

TERM 1, 2022

NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from NSW School of Languages



NSW SCHOOL
OF LANGUAGES

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Relieving Principal - Teresa Naso



Principal's Message

Dear School Community,

Welcome back to 2022! A warm welcome to the new students and families that have joined us in 2022.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Class of 2021 - despite all the obstacles they faced, the Class of 2021 have achieved outstanding results.

A big thank you to teachers who supported and guided them through two years of uncertainty. In the newsletter, you will see the six students who achieved a first in course and 29 high achievers. We acknowledge every student who completed the HSC 2021, no matter what band they achieved. We hope to have ignited a love of learning and using languages to continue into the next chapter of their lives. Our teachers have been busily analysing all HSC data to modify coursework and lessons for students.

The school has begun a new School Improvement Plan (2022-2025) cycle after a successful External Validation in 2021. The School Executive has been planning projects to implement our three strategic directions.

1. Student growth and attainment	2. Improving the impact of teaching practice	3. School community collaboration and partnerships
To maximise student learning outcomes and engagement, we will ensure students have access to high quality learning opportunities which support and inform personalised teaching and learning.	To improve staff engagement, collaboration and well-being. Staff will evaluate their practice and adapt it through quality, high impact professional learning and the analysis and interpretation of data.	To extend the reach of NSL and encourage mutually beneficial community and real-world partnerships, nurturing relationships and sharing expertise to build productive learning communities.

Thank you to parents who attended the online Parent Information Evening; if you missed this, you can find the recording on our [school website](#). The transition to learning as a distance education student can be difficult; however, all students have participated in distance learning through the lockdown periods. We have included some tips on [page 18](#).

With the relaxation of COVID rules, we will welcome students back onsite in Term 2 for face-to-face lesson days. The school will implement COVID safety rules, including well-ventilated rooms, sanitiser and other hygiene supplies for students. If a student is not feeling well or has any COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that they do not attend. Our teachers are very much looking forward to having classes face-to-face and utilising the new flexible furniture that has been purchased for the classrooms.

Looking forward to seeing our students back onsite,

Teresa Naso



New flexible furniture in our classrooms

HSC Results Class of 2021

Congratulations to all our Year 12 students who have placed first in an HSC course for 2021 - this is an enormous achievement! The 2021 recipients were announced by the Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell on Wednesday 19 January. You can watch the presentation [here](#). See messages from our First in Course students on [page 3](#) and [page 4](#). We are also very proud to announce we had 29 students place 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th as High Achievers in language courses. This is an outstanding achievement!

We would like to extend our thanks to all home schools, supervisors and parents/carers who helped support our students through another tough year. Congratulations to all 2021 Year 12s - we think you're all amazing and have done fabulously during your two senior years of high school. We are very proud of you all. We wish you the best in your future studies and careers. Bravo!

First in Course

- Madeleine Grisard - French Beginners
- Jovanka Lim - Indonesian and Literature
- Airi Sugahara - Japanese in Context
- Kleopatra Calfas and George Papacosta - Modern Greek Beginners
- Yana Strakhova - Russian Continuers

High Achievers

- Karina Dogao - German Beginners (3rd in course)
- Alexandra Lauren Duke-Yonge - German Beginners (5th in course)
- Karl Smith - German Continuers (5th in course)
- Vivienne Paduch - German Extension (5th in course)
- Jayden Lim - Indonesian Beginners (2nd in course)
- Ryan Ka-Hin Ho - Indonesian Continuers (2nd in course)
- Abigail Everett - Italian Beginners (2nd in course)
- Ludovica Pacini - Italian Extension (2nd in course)
- Jane Huang - Korean Beginners (3rd in course)
- Man Hei So - Korean Beginners (5th in course)
- Rona Angelli Maestrado Aparicio - Korean Continuers (4th in course)
- Maire Campbell - Korean Continuers (5th in course)
- Elizabeth Chung - Korean Continuers (3rd in course)
- Lok Wun Serenus Law - Korean Continuers (2nd in course)
- Peter Kandalepas - Modern Greek Beginners (3rd in course)
- Nicolette Tsiknis - Modern Greek Beginners (5th in course)
- Sophia Angelopoulos - Modern Greek Continuers (4th in course)
- Chris Reppas - Modern Greek Continuers (3rd in course)
- Daniel Kulikovsky - Portuguese Continuers (5th in course)
- Paula Sampaio Little - Portuguese Continuers (4th in course)
- Anamieka Vander Heiden - Portuguese Continuers (5th in course)
- Elza Kytikova - Russian Continuers (4th in course)
- Eva Maximova - Russian Continuers (2nd in course)
- Mariya Skripnikova - Russian Continuers (3rd in course)
- Julia Strelnikova - Russian Continuers (4th in course)
- Heidi Allen - Spanish Beginners (3rd in course)
- Luis Alonso Quijada Parra - Spanish Continuers (2nd in course)
- Milagros Molina Spalletti - Spanish Extension (3rd in course)
- Pablo Brunet Montekio - Spanish Extension (4th in course)

Messages from our First in Course 2021 Students

Earlier this term we got in touch with some of our First in Course students and asked them a few questions about their experiences studying with us at NSL, as well as what they had planned for after high school.



