Language Policy

NB: This Language Policy applies to applicants of the 20J and 20D MBA Classes. For all other MBA Classes, please use this document as a reference only and be sure to contact the MBA Admissions Office for confirmation.

Last revised in October 2018. Please note that this Language Policy document is subject to change regularly and without prior notice.
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INSEAD Language Proficiency Measurement Scale

INSEAD uses a four-level scale which measures language competency. This is in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for language levels (CEFR). Below is a table which indicates the proficiency needed to fulfil INSEAD language requirement.

To be admitted to the MBA Programme, a candidate must be fluent level in English and have at least a practical level of knowledge of a second language. These two languages are referred to as your "Entry languages".

A candidate must also have at least a basic level of understanding of a third language. This will be referred to as "Exit language".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>INSEAD REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native</td>
<td>Ability to communicate spontaneously, very fluently and precisely in more complex situations. <em>Equivalent to C2 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>One only to declare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluent</td>
<td>Ability to communicate very fluently and precisely in complex situations. <em>Equivalent to C1 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>Minimum Required Level for English Proficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Ability to interact with a degree of fluency and communicate on a wide range of subjects including in a professional context. <em>Equivalent to B2 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>Minimum Required Level for Entry Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical</td>
<td>Ability to understand and communicate on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc. <em>Equivalent to B1 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>Minimum Required Level for Exit Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Ability to communicate in a simple and direct exchange of information on routine matters. <em>Equivalent to A2 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>Minimum Required Level for Exit Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner</td>
<td>Ability to communicate in a simple way, using familiar, everyday basic phrases. <em>Equivalent to A1 on CEFR scale.</em></td>
<td>No INSEAD validation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Native Language - Please note the following:

✔ 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 declared native language.

✔ Your native language will automatically be listed in your final transcript and cannot be changed once you have declared it in your application.
Summary of INSEAD Language Requirements

Entry Language Requirement

To start the MBA Programme, there are 2 Entry Language requirements:

- A candidate must be fluent in English
- A candidate must have at least a B1 “Practical” level of knowledge in a second language

The certification requirements will differ for each candidate, depending on whether English is your native language or not.

(More details can be found on Pages 5 & 6.)

Exit Language Requirement

Exit Language validation is a requirement to graduate

You are required to certify an ability to speak a third, commercially useful, language at A2 “Basic” level in order to graduate from the programme.

The Exit language requirement does not need to be certified before the start of the programme (although we strongly recommend that you do). This can be done any time before or during the MBA Programme (only up to the end of P3 if you are taking a test with FL&C).

Please note that if your Exit language requirement has not been fulfilled by the end of the MBA Programme, your MBA diploma will not be awarded at the time of graduation.

(More details can be found on Page 7.)
English Proficiency Certification

If English is **NOT your native language**, then official English certification must be sent with your application.

Only the following methods are considered as acceptable means of certification for English Language proficiency.

- **A UNIVERSITY DEGREE** - a minimum of one full-time academic year, taught exclusively in English, with a diploma received from that host university (An exchange programme does not qualify.)
  
  The transcripts should clearly mention the language of instruction is English to complete an application.

- **TOEFL**
  
  [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

  Internet-based test *(Recommended minimum score: 105)*

  Computerised-based test *(Recommended minimum score: 260)*

  Paper-based test *(Recommended minimum score: 620)*

- **PTE Academic**
  
  [https://pearsonpte.com](http://https://pearsonpte.com) *(Recommended minimum score: 72)*

- **TOEIC**
  
  [www.toeic.com](http://www.toeic.com) Listening & Reading *(Recommended minimum score: 950) AND* Speaking *(Recommended minimum score: 190)* & Writing sections *(Recommended minimum score: 170)*

- **CPE** - Certificate of Proficiency in English
  
  [http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/cpe.htm](http://http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/cpe.htm) *(Recommended minimum score: Grade B)*

- **IELTS Academic**
  
  [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) *(Recommended minimum score: 7.5)*

* To be valid, the acceptable tests above must be **less than two years old**, prior to the application deadline, to which you are applying.

The combination of your native language along with proof of English proficiency is sufficient means to satisfy the 2 Entry language requirement.
Entry Language Requirement

If English IS your native language, we do not require proof to certify your level of English.

To satisfy the 2 Entry language requirement, you will need to provide acceptable means of certification of your second Entry language as soon as possible, with the final deadlines being:

1 June for September intakes
1 November for January intakes

Acceptable means to certify competence for the Entry requirement (other than English):

- **Second native language**
  Examinied only on a case-by-case basis and requires evidence of actual use (i.e. schooling or higher education, not just "language spoken at home", or "mother's/father's native language", or "work experience").

- **Final Secondary School Exam**
  Exam and schooling must be conducted exclusively in the language:
  E.g. Brevet or Baccalauréat to validate French; Immersion programme in Canada; Abitur for German; Maturita for Italian, (for Singaporeans) GCE “A” level or “O” level for Mandarin, Tamil & Malay; Secondary Education Certificate for Hindi or other national Indian languages (10th grade minimum) and for Afrikaans, etc.

- **University education**
  a) Conducted exclusively in the language for a minimum of one full-time academic year (certification required).
  b) A university major in the language (please note a minor is not sufficient).

