



This Orientation Module is for **Year 11 students** studying a language at NSW School of Languages.

Year 11 Orientation Module:

Module 1 – Beginners/In Context Course Orientation

Module Overview

Let's get started! Welcome to NSW School of Languages. We are pleased that you have chosen to learn a language through distance education and we hope that you enjoy and do well in this course.

This module includes information about your course and a variety of tasks which you are required to complete, including:

- an introduction to your course and the NSL Student Guides
- cybersafety and digital responsibilities
- information about submitting work, speaking lessons and attending lesson days
- information about the syllabus and assessment information
- strategies to manage your time
- some tips on how to be a successful language learner
- collaborate with your classmates in an online discussion

We hope that you will enjoy your journey of learning about the French language and the cultures of French-speaking communities around the world.



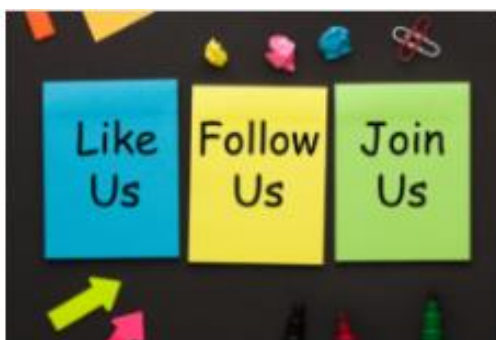
Module 1.1 Introduction

Canvas is the platform where you will access your language work and materials. Here are some points you will need to know:

- Ensure you have access to a computer/laptop or device and a high-speed internet connection for best performance
- Use the Google Chrome browser
- The Canvas App for Students is available for free on Apple App Store or Google Play (the use of the Canvas App is not mandatory and may not provide access to all features of your course)
- Download a scanning app, such as [CamScanner](#) or [Office Lens](#), to scan your work completed on paper and upload into Canvas for marking.

Advise your supervisor and your NSW School of Languages teacher immediately if you have any problems or difficulties accessing your Canvas course.

Read our ***School Guide for Students*** for more specific information about your language studies at NSL.



Check out the [NSL website](#) regularly for information and news, assessment notices, school forms and policy documents.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with what's happening at NSL!

Module 1.2 Cybersafety and Digital Citizenship

NSW School of Languages promotes cybersafety and digital citizenship.

Cybersafety is about understanding how to stay safe and protected when using the internet and digital technologies.

Digital citizenship is about understanding how to use digital technologies responsibly, critically and proactively to contribute to our digital society in a positive way.

NSW School of Languages rejects bullying, including cyberbullying, in all its forms. All incidents of bullying involving NSL students will be taken seriously and will be dealt with according to the disciplinary procedures set out in NSW School of Languages' policies and agreement:

- the Technology related policies and information
- the Cyber-smart Guide for Families
- NSL Acceptable Use Digital Technologies Agreement



Complete the steps below to confirm that you have read and understood the technology related policies and information package, Cyber-smart Guide for Families and sign the agreement.

Step 1 Download:

Download these [3 documents from the NSL website](#) and show these to your parents/carers. Sign off to confirm that you have read and understood the technology related policies and information package and Cyber-smart Guide for Families when you have logged in to Canvas.

Step 2 Sign:

Agree to the terms and conditions on page 2 of the NSL Acceptable Use Digital Technologies Agreement. Save the document on your computer/device, ensuring that you have typed in your first and last name in the file name.

Step 3 Upload:



Upload your signed agreement when you have logged in to Canvas.

Module 1.3 About your course

Well done on choosing to study the language as a subject! This course introduces the fundamentals of grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary as well as a selection of expressions so that you can start speaking the language immediately!

Units and Modules

The Year 11 course comprises of 24 Modules which are categorised into Units of learning. Each module includes a week of language learning activities. The course schedule outlines the modules and dates when each module is due for completion.

Focus Tasks

These tasks are essential to your learning and each week you will take a step towards completing and submitting your Focus Task.

Assessments

All Assessment information and important links can be found in the Assessment block on the homepage of your course. Take a moment now to read this page very carefully and visit every website provided when you have logged in to Canvas.

How well did you understand the NSL Assessment information and NESA syllabus information for your course? It is important to understand these two documents, including the assessment organisation grid on page 2 of your [Assessment Information booklet](#) and the objectives, prescribed topics, text types and syllabus terms in the NESA Beginners syllabus.



Complete the **quiz** on your Assessment Information booklet and NESA syllabus for your course when you have logged into Canvas.

Don't forget to complete the Assessment Information Sign Off on the Assessment page. This is **mandatory** for all students and will be checked and followed up by teachers of the course.