Airi Sugahara

Why did you choose to study a language?

I chose Japanese in Context because I wanted to maintain my heritage language and better understand my culture. I also believe that bilingualism will be very useful in our globalised world.

What did you enjoy about studying at NSL?

The weekly phone call lessons with my teacher and getting to know / make friends with students from many different schools.

What are your plans after school / for the future?

I will be studying medicine at university and finally becoming closer to my dream of being a doctor!

Any advice for future students studying with NSL?

NSL is very different from your usual school classroom and involves a high level of independence, so hold yourself accountable for your own learning and try to stay on top of the provided schedule.

Any other comments?

Best of luck to you all and happy studying!



Jovanka Lim

Why did you choose to study a language?

I am an Indonesian background speaker myself and I thought it would be a great idea to continue my literature studies I did from back in Indonesia, so I could pass it on to future generations of Indonesian-Australians.

What did you enjoy about studying at NSL?

NSL has always provided me with great support throughout my language studies. It is a privilege to be taught by amazing teachers, Pak Abdullah and Bu Christin, throughout the senior years. I was also able to meet new people and have great friends who provided each other support.

What are your plans after school / for the future?

I am currently undertaking a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communication at UTS. I wish to have a career in the graphic design field in the future.

Any advice for future students studying with NSL?

It is great to see that a lot of students are still interested in studying other languages. Throughout the studies, don't forget to enjoy and have fun, whether it's about enjoying the studying itself, or having fun with your classmates.

Any other comments?

I would like to thank NSL for providing me and my friends great education, and also for supporting me throughout my senior years. I wish a great year ahead for all staff and students.





Kleopatra Calfas

Why did you choose to study a language?

I chose to study Modern Greek Beginners because I wanted to be able to converse with my relatives, and I also wanted to become more familiar with the Greek culture. It also provided contrast, as a language was very different to my other HSC subjects.

What did you enjoy about studying at NSL?

I really enjoyed the termly face-to-face lessons provided by NSL as it presented me with the opportunity to make friends with other students studying the same course. I also enjoyed that while the teachers never failed to offer their help and checked in via weekly Zoom lessons, there was a strong aspect of independence when it came to studying at NSL.

What are your plans after school / for the future?

I have just started my first year of university studying Bachelor of Law and Computer Science at UNSW. I also hope to travel soon!

Any advice for future students studying with NSL?

Make the most of Moodle as NSL always organises content under the relevant topic, which is really helpful when making study notes. NSL also provides lots of information via Moodle regarding assessments and course outlines to help you prepare in advance. Moreover, make the most of practising speaking with your teacher during your weekly phone calls.



George Papacosta

Why did you choose to study a language?

I chose to study language as part of my HSC as I wanted to learn the language of my ancestors to be able to communicate with my family and relatives here and overseas. I am hoping to reinforce my newly acquired skills one day by visiting Greece. Additionally, I chose to study a second language as I knew that it would enhance my future job prospects, irrespective of what career pathways I chose.

What did you enjoy about studying at NSL?

I enjoyed studying at NSL, as I was able to develop new friendships with like-minded individuals wanting to develop the skills of a second language. I appreciated the enthusiasm and dedication of the teachers who made sure we did not miss out on our weekly lessons.

What are your plans after school / for the future?

I will be commencing my studies at UTS in Business and Law.

Any advice for future students studying with NSL?

- maintain weekly revision
- realise that your teachers are your most reliable and effective resource
- most importantly, practise with as many past papers as possible, as exam technique is extremely important

Any other comments?

I would like to thank all NSL teachers and staff for their unreserved commitment to the teaching of languages and their support of student needs.



2022 Enrolments

The NSW School of Languages enrolments team have been working tirelessly to process the hundreds of applications and enquiries received for the 2022 cohort. To manage the huge number of applications, we required reinforcements! A big thank you to Loretta Gilchrist who came out of retirement to answer our S.O.S!

Our small team have processed approximately 1425 (and counting!) new applications. We will have over 2400 students in the 2022 cohort. I would like to acknowledge and thank the team for their incredible effort during the enrolment period. It has been very challenging with COVID disruptions, but everyone involved has shown great resilience and cooperation to get the job done! I would also like to thank the wider school community for their patience and understanding throughout the enrolment period.

Finally, I would like to wish the 2022 cohort all the best for the coming year.

Danielle Elvy
Relieving Head Teacher Enrolments



New NSL teachers!

New NSL Teachers

This year we welcome 12 new teachers to our school in French, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and Italian.

A message from our Head Teacher Student Wellbeing

My name is Margarita Diaz and I am the new Head Teacher Student Wellbeing. I have worked at NSL since 2018 teaching Spanish and as a Learning Support teacher. I am also an experienced and qualified social worker and, in the past, I have worked in this role in school settings.

I am very excited to be part of the NSL Student Wellbeing Team. I look forward to working alongside supervisors, students, parents, administrative and teaching staff to support our students' wellbeing and help them to engage and thrive in their language courses.