- **Certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies currently known to INSEAD**
  You are free to choose which Entry/Exit languages you declare, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the languages you choose are compatible and can be tested (both oral and written) by an official institution. Only certificates from official bodies* are recognised as acceptable means of certification for the Entry and Exit language requirement and must be less than 2 years old from the application deadline to which you apply.

  * Please check your private language institution for validation with your Admissions Officer.

- **Written and oral tests with FL&C (by appointment only)**
  Language Evaluation Tests (written and oral) are available by appointment with FL&C. The written test can be taken during INSEAD test sessions (please contact FL&C to know the dates), or in the future student’s country of residence.
  To organise a written test in the country of residence, the future student must find a "Proctor" (e.g.: from a reputable and recognised language school or university). The proctor must be approved by FL&C. Any charges requested by the proctor for their services remain the student’s responsibility. The oral test can be organised either face to face or via Skype. Appointments for tests must be made one month in advance. Test results are sent directly to the MBA Admissions at INSEAD.

According to performance
Exit Language Requirement

In order to make the most of your INSEAD experience, both academically and socially, we strongly encourage you to put as much time and effort into improving your Exit language before the start of the programme.

Exit language validation is a requirement for Graduation

To be eligible for Graduation, students must validate at least A2 “Basic” level of knowledge in a commercially useful language which is the official language of a country other than one's native or Entry language.

*Please note that you cannot change your Exit language once declared to the MBA Admissions Office.*

The Exit requirement can be certified by using the same means available for validating the Entry requirement as detailed on Page 6.

*NB. Students going to Wharton in P5 should plan on certifying their Exit language prior to the exchange in order to fulfil the language requirement in time for graduation.*

*Please note that we take into account linguistic similarities between the Exit language and the declared Entry language.*

*For example INSEAD will not allow the following combinations:*

Danish-Norwegian-Swedish
Finnish-Estonian
Bahasa Indonesia-Bahasa Malaysia
Dutch-Afrikaans
Slovak-Czech
Croatian-Serbian-Bosnian-Macedonian
Mandarin-Cantonese-Taiwanese-Hokkien
Hindi-Urdu
(Several Indian national languages are also linguistically similar – please check with the Admissions Office for confirmation.)
FL&C (Fontainebleau Langues & Communication)

FL&C is INSEAD’s official language training partner for MBA students.

FL&C organises Entry and Exit language tests, working in close collaboration with INSEAD, and particularly with MBA Admissions and the MBA Academic Office, to ensure quality service that meets INSEAD’s standards. Their pedagogy is based on a combination of language and communication skills.

*Entry* language tests and courses taken with FL&C are at your own cost.

*Exit* language tests and group courses taken with FL&C on campus before or during Period 1, Period 2 and Period 3 of the programme are included in your INSEAD MBA tuition fees and are of no extra charge.

Fontainebleau Langues et Communication (FL&C) contact details:

**Mailing Address:**
47, Boulevard du Maréchal Foch
77300 Fontainebleau
France
Tel.: +33 (0) 1 64 22 54 37
[https://flclanguage.wordpress.com/](https://flclanguage.wordpress.com/)

**FL&C Entry language exams contact:**
Sandra Brady
[flcbrady@flc-int.com](mailto:flcbrady@flc-int.com)

**FL&C Fontainebleau Campus Officer:**
Evelyne Felicio
[evelyne.felicio@flc-int.com](mailto:evelyne.felicio@flc-int.com)
*(Present on the INSEAD Fontainebleau Campus, Camembert Meeting Point, every Tuesday and Thursday: 1pm to 2pm)*

**FL&C Singapore Campus Officer:**
Sandra Brady
[flcbrady@flc-int.com](mailto:flcbrady@flc-int.com)
*(FL&C presence on the INSEAD Singapore Campus, every Tuesday and Thursday: midday to 1.30pm)*
FL&C Language Courses Available

Pre-INSEAD Intensive Language Courses on campus
FL&C runs intensive group language courses for French and Spanish in Fontainebleau and Singapore prior to the MBA course, only if there is a minimum of 5 participants of a similar level per course.

N.B. These intensive courses are EXCLUSIVELY for MBA students who wish to validate their declared INSEAD Exit language before the MBA Programme starts.

- For December classes starting in January, intensive courses take place in November/December; for July classes starting in August, intensive courses take place in July/August
- Courses last between 1 to 3 weeks depending on the student's starting level
- Each week of an intensive course is equivalent to one period of lessons
- The Exit language exam is organised on the last day of this Intensive Course and the level awarded is entered on the student's grade transcript

Language Evaluation Tests
If you need or want to take courses with FL&C during your MBA studies, please note this strict condition: Your enrolment in the Language Evaluation Test (LET) session during Launch Week is compulsory (unless you are a complete beginner).

Regular Language Courses on campus
Language courses are offered in 10 languages: Arabic (classic), Dutch, French, German, Italian Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Group language courses are conducted during the first three periods only of the Programme, in addition to MBA classes and workload.
N.B. There are no language courses in Period 4 or Period 5.

Group Courses in French and Spanish are available on both campuses.
German, Italian and Portuguese may also be available in Fontainebleau only depending on the demand within the incoming MBA Class (minimum of 5 participants, of the same language level).

