**A Guide to Eligibility for Continuers Level Languages**

Eligibility applications must be approved for all students for continuers level Chinese, Indonesian Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese before enrolling in the language.

An eligibility decision should be made ‘on balance’ when considering the following:

* Student’s country of birth
* Student’s country of residence
* The languages spoken (including variations and dialects) in the country of birth/residence\*
* Date of arrival in Australia
* Student’s linguistic and cultural background
* Education undertaken in the proposed language of study
* Students with **more than one year of education from the age of 5** in a country where the proposed language of study is a major language of communication or the medium of instruction are ineligible
* Education in the proposed language of study in Australia (for example ethnic schools) does not make the student ineligible to study the language at continuers level
* Fluency in languages other than the proposed language of study does not preclude a student from enrolling in a continuers level language course
* Frequency of use of the proposed language of study at continuers level is only relevant when combined with the education history and extended in-country experience

\*For eligibility purposes, ‘Chinese’ refers to spoken Mandarin, Cantonese, Hokkien, or any regional Chinese dialect, and to characters in traditional form and simplified form.

\*\* For eligibility purposes speakers of Indonesian and Malay are considered to be speakers of both.

**Examples of Eligibility Outcomes**

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| **Context** | **Outcome** |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who arrived in Australia at the age of 4 with no education undertaken in the target language in-country, but who has attended an ethnic school from Year 2 onwards. | Eligible |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who was born overseas and arrived in Australia at the age of 6 with 1 calendar year’s education with instruction in the target language in-country. | Eligible |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who was born in the country where the target language is the official language and attended Primary School for 2 years where the target language was the language of instruction. | Ineligible |
| A Year 11 student enrolling in Stage 1 who arrived in Australia at the age of 10, educated in English but immersed in the language-speaking community in a country where the target language is the official language, as well as speaking the target language with immediate family on a daily basis. | Ineligible |