Margarita Diaz
Head Teacher Student Wellbeing



INDONESIAN *Bahasa Indonesia*



Ryan, Jovanka and Jayden receiving their awards

Appreciation Night for Excellence in Indonesian

Ms Naso and Ms Christin Anggrahini were extremely proud to attend the Appreciation Night for Excellence in Indonesian held by the Indonesian Consul General, Mr Vedi Kurnia Buana, at his residence in Rose Bay. The students and their parents were invited to the Award ceremony and then dinner hosted by the Consul and his wife.

- Jovanka Lim - 1st in the State in Indonesian and Literature
- Jayden Lim - 2nd in the State for Indonesian Beginners
- Ryan Ka-Hin Ho - 2nd in the State in Indonesian Continuers

Jovanka Lim gave remarks during the evening thanking NSL and her teachers for giving her the opportunity to study her background language.

A rewarding experience: Learning Indonesian at NSL

Switching from learning Indonesian in a face-to-face setting to distance learning in Year 11 was undoubtedly a decision made with hesitation. Initially I was quite skeptical of the effectiveness of distance learning, particularly for a subject in which face-to-face contact is especially crucial for the development of speaking skills such as pronunciation. However, my perspective soon changed as I began to appreciate the similarly immersive language learning experience and flexibility that NSL was able to provide. Much to my pleasant surprise, distance learning not only did not compromise the quality of teaching, but also improved my time management skills as I had to take initiative to conduct self-learning activities, which were both enjoyable and highly beneficial.



Ryan Ka-Hin Ho

Then came 2021, a year like no other - significant COVID-related disruptions included cancellation of HSC speaking exams, postponement of HSC exams, and above all, a lingering sense of uncertainty which rendered staying focused and motivated incredibly difficult, if not impossible. Fortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic had little impact on the way NSL courses were delivered. Unlike traditional schools which had to frantically move to an online model, NSL, as a distance education school, already had well-established systems in place to facilitate remote learning, which meant disruption to my language learning was minimal.

With the unwavering support of my teacher, Ms Ida Harsojo, a passionate educator who truly cared about delivering the best educational outcomes for students, I thoroughly enjoyed learning Indonesian and developed a strong interest in Indonesian culture. Not only did she explain convoluted concepts with clarity, she also went above and beyond to provide me with every assistance I required throughout my time at NSL.

In the 2021 HSC, I was ranked second in NSW for Indonesian Continuers, which serves as a testament to both the effectiveness of NSL's model and the benefit of being taught by experienced educators who have a lifelong passion in nurturing young minds. I am incredibly proud of my achievement in Indonesian, and could not be more grateful for the important role NSL and Ms Harsojo played in my challenging, but also greatly rewarding journey of Indonesian learning.

Ryan Ka-Hin Ho
Indonesian Continuers - Class of 2021



Congratulations!

The Modern Greek department would like to congratulate our hardworking students for their achievements in the 2021 HSC.

MODERN GREEK

Ελληνικά

Modern Greek Beginners

- First in course: Kleopatra Calfas and George Papacosta
- Third in course: Peter Kandalepas
- Fifth in course: Nicolette Tsiknis

Modern Greek Continuers

- Third in course: Chris Reppas
- Fourth in course: Sophia Angelopoulos



Left to right: Meat grilling during Tsiknopempti, people dressed up in costumes during Apokries and a dinner table set with food for ready for an Easter dinner after Lent.

24 January - Thursday of the Smoke of Grilled Meat

Tsiknopempti literally means 'Thursday of the Smoke of Grilled Meat'. It is part of the Carnival season in Greece and Cyprus where large amounts of meat are eaten prior to the start of the fasting period, Lent, 11 days later on *Kathara Deftera* (Clean Monday).



The three-week period before the start of Lent is called *Apokries* (Carnival) and it is a festival season. *Apokries* typically involves a public celebration and/or parade combining some elements of a circus, masks and a public street party. People wear masks and costumes during many such celebrations, allowing them to lose their everyday individuality and experience a heightened sense of social unity.

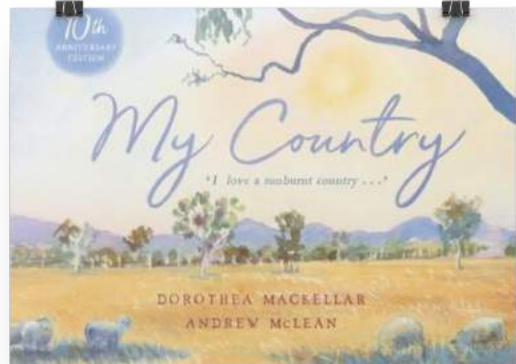
The Thursday of the second week of the *Apokries* is called *Tsiknopempti*. Traditionally it is a day dedicated to consuming large amounts of meat as grilled souvlaki. City and town governments set up grills in central squares with music, too. *Tsiknopempti* is celebrated 11 days before *Kathara Deftera*.

Kathara Deftera is the first day of Lent. Clean Monday is a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus, where it is celebrated with outdoor excursions/picnics, the widespread custom of flying kites and the consumption of shellfish and other fasting food, such as a special bread baked only on that day called *lagana*.