- Groups can be created with a minimum of 5 students of the same level and in the same MBA Section. Very exceptionally some groups may be formed with 3 or 4 students. In this case, FL&C will adjust the number of hours accordingly.
- Each group (minimum of 5 participants) is comprised of 16 sessions of 1.5 hours including an examination at the end of each period.
- The tests at the end of Periods 1 and 2 are compulsory and on a pass/fail format. In the case of a fail, self-study remedial work must be arranged with the language trainer.
- The final test of the course, validating the Exit language (oral and written LET A2 level), is organised at the end of Period 3 and the level awarded is entered on the student's grade transcript.
FL&C Language Courses Available (continued)

Registration for group courses

**When:** Enrolment for group courses (for complete beginners) and/or enrolment for the Language Evaluation Test session during Launch Week (for students who already have some exposure to or knowledge of the language) **must be done when you declare your Exit language to MBA Admissions.**

**How:** You need to register with the relevant FL&C campus officer (see contact details on Page 8).

Once the FL&C Exit test (LET) is taken during Launch Week, if students pass at A2 “basic” level, they have fulfilled the INSEAD Exit language requirements.

If students do not pass, they are put into groups according to level. Group courses comprise three levels. Courses are offered as follows:

- In Period 1 - Beginner 1 level
- In Period 2 - Beginner 2 level
- In Period 3 - Beginner 3 level

*N.B. Only group courses (not individual one-to-ones) are proposed for Exit language students on campus.*

Skype Courses

FL&C also offers **Skype courses** (from 10 to 30 hours depending on the starting level spread evenly over the 3 periods) in the following languages: Arabic (classic), Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese and Russian.

*N.B. Due to the inherent difficulty of reaching the level required in both written and spoken communication, complete beginners are not accepted for Japanese, Mandarin or Russian.*

The final test of the course, validating the Exit language (oral and written LET A2 level), is organised at the end of Period 3 and the level awarded is entered on the student's grade transcript.

Self-study

Students may decide to undertake self-study. However, a test is still required to validate at least A2 “basic” level of knowledge. Students need to contact FL&C if they wish to take the LET. For other tests outlined in Pages 15 to 21, it is the students’ responsibility to contact the appropriate organisations or language schools to organise their own test and send their test certificate results to INSEAD by the language deadline.
Language courses for “Volunteer students”

1. Students who are “complete” or “false” beginners: the Regular Language Programme

Priority for language tuition during the programme is given to students who need to certify the Exit language requirement in order to graduate.

Other students, referred to as “Volunteer Students”, may join group language classes, only if they have already validated their Exit language with INSEAD, and under the following conditions:

- If such groups exist in the chosen language
- If there are places available in the groups
- If these students are in the same MBA Class, same Section and are of the same level as the students in the group

2. Students who have already validated their Exit language at an A2 “basic” level: the P2 Volunteer Language Programme

These classes are specifically designed for MBA Students who have already validated their Exit language at an A2 “basic” level – French or Spanish – and would like to progress to a B1 “practical” level.

These classes are offered exclusively in Period 2 for a maximum of 20 hours of tuition if the following conditions are met:

- The MBA students have already validated their 3rd/Exit language
- There is a minimum of 5 students in the chosen language
- The students have the same language level
- The students are in the same MBA Class, the same section

N.B. As soon as the students have been registered, their participation in all the classes is mandatory.
FL&C Language Tests Available

All FL&C tests accepted by INSEAD include the two obligatory parts: written and oral.

**FL&C tests for 14 languages:** Arabic (classic), Bahasa Indonesian, Bahasa Melayu, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (simplified and traditional), Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

**For the Entry language exams (at your own cost):**

FL&C can validate your Entry language in 14 languages (see list above).

- The **written test** can either take place at FL&C in Fontainebleau, or in your country of residence under the supervision of a “proctor” from a reputable and recognised language school or university, which has been approved by FL&C
- The **oral test** can take place in Fontainebleau (a face-to-face interview) or via Skype

Your score will be sent directly to the INSEAD MBA Admissions Office for validation of your Entry language.

**For the Exit language exams (included in your MBA tuition fees):**

FL&C provides Language Evaluation Tests in 14 languages (see list above) on both the Singapore and Fontainebleau campuses. These Exit language exams are recognised by INSEAD.

FL&C has 3 testing periods for the Exit language:

- **Launch Week** (mandatory for all MBA students except for “complete beginners”)
- **June** (end of P3 for the December Class)
- **February** (end of P3 for the July Class)

Your score will be sent directly to the INSEAD MBA (Academic) Office for validation of your Exit language.
Language Tuition prior to starting the MBA Programme

(List of institutions familiar with INSEAD’s required language standards, in addition to FL&C)

**French Courses**

**Alliance Française** - *Offices Worldwide*
101, Boulevard Raspail
F-75270 Paris, France
Tel.: 33 1 42 84 90 00
Fax: 33 1 42 84 91 01
info@alliancefr.org
www.alliancefr.org

**Alliance Française** – *London Office*
1 Dorset Square
London NW1 6PU, UK
Mickaël Pointecouteau
Course Manager
Tel.: 44 207 723 6439
www.alliancefrancaise.london

**Institut Français de Tel-Aviv**
7, Bd Rothschild – 66881 Tel-Aviv
Evelyne Barbibay
Responsable pédagogique
Tél. : 03-796 80 36
e.barbibay@ambfr-il.org
accueilifta@ambfr-il.org

