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Enrol Online

Language Courses by Distance Education



The Victorian School of Languages (VSL) is the official Department of Education and Training (DET) distance education provider of languages for Victoria.

This provision includes a comprehensive range of language courses of the highest quality for Year 7-12, in accordance with Department and VCAA guidelines. Some courses are also available for upper primary students enrolled with Virtual School Victoria (VSV).

Each year approximately 1500 students from government and non-government schools and TAFE students take advantage of the range of languages offered by VSL Distance Education.

Students eligible for enrolment in Victorian government or non-government secondary schools may enrol, provided their home school Principal ensures that applications meet the requirements such as:

- The language that they wish to study is not available at their home school.
- A timetable clash prevents them from studying the language of their choice at their home school.
- They are not attending school but are studying with the VSV. Some of these students are travelling interstate or overseas, others are unable to attend school due to ill-health. Students are eligible on the basis of remoteness, medical disability, travel, or through formally approved referral by schools as a result of school discipline procedures or other reasons. For all categories, a contact address in Victoria is essential. Instruction in languages is available for eligible Victorian students for a minimum of two school terms.
- Approved home schooling.

What Language Programs are Available?

The languages available through distance education at a SECONDARY level, to VCE, in 2021 are:

Arabic	10-12	Indonesian*	5-12
Chinese*	7-12	Italian	5-12
Classical Greek	7-12	Japanese*	7-12
French	5-12	Latin	7-12
German	5-12	Punjabi	11
Greek	7-12	Spanish	7-12
Hindi	11-12	Vietnamese	11

*Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese have First and Second Language options at VCE level. Accelerated courses are offered in Classical Greek, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Latin and Spanish.

Primary level courses are also available in selected languages for Years 5 and 6.

Please contact the VSL Distance Education Section for further advice on the most appropriate level of enrolment or see the VSL website www.vsl.vic.edu.au

VET Courses

Some languages are also available as VET courses.

The **Certificate II and III in Applied Language** are provided under the VSL's auspice as a Registered Training Organisation or for individual students wishing to study Chinese by distance, as a Certificate course. For details regarding the Certificate language courses, including costs please contact the VET team on 9474 0500, email vetinschools@vsl.vic.edu.au or refer to the VSL website.

NOTICE FOR VCE STUDENTS

Students at a day school or the Virtual School Victoria (VSV) should make application for VCE entry through their own school. It is the responsibility of VCE students to ensure their VASS enrolment is confirmed through their home school or college and that all assessment tasks and SACs are completed as required. Any other student wishing to present for VCE assessment will make application through the Victorian School of Languages by completing a student personal details form. The VSL Distance Education Section VCAA Assessing School Number is 1870.

COURSE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTION (Excluding VET)

School based students

Government

Yrs 5-12 materials cost \$160 Total \$160

Non-government

Yrs 5-12 materials cost \$160
School fee \$400 Total \$560

Non school based students

School age Years 5-12 \$220
Full time VSV students 5-12 Fee paid to VSV

International (Overseas) full fee paying students

Years 7-12 refer to International Students Application Form.

PAYMENT should be made by BPAY or cheque. No cash should be sent through the mail. Course costs cover online materials, workbooks, audio material, telephone contact, mailing/emailing to students, and seminars (excluding travel and accommodation costs). Some courses require students to purchase a textbook.

REFUNDS will only be given for withdrawals requested in writing within two weeks of commencement of courses. A service fee will be deducted from all refunds.

ALL STUDENTS, regardless of age, have to prove themselves to be citizens of Australia or have residency status according to Education Department guidelines. Otherwise, full fee recovery will apply.

Advantages of the Distance Education Mode



One might ask whether a language can really be taught successfully in the distance mode. Can the communicative interaction, which is such an integral component of language instruction in the classroom setting be achieved in distance education?

The fact that the VSL Distance Education students perform well above average on a state-wide comparison each year and that almost one third of VSL VCE students are amongst the top scorers answers the question beyond doubt.

Distance education teaching and classroom teaching have much in common, though there are some obvious differences. The advantages for both teachers and students are worth noting:

- The teacher and student communicate on a one-to-one basis, except in some video conferencing sessions where a small group of students interact with the teacher. All the work produced by the students is assessed on an individual basis.
- The student has full access to the contents of the course at all times and can thus revise and repeat material whenever he/she wishes.
- A student who experiences difficulties can ask for personal attention without the fear that other students will know his/her weakness and without the teacher's attention being taken away from the rest of the class.
- Courses allow the student to work at a slower pace, or alternatively at a faster pace, than that normally scheduled. This flexibility caters effectively for individual differences.
- A VCE unit may be done in either the first or second semester or may be extended over the whole year if this is more suitable for the student.