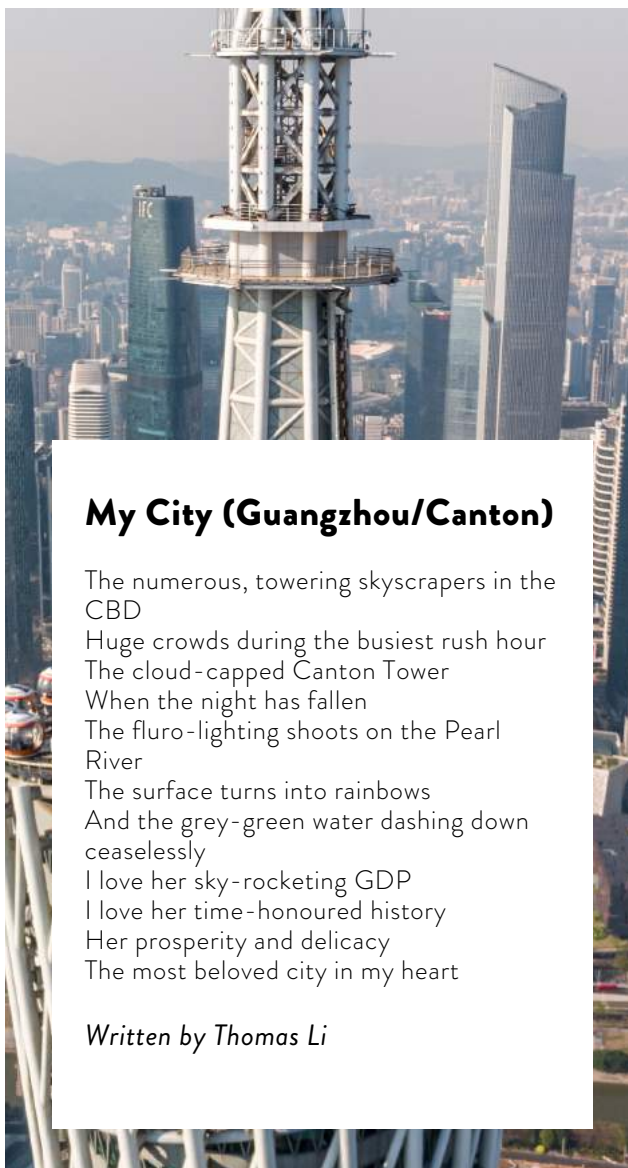
EAL/D**Year 12 EAL/D**

The 2021 Year 12 EAL/D students achieved some outstanding results in the HSC. We are very pleased that one student achieved a Band 6. A number of students have gained entry into university and we wish all students every success in their future endeavours.

This term Year 12 students are studying the themes of language, identity and culture in the documentary film 'Reindeer in my Saami Heart' directed by Janet Merewether while Year 11 students are studying a variety of short texts. Below are poems written by Year 11 students after studying Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My Country'.



'My Country' Dorothea Mackellar

**My City (Guangzhou/Canton)**

The numerous, towering skyscrapers in the CBD
 Huge crowds during the busiest rush hour
 The cloud-capped Canton Tower
 When the night has fallen
 The fluro-lighting shoots on the Pearl River
 The surface turns into rainbows
 And the grey-green water dashing down ceaselessly
 I love her sky-rocketing GDP
 I love her time-honoured history
 Her prosperity and delicacy
 The most beloved city in my heart

Written by Thomas Li

**Greece**

Land of mountains
 Forests in the Balkans
 Nice beaches and warm weather
 Snowfall in winter soft as a feather
 Arable land for farming
 Watching the Mediterranean just so calming
 Snow season my favourite when it's cold
 My heart always Greece will hold
 Seasons changing birds are migrating
 Earthquake will come out of nowhere the room will be vibrating
 Travelling in Greece you will find lots of history
 You will be lost in culture like it is a mystery

Written by Karanvir Bhuller



Madeleine Grisard

Félicitations!

Congratulations to Madeleine Grisard for First in Course in French Beginners at the 2021 HSC. We wish her all the best in her medical science studies at the Australian National University.

FRENCH
Français

La langue française à London, Ontario

An was enrolled in the Year 11 French Beginners course at NSL in 2021. At the beginning of Term 4 2021, An relocated to Canada to live with her Aunt and to complete her high school studies there. An writes about her experiences in Canada.

"Au Canada, l'anglais est la langue la plus parlée, le français est la deuxième. Partout il y a deux langues, par exemple, dans les supermarchés il y a des produits en français et en anglais.

Où dans une bibliothèque universitaire près de mon école. C'est énorme et il y a beaucoup de sections pour chaque type de livre différent. Je viens de prendre l'habitude de lire des livres, alors quand je vois la bibliothèque comme ça, je l'aime beaucoup.

De plus, le Canada est maintenant en automne et bientôt l'hiver viendra. L'air est bon et il fait froid. Le temps est moins neigeux. Les feuilles sont devenues jaune orangé. En se promenant dans l'école, il y aura beaucoup de beaux paysages!"