**Institut Français du Royaume Uni**
Language Centre
14 Cromwell Place
London SW7 2JR, UK
Tel.: 44 207 581 2701
Fax: 44 207 581 0061
Language-centre@ambafrance.org.uk
www.institut-francais.org.uk

**Institut de Français**
23, avenue du Général Leclerc
F - 06230 VILLEFRANCHE SUR MER France
Tel.: 33 (0)4 93 01 88 44
Fax: 33 (0)4 93 76 92 17
info@institutdefrancais.com
www.institutdefrancais.com

**CLE**
7-9, place de Châteauneuf
F - 37000 TOUERS, France
Tel.: 33 (0)2 47 64 06 19
Fax: 33 (0)2 47 05 84 61
contact@cle.fr
http://www.cle.fr

**ELFE: Ecole de Langue Française pour Etrangers**
8, Villa Ballu FR- 75009 Paris
tel: 33 (0)1 48 78 73 00
tax: 33 (0)1 40 82 91 92
www.elfe-paris.com
Language Tuition prior to starting the MBA Programme (continued)

(List of institutions familiar with INSEAD’s required language standards, in addition to FL&C)

**German Courses**

Goethe Institut - Centres Worldwide
Main Administration
Dachauer Strabe
PO Box 19.04.19
D-80637 MÜNCHEN
Tel.: 4989 159 21 0
Fax: 4989 159 21 450
zv@goethe.de
http://www.goethe.de

International House Freiburg
LGS Sprachkurse
Werderring 18
D-79098 FREIBURG, Germany
Tel.: 49761 34751
Fax: 49761 382476
info@ihfreiburg.de
www.international-house-freiburg.de

HSF – Heidelberger Sprachinstitut
Bergheimer Strabe 25
D-69115 HEIDELBERG, Germany
Tel.: 496221 587 8865
Fax: 496221 587 8869
info@hsf.de
http://www.hsf.de

**Spanish Courses**

Instituto Cervantes - Offices worldwide
Sede Central Palacio de la Trinidad
Francisco Silvela, 82
E-28028 Madrid, Spain
Tel.: 34 91 436 7600
Fax: 34 91 436 7691
www.cervantes.es

Las Lilas School
180B Bencoolen Street #08-01/02/05
The Bencoolen (Office Tower)
Singapore 189648
T: +65 6333 3484
F: +65 6333 3241
enquiries@laslilasschool.com
http://www.laslilasschool.com/

EEC (Escuela de Español y Cultura Latinoamerica)
Calle Mariano de los Santos 120
San Isidro, Lima - Peru
Tel.: 51 1 934 73116
www.eec-spanishschool.com

Condor Spanish Academy
603/267 Castlereagh St.
Sydney - Australia
info@condorspanish.com
http://www.condorspanish.com/

Centro Alpha
Buenos Aires Argentina
Tel.: 54 11 4962 9040
capacitacion@centroalpha.com.ar
www.centroalpha.com.ar
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD

Please find below language certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies currently known to INSEAD. If your language testing institution is not listed below, please contact your Admissions Officer.

To be accepted as a recognised test, please note the following:

- Only certificates from official bodies are recognised as acceptable means of certification for the Entry and Exit language requirements.
- All certificates must be less than 2 years old prior to the application deadline to which you apply.
- To validate a test, it must include all 4 sections: Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking.

ACTFL with LTI (Language Testing International) – available in over 100 languages (English tests not acceptable for INSEAD purposes) – tests administered in over 40 countries (not on INSEAD campuses).

HOW CANDIDATES SHOULD ORDER TESTS
Candidates should go to www.languagetesting.com, mouse over “Sign In,” and click on “Test Candidates.” From there simply follow the menu to order your test.

NB: For the OPI, missed appointments will result in a $55 missed appointment fee. If candidates need to cancel an appointment, please contact LTI at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the test to avoid any cost.

Both a Speaking Test (OPI; OPlc; ProFluent+) and a Writing Test (WPT) are compulsory for INSEAD purposes.
- At least an “Intermediate Mid” level in both tests is required to validate an Entry language.
- An “Intermediate Low” level in both tests is accepted to validate an Exit language.
- You should take the “Certified” Test for validating your languages with INSEAD (not the “Commercial” Test).

We recommend the OPlc Speaking Test (interview by computer, live and online for 13 languages) as appointments are more flexible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTFL</th>
<th>CEFR</th>
<th>INSEAD level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Low.......</td>
<td>A1+/A2....</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Mid &amp; Mid</td>
<td>B1.........</td>
<td>Practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Low &amp; Advanced</td>
<td>B2.........</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced High &amp; Superior</td>
<td>C1/C2.....</td>
<td>Fluent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TELC The European Language Certificates – available in 9 languages (German, Turkish, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Czech, Arabic - English tests not acceptable for INSEAD purposes) – tests administered in 17 countries. http://www.tels.net/en/home/

ECL European Consortium for the Certificate of Attainment in Modern Languages – available in 14 languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish - English tests not acceptable for INSEAD purposes) – tests administered in 26 European countries, plus the USA and Argentina. http://eclexam.eu
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD (continued)

The following tests are also accepted:

Arabic
  INSEAD level
  - Intermediate Low…………………………………………………………………………………………………. Basic
  - Intermediate Mid & Intermediate High……………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - Advanced Low & Advanced Mid……………………………………………………………………………… Business
  - Advanced High & Superior……………………………………………………………………………………… Fluent

