Please ensure that you read this information before applying for a Languages Teaching Scholarship. A link to the online application can be found at the end of this document.

Overview
The Victorian Government is striving for world class languages education across all schools and is committed to the study of an additional language being part of every government school learning program by 2025, starting with Prep in 2015.

To meet the increased demand for qualified languages teachers the Government has committed $6 million over three years (2012-2014) for Languages Teaching Scholarships.

Scholarships are available to Victorian government school teachers who are proficient in another language to undertake studies to become qualified languages teachers.

Eligibility criteria
All applicants must be Australian citizens or have permanent resident status in Australia, as well as full Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration.

In addition applicants must have one or more of the following:
- a post-VCE languages major
- a post-VCE languages sub-major
- a beginners languages major or sub-major
- a Statement of Equivalence

Scholarship benefits
Scholarships will cover:
- appropriate university language study where required

Languages major or sub-major
The Victorian Institute of Teaching’s Specialist Area Guidelines advise that qualified languages teachers should have an advanced level major study in the language or be able to demonstrate proficiency through a Statement of Equivalence.

If you are not sure whether your languages study constitutes a major or a sub-major please refer to the FAQs information sheet.

Statement of Equivalence
Applicants who have native or near native levels of proficiency in a language, but not a language major or sub-major, are required to demonstrate their language proficiency through a Statement of Equivalence. This also applies to native speakers of a language who do not have a tertiary language major or sub-major. The Statement of Equivalence enables Victorian universities to assess applicants’ oral and written language proficiency and cultural literacy.

Scholarship recipients are responsible for arranging and paying for their Statement of Equivalence before they can enrol in a languages methodology course. After enrolment, recipients will be reimbursed for the cost of their Statement of Equivalence upon presentation of a receipt from the issuing university.

In-country language courses
Scholarship recipients will be funded to undertake an in-country language course of up to four weeks’ duration. In-country language courses will be identified in consultation with relevant foreign government agencies and where possible completed during the December/January school holidays after the completion of the methodology course.

Scholarship recipients will be advised of the in-country course details and their obligations in relation to the course in Term 2, 2015.

Scholarship selection
While all applicants who meet the Languages Teaching Scholarships eligibility requirements will be considered, priority will be given to applicants:
- who meet languages methodology course requirements
- who teach in rural or regional Victoria
- who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and/or are proficient in an indigenous language
- whose principal provides confirmation that they will be given a languages teaching allotment at the school following completion of their training.

Scholarship recipients’ obligations
Scholarship recipients will be notified in October 2014 regarding the next steps for enrolling in tertiary study supported under the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will need to provide the Department with a signed ‘expense payment benefit declaration’ form to ensure their participation in the languages methodology course and/or language course will not have tax implications. The declaration form will be provided to successful scholarship recipients.

Should a scholarship recipient fail or discontinue their course or components of their course, they will be required to pay the cost of re-enrolling. Recipients who discontinue their studies will be required to repay any additional costs that have been incurred by the Department.

Principal endorsement
In addition to applicants completing an online application, applicants’ principals must provide a brief statement supporting the application and confirming where possible, that if the applicant is awarded a scholarship, they will be given the opportunity to continue to teach the language, or be given a teaching allotment in the language at the school following completion of their studies.

Principals must email their statements by 29 August 2014 to: languages.scholarships@edumail.vic.gov.au

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

Apply for a scholarship
Apply for a Round 3 Languages Teaching Scholarship at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/CETround3

Closing date: Friday 29 August 2014