An Tran
French Beginners



Photos from An Tran

New French Teachers

This year the French faculty extend a *grande bienvenue* to several new faces in the teaching team!

Madame Fasanella is an experienced teacher of Stage 5 French and Stage 6 Beginners French. Many years ago, she was lucky to have the chance to live in Paris, her favourite city. It was love at first sight when she started learning French at the age of 13 and she wants her students to have the same great experience!

Monsieur Douglas is a teacher of Stage 5 French and Stage 6 Continuers French. He is also an educational technology enthusiast who adores bringing learning to life for his students and colleagues through a range of digital tools and skills.

Madame Hassell is a teacher of Stage 5 French and Stage 6 Beginners French. She joined the team previously to complete her preservice teacher internship, and we loved her so much we convinced her to return! She is looking forward to meeting and supporting her own students this year.



Madame Fasanella, Monsieur Douglas
& Madame Hassell

Q&A with Liliana Waters

GERMAN
Deutsch

Liliana attended Lumen Christi Catholic College, Pambula Beach. She studied German Continuers at NSW School of Languages in 2021 and achieved an HSC result she was very happy with.



Liliana Waters

Why did you choose to study German at NSW School of Languages?

Sadly, we didn't have enough students for a class at my small rural school. However, I knew it was a course I wholeheartedly wanted to pursue and was drawn to NSW School of Languages as a school which specialises in languages and has a very organised and personal approach. Everything that I needed and more was accommodated for!

How did you find learning by distance education?

The whole process worked very well for me. I loved having the freedom to work through the modules at my own pace. Most importantly, I had a wonderful teacher that I enjoyed talking to every week and who helped me with any questions/ work that I sent in.

What advice would you give to new language students learning via distance education?

Definitely keep up with module work and utilise your teacher to test out your German! I found it very helpful and enjoyable to broaden my knowledge with German films, series, YouTube videos, magazines etc. I also kept a diary in German that my teacher would edit - these are great ways to cover all aspects of learning a language.

What are you planning on doing now that you have finished Year 12?

I am studying a Doctor of Medicine at Western Sydney Uni but I will definitely be travelling to Germany to test out my German skills as soon as possible!



Photos: Online Japanese Zoom lessons



じこしょうかいビデオ

JAPANESE
日本語

Orientation lessons on Zoom this term

All the Japanese students learnt about Zoom etiquette. Term 1 Week 5 has kept the Japanese teachers busy connecting to all our new students enrolled in Year 9, Year 10 (100 hours), Year 11 Continuers and Beginners and In Context Japanese courses.

- Year 9 and 10 (100 Hour) students learnt and revised expressions in Japanese from the Canvas Module 1 and 2 course. The students read and recognised Hiragana script using the resource called Education Perfect.
- Year 11 Beginners students' focus was to revise the Canvas course Modules. They learnt how "not to knock themselves out"- Japanese style introductions and enjoyed a trivia session using hiragana. Year 11 Continuers students met their Japanese sensei by watching their videos introducing themselves in Japanese. The students heard the introductions by Naito sensei, Shipolova sensei and Shiragaki sensei, followed by answering questions about each teacher.
- Year 11 and 12 In Context students turn to connect with their Japanese teachers. The students enjoyed connecting with each other and their new teachers. Year 12 Continuers students prepared for their upcoming Assessment 2.

KOREAN 한국어

2021 Year 12 Korean Reflections

We asked our Year 12 students (Class of 2021) to reflect on their experience studying Korean Courses at NSW School of Languages. Here are some of the wonderful responses we received.

Choosing to study the Korean Continuers Course has been a great choice in expanding and enjoying my high school experience. I always found the online course worksheets and explanations easy to understand and learn from, and they always gave me a sense of joy in between my other courses. The best part of this course was having speaking lessons and face-to-face lesson days with all the teachers, as they were always enthusiastic and created lesson activities that were fun, practical, and enlightening of Korean culture. From tasty food to funny games and tongue twisters, learning Korean at NSW School of Languages is always fun and exciting!

I started learning some Korean in 2016, when I was living on a small island called Geoje in South Korea. Although I learnt a few words, I only truly began learning how to converse and gain more confidence in speaking Korean by choosing the Korean continuers course. I chose this course because it offered an intermediate level of Korean that would allow me to expand and explore my passion for the Korean language and culture that I had developed whilst living in Korea.

I would love to visit South Korea again, preferably to study or for work, as I think it would be a wonderful opportunity to practise my Korean, as well as explore the beautiful country and its nature. As I am going to study medical engineering at university, I think it would be really cool to learn how this field is being explored and innovated within South Korea, and it would be fascinating to be able to join the industry for it there.

Claudia Moras

Learning Korean at NSL was the most enjoyable part of my high school experience. I was always looking forward to having 1:1 speaking lessons with my teacher every week. During the lesson, I learned Korean but I loved sharing my life with my teacher the most.

'Making my Korean bag' was one of the most memorable F2F lesson activities I attended. I remember our teacher asked us to write a phrase that could motivate us to study hard in Korean. And so I wrote **기죽지 마!** **절대로** (never let it get you down)' on my bag. From that day, my Korean bag has always encouraged me as it hung in my room.