  NB: Students MUST pass sections 4 (Writing) & 5 (Speaking) at a minimum of “Intermediate Low” to validate at an A2 level

Danish
- Danish Language Testing Consortium (DLTC)  
  INSEAD level
  - Prove i Dansk 1……………………………………………………………………………………………………… Basic
  - Prove i Dansk 2……………………………………………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - Prove i Dansk 3……………………………………………………………………………………………………… Business
  - Studieprøven…………………………………………………………………………………………………………… Fluent

Dutch
- CITOgroep [www.cito.nl](http://www.cito.nl)  
  INSEAD level
  - NT2.1 (Staatsexamen Nederlands als Tweede Taal Examen 1)……………………………………………… Business
  - NT2.2 (Staatsexamen Nederlands als Tweede Taal Examen 2)……………………………………………… Fluent

- CNAVT Certificaat Nederlands als Vreemde Taal [www.cnavt.org](http://www.cnavt.org)  
  INSEAD level
  - Maatschappelijk Informeel (former PTIT)………………………………………………………………………… Basic
  - Maatschappelijk Formeel (former PMT)…………………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - PPT (Profiel Professionele Taalvaardigheid)………………………………………………………………………… Business
  - Educatief Startbekwaam (former PTHO)……………………………………………………………………………… Business
  - Educatief Professioneel (former PAT)………………………………………………………………………………… Fluent

Finnish
- National Certificate of Language Proficiency (NCLP / YKI) -  
  [http://www.oph.fi/english/services/yki](http://www.oph.fi/english/services/yki)  
  INSEAD level
  - Basic level 2 (perustaso)…………………………………………………………………………………………… Basic
  - Intermediate level 3 (keskitaso)……………………………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - Intermediate level 4 (keskitaso)………………………………………………………………………………………… Business
  - Advanced level 5 and 6 (ylin taso)……………………………………………………………………………………….. Fluent
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD (continued)

French

- DELF and DALF [http://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf](http://www.ciep.fr/delf-dalf) INSEAD level
  - DELF A2 - Diplôme d’Etudes en Langue Française................................. Basic
  - DELF B1................................................................. Practical
  - DELF B2................................................................. Business
  - DALF C1- Diplôme Approfondi de la Langue Française........................ Fluent
  - DALF C2.................................................................... Fluent

- Test de Connaissance du Français (TCF) [http://www.ciep.fr/tcf/](http://www.ciep.fr/tcf/) INSEAD level
  - Epreuves obligatoires, global score 250 (level 2)
  - and Epreuves Facultatives 7/20....................................................... Basic
  - Epreuves obligatoires, global score 350 (level 3)
  - and Epreuves Facultatives 11/20....................................................... Practical
  - Epreuves obligatoires, global score 450 (level 4)
  - and Epreuves Facultatives 15/20....................................................... Business
  - Epreuves obligatoires, global score 550 (level 5)
  - and Epreuves Facultatives 17/20....................................................... Fluent

  - We require the Epreuves obligatoires (total sur 900)
  - plus Expression écrite (total sur 450) and Expression orale (total sur 450)
  - The e.tef is acceptable only if it includes the speaking component (Expression orale).
  - TEF Niveau 2......................................................................................... Basic
  - TEF Niveau 3......................................................................................... Practical
  - TEF Niveau 4......................................................................................... Business
  - TEF Niveau 5......................................................................................... Fluent
  - TEF Niveau 6......................................................................................... Fluent

- Institut Français de Tel Aviv
  7 Bd Rothschild – 66881 Tel-Aviv [accueilifta@ambfr-il.org](mailto:accueilifta@ambfr-il.org)

- Alliance Française de Londres
  1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU, UK [www.alliancefrancaise.london](http://www.alliancefrancaise.london)

German

- Goethe Institut [http://www.goethe.de](http://www.goethe.de) INSEAD level
  - Start Deutsch 2 (SD2)................................................................. Basic
  - Goethe Zertifikat (B1)................................................................. Practical
  - Goethe Zertifikat (B2)................................................................. Business
  - Zertifikat Deutsch für den Beruf (ZDB)........................................ Business
  - Prüfung Wirtschaftsdeutsch (PWD).............................................. Fluent
  - Goethe Zertifikat (C1)................................................................. Fluent
  - Goethe Zertifikat (C2: GDS)........................................................ Fluent

- Test Deutsch als Fremdsprache TestDaF [http://www.testdaf.de](http://www.testdaf.de) INSEAD level
  - TDN 3............................................................................................... Business
  - TDN 4............................................................................................... Business-Fluent
  - TDN 5................................................................................................ Fluent

- Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang (DSH)
  - DSH 1............................................................................................... Business
  - DSH 2............................................................................................... Business-Fluent
  - DSH 3................................................................................................ Fluent
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD (continued)

Greek
- Centre for the Greek Language
  **INSEAD level**
  - Level A. ................................................................. Basic
  - Level B. ................................................................. Practical
  - Level C. ................................................................. Business
  - Level D. ................................................................. Fluent

Italian
- CILS – Certificazione di Italiano come Lingua Straniera
  Università per Stranieri di Siena [www.unistrasi.it](http://www.unistrasi.it)
  **INSEAD level**
  - CILS A2. ................................................................. Basic
  - CILS UNO B1. ............................................................ Practical
  - CILS DUE B2. ............................................................. Business
  - CILS TRE C1. ............................................................. Fluent
  - CILS QUATTRO C2. ...................................................... Fluent

