Why are **Languages Teaching Scholarships** being offered?

**Languages Teaching Scholarships** are being offered to increase the number of qualified languages teachers available to work in Victorian schools.

Who is eligible to receive a **Languages Teaching Scholarship** under the currently employed teacher category?

To be eligible, teachers must:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- be currently employed in a Victorian government school and have full VIT registration
- have completed a languages major or sub-major, or have a Statement of Equivalence.

Can I apply if I am not an Australian citizen or permanent resident?

No – only Australian citizens and permanent residents are eligible to apply.

If I applied in Round 1 or Round 2 and was unsuccessful can I apply again in Round 3?

Yes - applicants who were unsuccessful in Round 1 or 2 may reapply in Round 3.

Can I apply for a scholarship if I am on a fixed-term contract and/or work part-time?

Yes – both ongoing and fixed-term contract teachers and teachers who work part-time can apply.

I have a sub-major in a language. Am I eligible to apply for a scholarship?

Yes – the scholarship will fund scholarship recipients to undertake additional language study to upgrade to a major. However, the additional study **must** be completed in 2015 (with a view to enrol in a languages methodology course in 2016).

How and when do I apply for a Statement of Equivalence?

Currently employed teachers without a language major can obtain a Statement of Equivalence to verify that the knowledge and competence in the language meets the standard of a post-Year 12 advanced level major study in the language.

Applicants are responsible for arranging and paying for their Statement of Equivalence. Costs vary from $150 to $300 depending on the language and provider.

Applicants should contact a university as soon as possible to find out available dates for sitting the test. Applicants will need to provide information about the date they will sit the test in their scholarship application.

Following their enrolment, scholarship recipients will be reimbursed for the cost of their Statement of Equivalence upon presentation of a receipt to DEECD from the issuing university.

Further information, including the Victorian universities which offer Statement of Equivalence testing, is available at:


If I am a native speaker of the language do I still need to provide a Statement of Equivalence?

Yes – if you are a native speaker of the language and do not have a tertiary language major or sub-major, you will need to obtain a Statement of Equivalence.

What is the difference between a language major and a sub-major?

According to the Victorian Institute of Teaching’s **Specialist Area Guidelines**, the terms major and sub-major are defined as follows:

**Sub-major:** A total of half a year of successful full-time higher education study, usually comprising sequential discipline
studies taken over two years, e.g. a part in each of the first and second years of study, or equivalent study. In most programs this equates to four units, with no more than two at first year level.

**Major:** A total of three-quarters of a year of successful full-time higher education studies, usually comprising sequential discipline study taken over three years, e.g. a part in each of the first, second and third years of study, or equivalent study. In most programs this equates to six units, with no more than two at first year level and no less than two units at third year level.

Scholarship recipients should check with the university to ensure that they meet the requirements of the course they are seeking admission into.

**Where will the languages methodology course be offered?**

Scholarship recipients will have the option of undertaking the languages methodology course on campus or off campus at Deakin University or on campus at Melbourne University. Further information will be provided to scholarship recipients in October 2014.

**Where will the additional language courses be offered?**

Scholarship recipients who need to complete additional language units before commencing their methodology study, will do so in 2015 with a view to undertake the languages methodology in 2016.

Recipients will be required to investigate the options for completing their languages study at an appropriate university which will enable them to meet the requirements for enrolling in a languages methodology course in 2016.

The scholarship will support either on- or off-campus study at any Victorian university, or off-campus (online) study at any Australian university. Recipients will need to ensure they meet the university entrance requirements, and have available academic transcripts to support their existing qualifications.

**If I am awarded a Round 3 scholarship, when will I commence my course?**

Courses commence from February 2015. Scholarship recipients will need to ensure they meet the university entrance requirements and have available academic transcripts to support their existing qualifications.

**If I am awarded a Round 3 scholarship, can I undertake the additional languages study or languages methodology over two years?**

No – it is expected that scholarship recipients complete their additional language study or languages methodology study in one year. Recipients can only study over two years in exceptional circumstances and where permission has been granted by DEECD.

**If I am awarded a Round 3 scholarship, can I defer my studies?**

No - scholarship recipients can only defer their studies in exceptional circumstances and where permission has been granted by DEECD.

**How are scholarship funds paid?**

DEECD will pay course fees directly to the relevant university.

**Does the scholarship cover the purchase of textbooks?**

No – the scholarship does not cover textbooks and other resources associated with your study. However, depending on your circumstances, you may be able to claim some of these expenses in your tax return. Please visit the ATO’s website for more information.

**How does my school apply for Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) funding if my application is successful?**

CRT funding will be paid to your school to support your course attendance and study requirements. CRT funding will be paid
retrospectively. Schools will need to invoice DEECD at the end of each semester for the number of approved study days taken. Scholarship recipients and their principals will be advised of the number of study days (including practicum days) that will be funded after their course enrolment has been confirmed.

How is study leave calculated?
Scholarship recipients who work full time will be supported to take one half study day per university week for each unit in which they are enrolled.

This equates to a total of 40 days’ study leave (i.e. 18 study days plus 22 days of supervised practicum).

If you work part time the amount of study leave you receive will be pro rata. For example, if your time fraction is 0.7 you are entitled to a total of 28 days’ study leave (i.e. 12.6 study days plus 15.4 days for the practicum).

If you are undertaking additional languages study, study leave will be calculated at one half study day per university week for each unit in which you are enrolled, pro-rata if you are working part-time.

What if I fail to complete the languages methodology or languages course?
Scholarship recipients who fail or discontinue subjects during their course will be required to pay the costs of re-enrolling. Recipients who discontinue their studies will be required to repay any additional costs that have been incurred by the Department.

When will I be able to undertake the in-country study course?
Scholarship recipients will undertake an in-country language course of up to four weeks’ duration after they have successfully completed their languages methodology course. As far as possible, in-country language courses will be held during school holiday periods. CRT funding will be provided for any days that the teacher is required to be away from school for an in-country course.

The in-country course will only be awarded to recipients who have been continuously employed as a teacher during and following completion of the languages methodology course.

Will I be required to contribute to the cost of the in-country study course?
The scholarship will cover all costs for the in-country course including tuition, airfare, accommodation and some incidentals.

Further information
For further information regarding Languages Teaching Scholarships, email: languages.scholarships@edumail.vic.gov.au