I feel really grateful to be a student in NSL as I had really supportive teachers in my learning journey. With my pleasing result of getting 98 marks in the HSC Korean Beginners exam, now I am studying Bachelor of Education (Secondary) at University of New South Wales. I hope to continue my Korean studies and become a Korean teacher in the future! I can't wait to come back to NSL as a teacher.

Man Hei So (Heily)

2021 HSC High Achievers award presentation

Three NSL students, Jane Huang, Serenus Lok and Elizabeth Chung received an award at the HSC High Achievers Award Presentation, held on 18 February at the Korean Education Centre. Students who achieved excellent results in the Korean course were congratulated and also received awards and prizes from the Education Director. Students gave impressive speeches, thanking their teachers for their effort and support in learning Korean at NSW School of Languages. Well done on your achievements!



Jane Huang receiving her award at the High Achievers Award Presentation held at the Korean Cultural Centre

Commedia dell'arte Project 2021

During the second semester of 2021 the students of Yr 9/10_100hrs Italian planned and wrote a play in Italian based on the Commedia dell'arte plot of 'La casa stregata' - the Haunted House'!

Students worked in groups to plan their scenes and write the scripts with guidance from teachers in the course.

This activity presented students with the opportunity to put their language skills into practice as well as learn new skills, make new friends and have some fun! The play was performed via Zoom, which presented some obstacles as well as allowing for some technical trickery! Congratulations to all students who contributed to the performances!

Here are the links to the students' performances - we trust you will enjoy their work!

- [NSL YouTube Channel](#)
- [Student Performance 1](#)
- [Student Performance 2](#)



SPANISH

Español



Photos: Luanco, Spain and Mr Andrés Gutierrez Garcia

A Language Journey: Connecting People Through Words

¡Hola! My name is Andrés, a new Spanish teacher at NSW School of Languages. I arrived in Australia eight years ago from a little fishing village on the northern tip of Spain, Luanco, in the province of Asturias. This is an area rich in culture, traditions and nature, with its beautiful coastline surrounded by bright green hills.

Soon after finishing my teaching degree in Spain, I started teaching my native language in Australia, a personal experience that has been incredibly rewarding, especially in a country as multicultural as this.

Since I started my "language journey", I have been able to reinvent myself and navigate different contexts, whether traveling, teaching Spanish to students from different countries, or becoming more aware of diversity.

Learning a new language can be a golden ticket to new ways of thinking and understanding the world! Take on the challenge!

LATIN

Lingua Latina



'Welcome' in Latin

A message from our Latin faculty

Salvete discipuli discipulaeque!

Welcome to a new year of learning and fun to all students, particularly to the new Latin students. Unfortunately, we will not have any face-to-face lesson days at NSL this term, which is sad, but I hope that we will be able to meet all in person during Term 2.

This year we have a great cohort of Year 9s, who have already shown themselves to be a great addition to our group of Latinists. Welcome and thank you for choosing such a challenging, but rewarding subject. Often, we read that it is becoming increasingly difficult for students to learn complicated grammar structures and to focus on elaborate concepts. A life spent in front of screens, made of rapidly flashing images and innumerable smartphone notifications is reducing the attention span of young people. However, every year, young people still choose to engage with complexity and with challenge. Well done!

Congratulations to the HSC 2021 Latin students who have not only had excellent and well-deserved results but also chose to continue with their classical studies!

I am confident that also our 2022 HSC students will perform equally well. This year, we are lucky to read two of the most remarkable and sophisticated works in world literature: Cicero's first speech *In Catilinam* and Virgil's tragic tale of the clash of passion and destiny in *Aeneid IV*.

Rideamus!

Franca Calorio
Latin Teacher



A funny joke in Latin!do you get it?

RUSSIAN РУССКИЙ



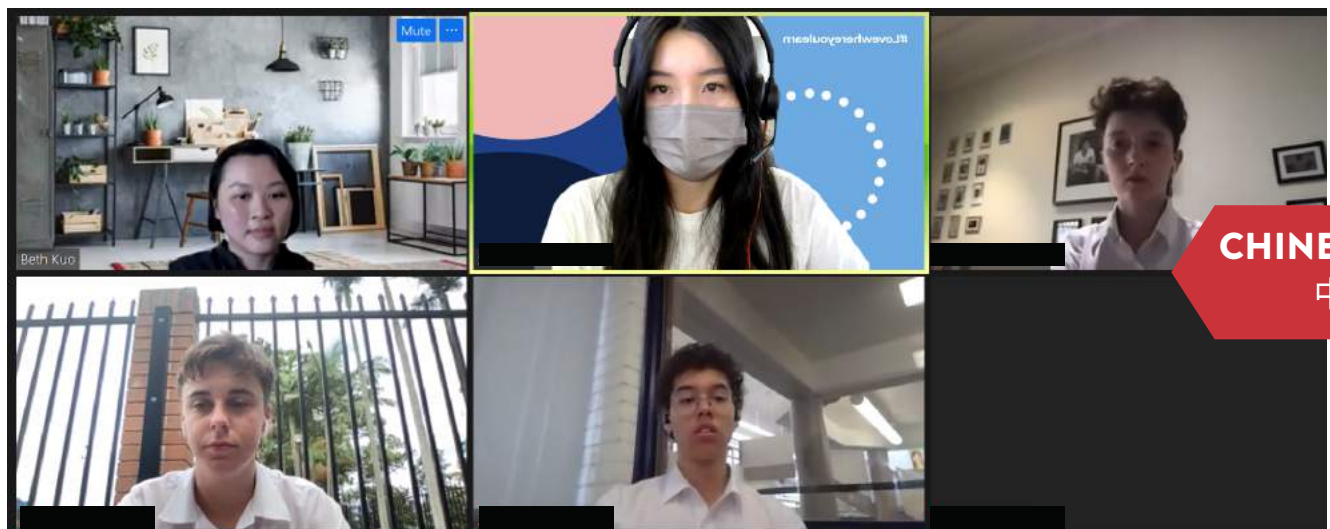
Photos: Yana Strakhova painting, Yana Strakhova