- CELI – Certificazione di conoscenza della Lingua Italiana
  CVCL (Centro per la Valutazione e le Certificazioni Linguistiche [www.cvcl.it](http://www.cvcl.it))
  Università per Stranieri di Perugia [www.unistrapg.it](http://www.unistrapg.it)
  Italian language school Porta d’Oriente [www.porta-doriente.com](http://www.porta-doriente.com)
  **INSEAD level**
  - CELI 1. ........................................................................ Basic
  - CELI 2. ........................................................................ Practical
  - CELI 3. ........................................................................ Business
  - CELI 4. ........................................................................ Fluent
  - CELI 5. ........................................................................ Fluent

Japanese
- Business Japanese Proficiency Test (BJT)
  [www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/english](http://www.kanken.or.jp/bjt/english)
  **INSEAD level**
  - J4. ................................................................................ Basic
  - J3. ................................................................................ Practical
  - J2. ................................................................................ Business
  - J1+/J1. ........................................................................ Fluent

  Japan Foundation & Japan Education Exchanges and Services
  **INSEAD level**
  - Level N4. ........................................................................ Basic
  - Level N3. ........................................................................ Practical
  - Level N2. ........................................................................ Business
  - Level N1. ........................................................................ Fluent
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD (continued)

Korean
- KLAT Korean Language Ability Test [www.kets.or.kr](http://www.kets.or.kr)  
  Level 2 (250 - 295)………………………………………………………………… Basic
  Level 3 (300 - 345)………………………………………………………………… Practical
  Level 4 (350 - 395)………………………………………………………………… Business
  Level 5 (400 - 445)………………………………………………………………… Fluent
  Level 6 (450 - 500)………………………………………………………………… Fluent
- TOPIK - Test of Proficiency in Korean [www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr)  
  Level 2………………………………………………………………………… Basic
  Level 3………………………………………………………………………… Practical
  Level 4………………………………………………………………………… Business
  Level 5………………………………………………………………………… Fluent
  Level 6………………………………………………………………………… Fluent

Mandarin
- HSK - Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi - State Commission of Chinese Proficiency Test [www.chinesetest.cn](http://www.chinesetest.cn) (simplified Chinese only)
  (We require the writing and speaking tests of the HSK)
  HSK Writing Test: HSK Speaking Test:  
  Level III……………………………….. HSK (Intermediate Level)…………… Basic
  Level IV……………………………….. HSK (Intermediate Level)…………… Practical
  Level V………………………………… HSK (Advanced Level)……………… Business
  Level VI……………………………….. HSK (Advanced Level)……………… Fluent

Norwegian
- Skills Norway [https://www.kompetansenorge.no/](http://www.kompetansenorge.no/)  
  Level A2 (old Norskprøve 2)……………………………………………………… Basic
  Level B1 (old Norskprøve 3)……………………………………………………… Practical
  Level B2……………………………………………………………………………… Business
  Level C1……………………………………………………………………………… Fluent
- Norskkurs ‘The Bergen Test’ [https://www.folkeuniversitetet.no/](http://www.folkeuniversitetet.no/)  
  Grunnivaa Litt Ovet A2………………………………………………………… Basic
  Mellomnivaa B1…………………………………………………………………… Practical
  Hoeyere Mellomnivaa B2………………………………………………………… Business
  Hoeyere Nivaa C1………………………………………………………………… Fluent
List of Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD (continued)

Portuguese

- Centro de Avaliação de Português Língua Estrangeira – CAPLE - Universidade de Lisboa (UL)
  http://caple.letras.ulisboa.pt/  
  INSEAD level
  CIPLE (Certificado Inicial de Português Língua Estrangeira) Basic
  DEPLE (Diploma Elementar de Portugues Língua Estrangeira) Practical
  DIPEL (Diploma Intermediário de Portugues Língua Estrangeira) Business
  DAPLE (Diploma Avançado de Portugues Língua Estrangeira) Fluent
  DUPLE (Diploma Universitário de Portugues Língua Estrangeira) Fluent

- CELPE – BRAS (Certificado de Proficiência em Língua Portuguesa para Estrangeiros)
  http://portal.mec.gov.br/sesu/celpe  
  INSEAD level
  Certificado Intermediário Basic
  Certificado Intermediário Superior Practical
  Certificado Avançado Business
  Certificado Avançado Superior Fluent

Russian

- TORFL (TRKI) – Test of Russian as a Foreign Language
  St Petersburg State University - Russian Language and Culture Institute
  www.russian4foreigners.spbu.ru  
  INSEAD level
  TORFL Basic Basic
  TORFL – 1 Practical
  TORFL – 2 Business
  TORFL – 3 Fluent

- Russian for Everyday Communication
  The State Pushkin Institute of Russian Language www.pushkin.edu.ru  
  INSEAD level
  A2 – Waystage Basic
  B1 – Threshold Practical
  B2 – Vantage Business
  C1 – Effective operational proficiency Fluent
  C2 – Mastery Fluent

- Russian for Business Communication
  The State Pushkin Institute of Russian Language www.pushkin.edu.ru  
  INSEAD level
  B1 – Threshold / Fundamental Level Practical
  B2 – Vantage / Intermediate Level Business
  C1 – Effective operational proficiency / Advanced Level Fluent
  C2 – Mastery Fluent
Spanish

