



Global Executive MBA

Language Policy

INSEAD GEMBA Language Policy

Language Requirements

INSEAD uses the five-level [Common European Framework of Reference](#) for languages (CEFR) as measure for language competency.

- **To be admitted** to the GEMBA Programme, a candidate must have a “**C1 fluent**” level in English: ability to communicate very fluently and precisely in complex situations.
- **To graduate** a participant must also have at least an “**A2 basic**” level of a second language: ability to communicate in a simple and direct exchange of information on routine matters.

The combination of your English proficiency and at least an A2 basic of a second language is sufficient to comply with the GEMBA language policy.

Native Languages

- The definition of a **native language** is the first language you have been exposed to from birth and the language in which you consider yourself most fluent and skilled. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to certify your first declared native language.
- You may declare a **second native language** (simultaneous bilingualism); you learned two languages from birth (or shortly after) to similar degrees of proficiency. Proof might be required to validate it, will be examined on a case-by-case basis and will require evidence of actual use.

Examples that might apply: your parents both spoke a different language, you grew up in a foreign country therefore the language spoken home was different from the language spoken where you lived, you were raised in a country with two official languages.

English Proficiency Validation

If English is your native language, we do not require proof to certify your level of English. However, if English is not your native language, your English proficiency will be validated through the following means:

- **English is your second native language** – will need to be validated by the EMBA Admissions team (see above).
- **A university degree** - a minimum of one full-time academic year, taught exclusively in English, with a diploma received from that host university (exchange programme and English major at university does not qualify.) The transcripts should clearly mention the language of instruction is English.
- **Long residency** - if you have spent an extended period of time (over 1.5 years) working or studying in an English-speaking country or a country where English is the co-official language or the pan-used language, for example: UAE.

NB: This Language Policy applies to applicants of the GEMBA Programme, graduating classes of 2023. Last revised in March 2021. Please note that this Language Policy document is subject to change regularly and without prior notice.

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If none of the above apply, we will assess your English during the admissions process with:

- **IAD** - If you register for the [INSEAD Assessment Day](#), we will assess your level of English
OR
- **Interview with alumni** - We will assess your level of English through the 121 interview (an EA, GMAT or GRE required)

If you fail to validate your fluent level of English through any the above, the EMBA Admissions office could require you to take one of the English tests below, recommended the minimum scores:

- [TOEFL](#): Internet-based test, recommended minimum score: 103
- [PTE Academic](#): recommended minimum score: 70
- [IELTS Academic](#): recommended minimum score: 7.5

Second Language Requirement

To satisfy the INSEAD GEMBA language policy you are required to validate a minimum level of **"A2-basic"** of a second language, other than English. You will need to provide acceptable means of certification as soon as possible, and before the programme ends, as it is a graduation requirement.

Acceptable means to certify competence for the Second language requirement (in addition to English) are:

- **Native Language (C2- native level will be validated)**: Will only be considered if different from English.
- **Second native language (C1- fluent level will be validated)**: Examined only on a case-by-case basis (please refer above for more information)
- **Final secondary school exam (C1 – fluent level will be validated)**: Exam and schooling must have been conducted in the language. E.g. Brevet or Baccalauréat to validate French; Immersion programme in Canada for French?; Abitur for German; Maturità for Italian, GCE "A" level or "O" level for Mandarin in Singapore, Tamil & Malay; Secondary Education Certificate for Hindi or other national Indian languages (10th grade minimum), etc.
- **University education (B2 – Business level will be validated)**: Conducted in the language (certification required) or a university major or minor in the language.
- **Certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies** currently known to INSEAD (according to performance): You are free to choose which second language you declare, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the language you choose can be tested (both oral and written) by an [official institution](#).

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If you do not manage to validate the Second language before the start of the programme, by any of the means above, you will be required to do so during the year and before graduation, as it will be required to graduate. As soon as you validate your Second language, please inform the programme management team so they can update your profile.

In case of doubts regarding the declared knowledge on any of the languages, INSEAD reserves the right to request the participant to attend an interview to confirm the knowledge declared.

Useful links:

- [Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD](#)
- [GEMBA Language Policy: Frequently Asked Questions](#)