Module 1.4 Lesson Days

Each term you will be invited to attend a lesson day for your course at the NSW School of Languages. You will need to obtain written permission from your parents/carers and principal/supervisor to attend the lesson day.

The Lesson Days block on the homepage of your course is where you will find:

- lesson day permission slips
- the location and map link to the NSL website
- a downloadable folder which contains the lesson day material
- You will receive a notification once the permission slip has been uploaded to Canvas. Make sure you always read notifications that appear on your screen in Canvas.

The lesson day event will also appear in your Canvas calendar.

We look forward to meeting you and we hope you enjoy visiting NSL and meeting your fellow classmates in person at Petersham!



1.5 Tips to become a successful language learner



Learning a language takes persistence, and you'll make mistakes along the way. Remember, it's OK to make mistakes. Use your mistakes to learn, improve and grow. Here are some tips which may help you on your language learning journey.

Managing your time!

While you are studying your language course, there will be many competing demands made on your time, so it is important that you know how to manage your time effectively.

"We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act but a habit" - Aristotle

Make a habit of doing things well, to the best of your ability, and of making a positive difference in your every interaction in the world. How do you use your time?

Consider your own use of time in general, and practise planning how to use your study time in the most effective way.

It is important to be aware of the way your own body clock works and knowing when and how you work best can help you study most efficiently.

Planning your week

To study effectively you will need to set aside specific periods of time for independent study as well as completing tasks for submitting. You will need to balance this with your commitments. Some compromises may be necessary, but it is not a good idea to study all of the time, as you will tend to work less effectively if you don't take time to relax.

Managing other demands on your time

When you organise your time for course work and independent study, there may be a conflict with the time you give to other things in your life. It is important to know how you use your time and to be able to identify what other demands on your time there are. These are the first steps towards planning how to manage your own time most efficiently.

Think about your daily life and identify the kinds of commitments that might compete with study time.

Which of the following do you need to balance your time between:

- Social commitments (going out with friends)
- Leisure interests (sports)
- Family commitments (visiting relatives)
- Work commitments (part-time job)
- Domestic life (helping around the house, shopping)

It is important to balance your time between different commitments to ensure that you have time to relax as well as time to study.

We live busy lives of socialising, work and study so we need sleep to repair and restore our muscles, tissues and memory! But we also need sleep to support our emotional, mental and physical selves.

You can de-stress by going for a walk, listening to music or even taking a quick nap for some extra energy. Long term stress isn't good for anyone and developing good habits now will help you to better manage your studies and stressful situations in the future. Make a note of how you can ensure that you have strategies to cope with your studies and routine.

Module 1.6 Speaking Lessons

When you learn a new language, you discover a new culture. You learn to see things from a different point of view. It also means learning more about yourself and communicating your ideas and opinions in the language.

To communicate well, you will need to practise your speaking skills regularly and maintain contact with your teacher. Speaking Lessons take place each week via telephone or online web conferencing.

You will need to prepare for your speaking lessons each week by looking over the content and practising the speaking lesson section of each module.



When you make contact with your teacher, you should learn how to:

- greet and address your teacher in the language
- identify yourself
- open up a conversation by asking your teacher how he/she is going

At the end of your speaking lesson, your teacher may say "Do your best, well done, talk to you next week".

During the first speaking skills lesson, your teacher will ask you some questions to find out more about you and your previous language learning experiences. You should be prepared to talk about yourself in English and show any prior knowledge you may have of the language so that you and your teacher can get to know each other.

Download and complete the [Student Questionnaire](#) from our NSL website for your teacher to read and discuss with you during your first speaking lesson.



Upload your completed questionnaire when you have logged in to Canvas.

1.7 Global citizenship and our languages

Before we go onto Module 2, we would like you to contribute to a whole class online discussion. Choose the discussion you would like to contribute to in English. You may contribute to both if you wish.



Discussion 1: Share what being a global citizen means to you?

Today it is becoming easier to connect with others across the world. According to Oxfam, 'a global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world - and their place in it. They take an active role in their community, and work with others to make our planet more equal, fair and sustainable.'



In English, write about what it means to you to be a global citizen. Contribute to this discussion when you have logged in to Canvas.

OR

Discussion 2: Share information about languages

We all bring with us different levels of experience. For some this may be the first language other than English that you are learning. Some of you may have had a taster of another language at school. And then some of you may already be speaking a different language at home. Let's share what we already know.

How many languages do you speak? Which ones?

Where did you learn the language(s) and for how long?



Contribute to this discussion when you have logged in to Canvas.

Teachers of the course will be actively reading your contributions and commenting as well :)

We hope you enjoy studying at NSL!