- DELE – Diploma de Espanol como Lengua Extranjera* [www.dele.org]
  Instituto Cervantes [www.cervantes.es]  INSEAD level
  - DELE – Nivel A2……………………………………………………………………… Basic
  - DELE – Inicial Nivel B1………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - DELE – Intermedio Nivel B2………………………………………………………… Business
  - DELE – Nivel C1……………………………………………………………………… Fluent
  - DELE – Superior Nivel C2…………………………………………………………… Fluent
* Test results available ONLY after a 3-4 month delay

- SIELE – Servicio Internacional de Evaluacion de la lengua Espagnola [https://siele.org/siele-para-todos]
  INSEAD level
  - SIELE – Nivel A2……………………………………………………………………… Basic
  - SIELE – Inicial Nivel B1………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - SIELE – Intermedio Nivel B2………………………………………………………… Business
  - SIELE – Nivel C1……………………………………………………………………… Fluent
  - SIELE – Superior Nivel C2…………………………………………………………… Fluent

- DIE - Diplôme Internacional de Español** [FIDESCU http://www.fidescu.org]
  INSEAD level
  - D.I.E. – Intermedio written and oral exam Level 5 or 6 / Diploma Inicial………………………………………………………………….. Basic
  - D.I.E. – Avanzado written and oral exam Level 7 or 8
    Diploma Pre – Avanzado………………………………………………………………… Practical
  - D.I.E. – Avanzado written and oral exam Level 9
    Diploma Avanzado / Diploma Intermedio………………………………………… Business
  - D.I.E. – Superior written and oral exam Level 9 –
    Diploma Pre – Superior Diploma Superior……………………………………… Fluent
** Test results available ONLY after 2 months delay

- Instituto Hispania in India [http://www.institutohispania.com/]
  INSEAD level
  - D.I.E. – Diploma Inicial (level 3)………………………………………………. Basic
  - D.I.E. – Diploma Pre-Avanzado (level 4)………………………………………. Practical
  NB: The “certificado Basico” IS NOT ACCEPTED BY INSEAD

- Las Lilas School & Corporate Services (in Singapore only) [http://www.laslilasschool.com]
  INSEAD level
  - Las Lilas Diploma - Lower Intermediate…………………………………………. Basic
  - Las Lilas Diploma - Higher Intermediate……………………………………….. Practical
  - Las Lilas Diploma - Advanced…………………………………………………… Business
  - Las Lilas Diploma - Proficiency…………………………………………………… Fluent

Swedish

- Swedex – international certificate of Swedish as a foreign language [http://www.folkuniversitetet.se/In-English/Swedex_In_English/]
  INSEAD level
  - A2 – Basic User…………………………………………………………………. Basic
  - B1 – Independent User…………………………………………………………… Practical
  - B2 – Independent User…………………………………………………………… Business
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the language of instruction at INSEAD?
English is the language of instruction at INSEAD. You need to be fluent in English to apply to the MBA programme. Acceptable valid English proof must be sent with your application for it to be considered as complete before your admissions evaluation starts. (See page 5 of the Language Policy.)

How and when do I prove fluency in English?
When: The Admissions Office requires valid English proof to consider an application as complete to start the selection process. (See page 5 of the Language Policy.)

How: You can demonstrate English fluency:
- Either with a university degree (a minimum of one full-time academic year with a diploma received from that host university) where all courses were taught exclusively in English. (An exchange programme does not qualify.) If your university degree was exclusively taught in English but in a non-English speaking country, please make sure that your transcripts clearly mention the language of instruction is English to complete your application
- Or by taking one of the following English tests and aiming for the recommended scores in brackets hereafter: TOEFL (internet-based test: 105, computer-based test: 260, paper-based test: 620); TOEIC (all 4 sections) Listening & Reading (950), Speaking (190) & Writing (170); IELTS Academic (7.5); CPE (B); PTE Academic (72). These tests have a validity period of 2 years prior to the application deadline to which you are applying. (See page 3 of the Language Policy.)

Do I require any languages other than English to apply and be admitted to the programme?
No, you do not need to have validated another language other than English to apply and be admitted. However, to make the most of your INSEAD MBA programme, we strongly encourage you to put as much time and effort into improving your Entry and Exit languages before the start of the programme.

Do I require any languages other than English to start the programme?
Yes, you need to prove at least a B1 “practical” level of a second language (referred to as “Entry language”) to be able to start the programme. This can be your native language for non-English native speakers, for which we do not require proof. (See page 6 of the Language Policy.)

If I am an English native speaker, how and when do I have to provide certification for my Entry language?
You need to provide acceptable certification no later than 1 June for the September intake (July Class) and 1 November for the January intake (December Class). (See page 6 of the Language Policy.) We recommend that you work on satisfying this Entry requirement as soon as you hear about your acceptance to the programme, if not earlier. Please make sure that your Entry & Exit languages are compatible (see page 7 of the Language Policy) and can be tested (both oral and written) by a recognised institution.
Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

Do you have an official language partner school?
Yes, the partner institution for language tuition and testing is FL&C in Fontainebleau.
For test scheduling, recommended books and more information on language instructors, please contact them directly: https://flclanguage.wordpress.com/ (Full contact details for FL&C can be found on page 8 of the Language Policy.)