Yana Strakhova: an inspiring Russian student

Yana Strakhova is not only an excellent student of Russian but also an aspiring artist. Yana's hard work with her Russian studies resulted in her achieving first in state in our Russian Continuers course in 2021. Her study of Russian literature and art involved research of the Russian writer Turgenev. Yana reflected that the experience of doing Russian has been rewarding, as her studies at NSL have broadened her language knowledge and cultural perspectives. Yana's interest in the Russian language and literature has also contributed to her interest in psychology which she intends to pursue at university.

We congratulate Yana on her excellent achievement and wish her all the best for her future studies!



Chinese Zoom lesson

Online Lesson Days

Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 students attended online lesson day sessions this term, which provided Orientation to our new students. Each year group participated in different interactive activities aimed at preparing for the assessment task and also promoting and developing students' cultural and intercultural understanding in their courses.

It was so lovely to see students attending the lesson virtually face-to-face across all groups including Beginners, Continuers and In Context areas. Teachers helped their students prepare for their assessment tasks covering the components including speaking, listening, reading and/or writing. Students really enjoyed the lesson and were engaged with various activities such as the online breakout room speaking practice, the Q&A session, and the collaborative writing activity on Jam Board. All students appreciated this great opportunity to meet their teachers and classmates online. They have filled out the evaluation form and are really looking forward to the lesson days next term.



Photos: Mrs Silvia Vasco and Dr Rita Ferraro

Our Portuguese Teachers

Our school is very fortunate to have two very experienced teachers teaching Portuguese: Dr Rita Ferraro and Mrs Silvia Vasco. Dr Rita Ferraro will also be writing the new Portuguese Course this year!



Education Perfect

NSW School of Languages (NSL) would like to invite our 2022 students to subscribe to Education Perfect. NSL has worked with Education Perfect to provide an interactive online resource that complements the NSL Canvas and Moodle courses. This is an extra resource NSL offers to students to assist their language learning. This resource is not mandatory but highly recommended.

Education Perfect Languages is an online vocabulary resource. It also provides Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing resources and gives access to past HSC Examination papers from NSW, Victoria and New Zealand. The site includes a new feature called Languages in Action which offers literacy and numeracy exercises in the target language. Students can also write a task in the target language and submit it to Education Perfect Languages online and have it marked automatically according to the NSW HSC marking guidelines.

It is available in the following languages and courses:

Stage 5 Year 9 and 10, Stage 6 Year 11 and 12 Beginners and Continuers courses.

German, Japanese, Indonesian, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Modern Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and EAL/D.

Please note: Education Perfect Languages does not offer courses in the following: Languages in Context, Languages and Literature and Extension courses.

Our 2021 students who have subscribed to Education Perfect Languages will need to renew their subscription for 2022. Total Cost: \$22.00 for one year subscription (2022)

[Link to subscribe to Education Perfect](#) and [Education Perfect Showreel](#).



Practicum experiences at NSW School of Languages

"My name is Emanuela Turano Campello, and I am a student from the Australian Catholic University currently completing my Master of Teaching (Secondary) degree in Languages and History.

I am enjoying my practicum experience at NSW School of Languages very much; all the staff is helpful and friendly and have made me feel like part of the team since day one. It is amazing being surrounded by other language teachers passionate about languages and their profession. I teach Italian and French and my supervising teachers Mrs. Yanna Mavris and Mrs. Josephine Miritello are exceptional; they provide me with valuable feedback and advice to improve my teaching and use of the distance education systems employed at NSW School of Languages.

Furthermore, I am exposed to other aspects of the teaching profession, such as observing a wide range of Italian and French lessons across different courses, attending the staff meetings, understanding syllabuses, how Teaching Standards are applied amongst others. I am grateful for the opportunity to do my practicum here and I am sure that this experience will help me to be more prepared and knowledgeable when I start teaching."

Emanuela Turano Campello

"My name is Kiara Lim and I'm a student teacher from The University of Sydney. I teach Korean, Indonesian and English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD).

