

Nationally and Interstate Assessed Languages (NIAL)

Overview

NIAL provides the opportunity for students to receive recognition of their language skills where they speak a language other than English at home. NIAL languages are all Level 3 courses, can contribute 15 TCE credit points towards the TCE and can attract a TE Score and associated ATAR.

There are two types of languages that come under the term NIAL:

- Collaborative Curriculum and Assessed Framework for Languages (CCAFL)
- Borrowed languages

The 30 current CCAFL languages are based on a national framework and collaboratively developed by language specialists from across Australia. Each of the CCAFL languages has a designated 'host state' which is responsible for the administering and marking of the final exams. A list of all the CCAFL languages is attached for reference.

CCAFL exams emphasise [Language] in the Australian context. This means that students who have a high level of skill in a language because they have background or first language skills may need to develop their "Australian" vocabulary further to adequately address questions in the exam.

Interstate assessed languages are ones developed and accredited by a different regulatory body in the same way as the five language courses accredited by TASC. TASC writes to the other jurisdictions and requests permission to 'borrow' the exams for Tasmanian students to sit.

There is no designated class time for students enrolled in NIAL languages in Tasmania. There is also no requirement for internal assessment or for inclusion on school reports. However, students will need to undertake self-directed study and they may choose to arrange their own tutor throughout the school year in order to prepare for their end-of-year exam.

There are two components to all NIAL exams except Chinese (Background Speakers): an oral exam and a written exam. Chinese (Background Speakers) consists of only a written exam.

Suitability

NIAL courses are best suited to learners who already have strong skills in reading, writing and speaking a language, either as a background speaker or having extensively studied the language. These courses require that a learner have had at least 200 hours of instruction in the language. They are not suitable for beginners.

Responsibilities

TASC

- TASC is responsible for liaising with the other jurisdictions at all stages of the NIAL process
- TASC will distribute course documents to students and TLOs
- TASC will order the exam materials from the other jurisdictions and distribute them to schools
- TASC will communicate exam dates and times to students and TLOs
- TASC is responsible for returning the completed exam papers to the other jurisdictions for assessing.

Schools

- Schools are responsible for enrolling students in their chosen languages via TRACS via a NIAL Admin task type
- Schools are responsible for ensuring that students have a copy of the course documents and understand what is expected of them and how to prepare for the exam
- Schools are responsible for confirming that students are aware of their exam date and time
- Schools are responsible for providing a room and supervisor for the students when sitting their exams
- Schools will need to return the completed exam papers to TASC within two business days of the exam being completed. This includes a digital copy sent by email and the physical paper sent by post.

Students

- Students are responsible for organising their self-directed study and exam preparation
- Students are responsible for organising a private tutor if required
- Students are required to follow all TASC exam requirements while undertaking NIAL exams.

Process

- TLOs can enrol students in NIAL exams between 31 January and 24 March. This is done through TRACS using the NIAL task type and providing the students' names, TASC IDs and chosen languages.
- Students can still be enrolled after 24 March but this is subject to the host state's capacity to assess additional exams.
- Once approval has been received from the host state, all relevant course documents will be provided to the students by email and to the TLO through TRACS.

- Exams occur in October and November.
- Exam dates and times will be distributed in the same way as course documents, via email and TRACS, and they will also be published on the TASC website as part of the exam timetable.
- It is the school's responsibility to organise a room and supervisor for the student exams.
- Once the exam has been completed, teachers are required to scan and email a copy of the exam paper to tasc.assessment.team@tasc.tas.gov.au and then post the original to the TASC offices within 2 working days of the exam being completed.
- The host states will mark the exams and provide the results to TASC for processing and distribution along with results for TASC-accredited courses.

For a full list of the available languages through NIAL, please refer to the [NIAL](#) page on the TASC website.

Guides for determining suitability

Written exam

Can the student listen to and identify information related to the context, purpose and audience of a text as well as identify information related to aspects of language such as tone, register and knowledge of language structures?

Can the students use spoken texts to respond to a range of questions such as completing a table, chart, list or form, or responding to a message, open-ended questions or multiple-choice items?

Can the student demonstrate understanding of written texts by comparing/contrasting, extracting, summarising and/or evaluating information from the texts?

Can the student demonstrate understanding of written texts by responding in [Language] to information provided in the texts?

Some questions will be phrased in English for a response in English and some will be phrased in English for a response in [Language].

Can the student express ideas through the creation of original text in [Language]?

Can the student write a text in [Language] which involves the presentation of ideas, information and/or opinions?

The question will be phrased in English and [Language] for a response in [Language].

Questions will be related to one of the prescribed themes (themes are listed in the relevant course document).

Oral exam

Can the student hold a general conversation in [Language] about their personal world? E.g., school and home life, family and friends, interests and aspirations.

Can the student undertake a depth study of a prescribed topic throughout the year and present their information in [Language] and then hold a discussion on their study and be prepared to clarify points where required?

Please note that the prescribed themes/topics will vary depending on whether it is a CCAFL language or an interstate language.

List of CCAFL languages

Armenian
Auslan
Bengali
Bosnian
Chin Hakha
Chinese in Context
Croatian
Dutch
Filipino
Hebrew
Hindi
Hungarian
Japanese in Context
Karen
Khmer
Korean in Context
Macedonian
Malay (Background Speakers)
Persian
Polish
Portuguese
Punjabi
Romanian
Russian (Continuers)
Serbian
Sinhala
Swedish
Tamil
Turkish
Yiddish

List of common interstate languages

Spanish
Vietnamese
Chinese (Background Speakers)
Korean
Modern Greek

Please ask TASC if you are interested in a language that is not listed.