

Why Learn a Language



It's increasingly recognised that languages are basic life skills. In New Zealand there is both political and educational support for students to learn at least one second language. European countries are aiming for skills in three languages.

Not only do languages develop people's communication skills, but they also develop their analytical thinking skills, problem solving ability, and people skills, which are all qualities that employers find valuable. An employer who takes on someone who has learned a language knows that even if it is not required for their job, the person who studied it will have developed tremendous strengths, and is able to deal with people from another cultural in a culturally sensitive manner.

In fact, careers involving languages are often highly paid. Research has shown that language graduates earn on average 8% more in their jobs than non-language graduates. Having a second language is seen as an added string to your bow, something that is there to add value to the main skill that you have.

Contact Details

If you have any questions or want to know more about a particular language course, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Head of Department.

Japanese – Sharon Henry
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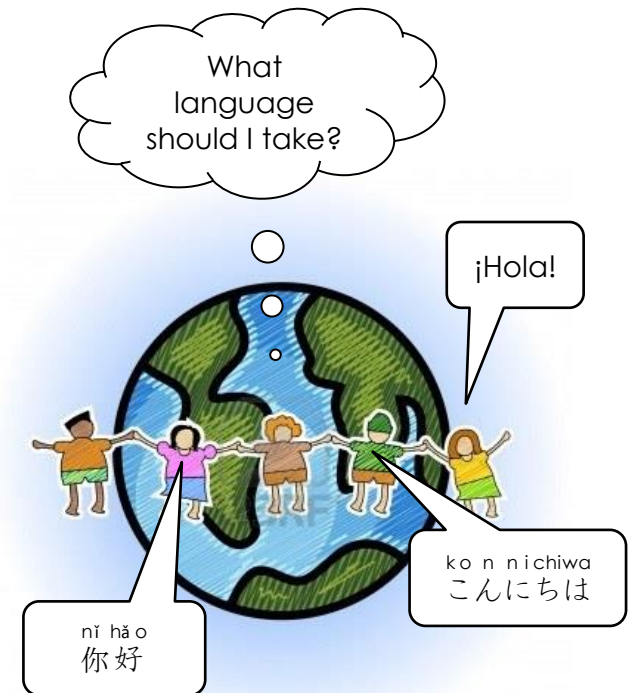
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The Royal Society of New Zealand paper on multilingualism "shows a strong language policy can reduce barriers to trade, improve student performance across the curriculum, and influence better health and well-being, particularly among Maori, Pacific and migrant groups." *New Zealand Herald*, March 5th 2013

Year 9 Languages



Mandarin Chinese (中文)

Nǐ hǎo. Do you know one fifth of global population speak Mandarin Chinese? Do you know what New Zealand's biggest export to China is? Do you know that Mandarin Chinese grammar is much simpler than English?



Students who take Mandarin Chinese will not only learn to read and write simple Mandarin Chinese sentences, they would also learn to count, bargain and use a wide range of language to communicate in Mandarin Chinese. Students will become more knowledgeable in Chinese culture, customs, and history. There are many online tools that can help students to study the language and make learning interactive and fun.



Japanese (日本語)

Konnichi wa. Japan has a fascinating culture that blends the technology of the modern world (robots, anime, fashion) with the traditional (ninja, samurai, Zen Buddhism). It is also the third biggest economy in the world, our fourth biggest export market and our fifth biggest tourism market.



Students who take Japanese will not only learn to speak and maintain a basic conversation about themselves, they will also learn to read and write in another alphabet, hiragana. It's not as hard as you think, and we have a bunch of online tools to help you.



Spanish (Español)

¡Hola! Do you know that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world?



By the end of the year students who chose to do Spanish will be able to speak and maintain a basic conversation in Spanish, exchange basic information and read and understand brief Spanish written passages. They will also be culturally familiar with the Spanish world, including cooking and tasting food from Latin America and/or Spain.