Am I required to have some knowledge of a third language?
Yes, you need to prove at least an A2 “basic” level of a third language (referred to as “Exit language”) before or during the programme. We recommend that you work on satisfying this graduation requirement as soon as you hear about your acceptance, due to the intensity of the programme. (See page 7 of the Language Policy.)

How and when do I certify the Exit language?
The Exit language can be certified with FL&C before the start of the programme, during Launch Week or at the end of Period 3. (Other acceptable certification is listed in the Language Policy, pages 6-7.)

What is meant by "fluent", “business”, “practical” and "basic" knowledge of a language?
"Fluent" knowledge (C1 on the CEFR scale) is the ability to communicate very fluently and precisely in complex situations and is the minimum level required to prove English proficiency.
"Business" knowledge (B2 on the CEFR scale) is the ability to interact with a degree of fluency and communicate on a wide range of subjects including in a professional context.
"Practical" knowledge (B1 on the CEFR scale) is the ability to understand and communicate on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. and is the minimum level required for the Entry language.
"Basic" knowledge (A2 on the CEFR scale) is the ability to communicate in a simple and direct exchange of information on routine matters and is the minimum required for the Exit language. (See page 3 of the Language Policy.)

What do I need to do to declare my languages?
Once accepted, you will be asked by the MBA Admissions Office to confirm your Entry and Exit languages you will use to satisfy the INSEAD language requirements.

Do I need to send proof of proficiency for my native language?
No, certification is not required for your native language. However, once you have declared your native language in your application, it will not be possible to change it, as it will automatically be listed in your final transcript.

How does INSEAD define a native language?
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.
Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

I took one of the official language tests accepted by INSEAD prior to application. Can it certify the requirement?
Yes, provided that the test is taken within two years of your application to INSEAD. Beyond the two year validity period, you will need to either re-sit for the test or arrange to take a test with our language partner FL&C.

I studied abroad in Germany for one academic year in 2001. Would this meet the Entry/Exit language certification for German?
Yes, university studies abroad (a minimum of one full-time academic year, where instruction is conducted exclusively in the language) or final secondary school exam, or high school leaving certificate (where exam and schooling must be conducted exclusively in the language) are accepted and do not have limited validity dates. (See page 6 of the Language Policy.)

Can elective courses at university certify the Entry or Exit language other than English?
No, elective courses at university are not sufficient means of certification. However, a university degree major is an acceptable means of certification (a minor is not sufficient).

Although Spanish is not my native tongue, I’ve lived and worked in Spain for many years. Am I still required to prove my language proficiency?
Yes, you will still be required to provide us with acceptable proof/certification of your language proficiency. (See page 6 of the Language Policy.)

Can I declare a second native language?
Yes you may, but please note that this is accepted only on a case-by-case review and requires evidence of actual use (i.e., high school leaving certificate or higher education). (See page 6 of the Language Policy.)

If I have no training in the language, do I need to take a test in order to demonstrate a Beginner level in the Exit language?
No, if you have absolutely no knowledge in the language, you can register for on-campus language tuition without taking a placement test and start language courses for “complete beginners” in Period 1.

Can I take a language exam for the Exit requirement before the MBA Programme begins?
Yes, you can take any of the recognised tests listed in the Language Policy or take a test on campus during Launch Week with our language partner, FL&C. (See contact details on page 8 of the Language Policy.)
Are there any restrictions on the choice of Entry and Exit languages?
Yes there are certain restrictions:
   a) Your chosen Entry and Exit languages must be languages that are officially recognised in different countries
   b) Your chosen Entry and Exit languages must be linguistically different from each other *(See page 7 of the Language Policy.)*

Is it possible to change my Exit language after having informed the Admissions Office?
Please note that you cannot change the Exit language that you declared to the Admissions Office, as the information will be used when assigning you to a study group to facilitate the scheduling of classes.

I would like to take the language test during Launch Week when I arrive. How do I register?
You need to register with FL&C *(see contact details on page 8 of the Language Policy)* after declaring your Exit language with the MBA Admissions Office. This is a prerequisite to attend the exam.

I would like to take the language test before Launch Week. How do I register?
FL&C offers tests in 14 languages: Arabic (classic), Bahasa Indonesian, Bahasa Melayu, Dutch, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (simplified and traditional), Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. To arrange for a test, please contact FL&C directly. *(See contact details on page 8 of the Language Policy.)*

Is the Exit language test during Launch Week only a written test?
The test includes written and oral components; you will first take a written test – if you succeed in obtaining 50% or more, you will be called for an oral test within two weeks. The oral and written scores are averaged to obtain the final grade/level.

If I pass the Exit language test conducted during Launch Week, am I still required to take language tuition?
No, if you score 50 or above, you will have achieved a "basic" A2 level and will have automatically satisfied the Exit language requirement; no further language tuition is required.

Are language classes available and is it included in the curriculum?
Language classes are provided on campus by our language partner school FL&C, from Period 1 to Period 3. Classes are arranged around your MBA schedule. Exit language courses and tests are included in the MBA tuition fees.

Can I take additional language classes, on top of what is required?
Yes as a "volunteer student", but please note that priority in language tuition is given to students who need to certify the Exit language requirement in order to graduate. "Volunteer students" may join language classes only if they have already validated their Exit language, and if there are places available in the existing groups. *(See page 11 of the Language Policy.)*