I'm actually a returning student to the NSW School of Languages (NSL). I learnt Indonesian from the very teachers that I work beside today and it has been profoundly fulfilling and gratifying to be able to complete my practicum at the school I was once a student at. Guided by my Korean supervising teacher, learning the 'behind the scenes' work of a language teacher at NSL has both increased my appreciation of language teaching and spurred me on to become the best educator I can be. My love for language and culture has brought me to NSL and working along such like-minded educators has 'fanned my fire' further. I can't help but hope that I will cross paths with NSL again after my practicum comes to an end."

Kiara Lim

"My name is Yicheng (Alva) Xiao, and I am a student from the University of Sydney. I am currently completing my 4th year practicum at NSW School of Language in the Chinese faculty. This is my first ever practice teaching experience as a pre-service teacher. It has been a great opportunity to open up my horizons across different teaching pedagogies, content knowledge in order to prepare myself to step into the future classroom.

Everyone at the NSW School of Languages is very lovely and all the teachers have been providing me with consistent help and guidance throughout the practicum experience. I really appreciate the experience and opportunity to be part of the NSW School of Languages for three weeks. I want to especially deliver my appreciation to my practicum coordinator, Janelle Byrne, for helping me settle into the campus and my supervisor, Alice Xu, for providing me valuable advice on various teaching pedagogies for teaching Chinese.

I am so grateful to be at NSW School of Languages for this placement and wish to convey my best wishes to students and teachers at NSW School of Languages."

Alva Xiao

"Guten Tag! My name is Ayelet Marha, I am currently undertaking my second practicum at NSL in German. I am a student at the University of Newcastle, and I have studied Spanish, French, German and EAL/D teaching. I chose to become a language teacher because I love learning languages and exploring the world, and I would love to give others the opportunity to feel the same way. The enthusiasm that the students at NSL have for language learning has been rewarding and I hope that my future students work so enthusiastically.

I am very glad and fortunate to have spent my placement in Lang C, and within NSL. My supervisors Karin Maeder-Han and Carmen Heeg are excellent teachers who have given me insights into all aspects of a language teacher's job. Being surrounded by an amazingly knowledgeable and welcoming staff has helped me to find community within the language teaching world."

Ayelet Marha



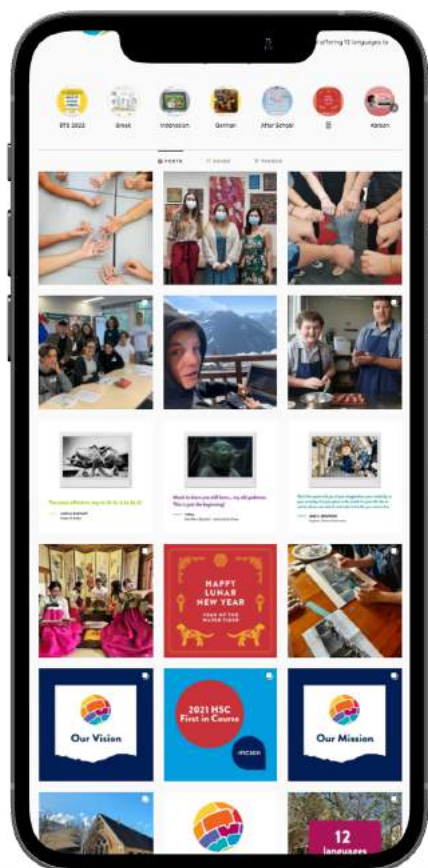
Alva's Zoom lesson with students



Ayelet's Zoom lesson with students and German teacher, Karin Maeder-Han

Tips on being a successful distance education student

- Make sure you have time in your school day to complete language work, do not use this time to complete homework for other subjects. It is easy to fall behind in the coursework and very difficult to catch up. Being organised and self-disciplined is a necessity!
- Do not rush through your work. Teachers have given much thought to selecting activities and quizzes - these need to be completed in sequential order. If you do not understand, reach out to your teacher and ask for clarification.
- Have your questions ready for your speaking lesson. Your online speaking allows you to collaborate with your teacher and ask questions about the content or quizzes. If you are not sure about a grammar point, check online for an explanation.
- Explore your technology, make sure you attend orientation lessons that explain navigation in Canvas or Moodle. Tell your teacher as soon as possible if you are having issues with technology or are unsure of how to do something. Check your email regularly; each student at NSL will have an education email. Make sure you check this one!
- Actively participate in group collaboration or group tasks; these are the best parts of the course where you get to meet and work with other students!
- Always refer to the course schedule and date for assessment tasks. Set yourself reminders. Unfortunately, forgetting to do a task is not a good excuse.
- Make the most of your distance learning experience; you will learn valuable skills to help you in your future studies and enjoy your study of languages!



NSL Instagram

We have recently joined the social media platform Instagram!

Follow us [@nswschooloflanguages](https://www.instagram.com/nswschooloflanguages) to keep up-to-date with all the latest news and events from our school. We will also be sharing important information and updates from NSW Education as well as other relevant cultural and language related posts.

You may also like to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nswschooloflanguages) for more in-depth posts about lesson days and school updates.