Teaching and Learning in the Distance Mode

All teachers in the VSL Distance Education Section are fully qualified in languages, with many years of invaluable teaching experience in distance mode. Native speakers are employed and imbue our courses with authenticity. Some of our teachers also provide their expertise to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as examiners. The latest technology supports the academic and administrative operation of the Distance Education Section. This includes a custom-designed, comprehensive database.

Students receive course materials which have been developed by experienced teachers specifically for the distance mode.

Our courses are available online through an app which requires a computer and internet connection. Weekly work is submitted online. Students will be able to access a wide range of learning materials including voice recordings.

The courses are divided into work sets which correlate to the weekly time allocation of the respective year level in the language (between 3 and 5 hours). Each week that student submits the work online, email or via fax/post to their particular teacher. It is corrected, annotated with comments and helpful hints and promptly returned. Students' incoming and outgoing work is reliably recorded, enabling one to access the levels of achievement and activity status of the students at any time.

An important and compulsory component of the course is the regular oral session between student and teacher, which occurs fortnightly, or more often if required. It may be carried out via telephone or videoconferencing. Regular seminars also enhance learning by distance mode. Seminars enable students to get to know each other, to meet their teacher in person, to gain opportunities for additional instruction, and to experience cultural excursions to museums, galleries, exhibitions or musical performances in the language.



Enrolment Dates and Procedures

Enrolments commence in October 2020 for Semester 1 of 2021 and should take place no later than the end of February 2021. Enrolments for second semester only studies should be made during Term 2 of 2021 and should take place no later than the end of July 2021. The enrolment process is as follows:

Students in Secondary Schools and Colleges

Although initial contact may be made by students, their parents or guardians, **enrolment for Languages must be requested by the students' home school.**

- A school representative determines the number of students seeking VSL distance mode tuition. If necessary, contact is made with the Distance Education Manager or Enrolment Officer for counselling on the most appropriate study options.
- Home school Principal or school representative provides student details online through the VSL Website (www.vsl.vic.edu.au) by clicking on "Enrol".
- VSL Distance Education Section confirms the enrolment by email and invoice.
- If the Home school pays for individual enrolments please pay via BPAY or cheque.
- Home school forwards photocopies of birth certificate, visa and passport (where relevant).



Non School Based Students

- Non school based applicants enrol online (www.vsl.vic.edu.au) by clicking on "Enrol", or by contacting the VSL office.
- VSL considers application and reserves the right to refuse application.
- Student pays the amount by BPAY or cheque.
- Complete documentation (including photocopies of birth certificate, visa and passport, where relevant) is forwarded to the VSL Distance Education Section (electronically or by post).

Full-time Students of Virtual School Victoria (VSV)

If VSV students choose to study a language other than English, this should be detailed on their VSV enrolment form with their other subjects and returned directly to the VSV. If necessary, these students should contact the VSL Distance Education Section for advice on enrolment levels of the language.

International (Overseas) full fee paying students

Wherever possible, these students will be enrolled in VSL centre classes rather than in distance mode. All international student enrolments must be made through the home school. International Education Division will notify schools of the process. International students enrolled in TAFE colleges or non-government English Language Centres are regarded as students of non-government schools and must pay the full fee prior to enrolment. For students of government schools, the overseas student coordinator must complete the enrolment.

Support and Supervision of Distance Learning

Effective tuition of students in the distance mode is dependent on support and supervision by an adult who can take responsibility for the regular return of assignments.

- **Seminars:** It is expected that students in the middle and upper levels will attend seminars from time to time. Details will be provided during Term 1 of 2021. Seminars will be held in Melbourne or in decentralised locations or by virtual delivery.
- **Telephone contact:** Oral work forms an integral component of each course. It is expected that students have access to a telephone and communicate regularly with the teacher. Separate VSL 1800 numbers are available for country students requiring telephone contact or audio conferencing. Video conferencing may also be possible from some schools.
- **Home based students:** Parents/carers of applicants are encouraged to bring their children to the VSL for a personal interview while enrolling.
- **Permanent residents in Victoria:** Where all material is posted directly to the home address, parents are responsible for payment of return postage.
- **Students travelling outside Victoria:** Parents/carers are required to nominate a forwarding agent in Victoria to whom all work is sent. The forwarding agent will need to re-address the work to the child. Parents/carers are responsible for all postage costs.
- **School based students:** It is expected that home schools will provide their students with adequate support and supervision for courses undertaken in the distance mode. This will include regular access to a telephone and computer, provision of time at school to complete distance education work, distribution of course materials, collection and supervision of VCE Assessment Tasks/SACs, and posting of student work to the VSL (Distance Education Section).

Non-language distance education: for all non-language classes contact Virtual School Victoria (VSV) on (03) 8480 0000 or online at www.distance.vic.edu.au

