

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2015/2016

The prizes were set up in AY2009-2010 to honour the achievements of top students in the Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Tamil and Thai language programmes. These prizes are funded by donations. Awardees will be awarded book prizes. The prizes aim to recognize top students who have performed consistently well and to encourage the students to continue with their language learning efforts. The Centre would like to congratulate the following students who have received the award for 2014/2015



Muhammad Syazwi B Mohammad Z with Ms Fareeda Alhabshi

S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Muhammad Syazwi B Mohammad Z

I am truly honored to receive the S.A.T Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize. Learning the Arabic Language in NUS has been a wonderful and memorable experience for me and I would not have received this award without the guidance of my highly dedicated and compassionate teachers.



Tran Minh Hang with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS Chinese Language Prize – Tran Minh Hang

Chinese was my favourite course that I looked forward to every semester. It was fun, engaging and motivating. Besides self-practice, I received great support from our lao shis and international friends. They made language learning feel like a pastime and not a chore. Receiving the prize further adds on to this exciting language learning journey. It encourages greater cultural curiosity, diligence and confidence - the most important qualities among language learners like myself.



Sianita Purnomo with Associate Professor Suthiwan Titima, Director of Centre for Language Studies

CLS German Language Prize– Sianita Purnomo

I was very pleased to learn that I was a recipient of this CLS German Language Prize. Learning German, from German 1 all the way to German 6, is undoubtedly one of the best decisions I have made in my University life. I cherish all the bittersweet memories during my journey—from crying after the first German Semester Test to jumping happily after successfully completing the very last German class. The different friends I met, the knowledge gained from the teachers, and the joy from all the activities are what keep me motivated to attending each German class, especially those 8am or 6pm ones. I am truly grateful for the opportunities given, including the CLS Summer Immersion and Student Exchange Program, to develop my German skills, broaden my network, and better prepare me for my future career.



Wong Yin Kwan with Ms S Ikegami, Secretary General, The Japanese Association, Singapore

Japanese Association, Singapore Medal & Prize - Wong Yin Kwan

The decision to even attempt to study a whole new language from the beginning was not an easy one to make. Looking back, I only wish I could have made that decision sooner and given myself a few more semesters with the wonderful Japanese Language Programme and fellow students of Japanese. The hours were long and the demands were sometimes harsh, but the satisfaction at the end of the day is beyond description. The award came as a bit of a surprise, given that many of my classmates are more proficient than myself. That is of course the result of the ceaseless dedication of our instructors, who have crafted the perfect environment with just the right mix of rigor and fun to keep us all engaged and motivated on this journey. Nevertheless, it is indeed an honour to receive this distinction and I cannot thank my instructors as well as my friends and classmates enough for it. Electing to learn Japanese with the CLS was definitely one of the best decisions of my time as an undergraduate and I urge anyone who remains on the fence to go ahead and take the plunge



Lee Zi Ning with Mr Seong Jongwon, Counsellor for the Press and Culture, Embassy of the Republic of Korea

CLS Korean Language Prize – Lee Zi Ning

I feel really honored to have been awarded the CLS language prize, which comes as a really unexpected but most definitely welcoming surprise. It is gratifying to have my efforts recognised, but I would also like to highlight the efforts of all the Korean teachers who are always warm-hearted and encouraging, providing us with a really good and comfortable learning environment. Learning Korean has undoubtedly been one of my best journeys in NUS, where I met not just the kindest teachers but also fellow like-minded friends. A strong interest in the language itself also kept me going all the way from level one to six. Even before I began to understand Korean, I have always had a liking for it as I thought Korean sounded so pleasant and melodious to the ears. It is bittersweet for me to have completed my Korean language learning journey in NUS, which I have enjoyed so much, and I will always look back on Korean classes fondly. I am thankful to all my teachers and CLS for the opportunities I am given to learn Korean, be it through the Korean Language Preparation Programme or the summer immersion. All in all, I am really glad I had the chance to learn, understand and appreciate this beautiful language.



DARREN GOH CHIN TECK

CLS Malay Language Prize – Darren Goh

The CLS Malay language award came as a surprise, really. I never thought that my interest and passion in acquiring Bahasa Melayu as a third language would be translated into something as tangible as this.

With or without the prize, I would say without a doubt, that learning a new language in is indeed one of the best things you can do in university. It opens up your mind to a whole new way of thinking and learning, and serves as such a contrast (and relief) to the other modes of thinking predominant in the core modules. Besides, the intensity of language courses at the CLS also forces you to really up your game, and it is really satisfying to see yourself being able to gradually understand and speak more of the language with others who use it. The ability to use BM so readily in the Singapore and SE-Asian context really makes it a wonderful language to learn, and gives non-BM speaking Singaporeans a stronger sense of connection to the nusantara as well.

Learning BM at NUS has been an exciting and fulfilling journey for me. I would like to thank my teachers Cikgu Sew and Dr. Aishah for making it so.



B Madhan Prasad with Ms Paramita Tripathi,
Deputy High Commissioner, India High
Commission

CLS Hindi Language Prize– B Mathan Prasad

I am honoured to receive this award as recognition for my efforts in learning Hindi language to the best of my ability in NUS. I wish to thank my lecturers and tutors Dr Sunil Bhatt, Dr Sandhya Singh, Ms Vinita and Ms Sadhana. I also dedicate this to all my classmates who have taught me many things though the time spent together, and to my loved ones who encouraged me to pursue the language.

I love how the NUS Hindi programme uses the language as the key to a better understanding of Indian culture, traditions and people. Our understanding of Hindi and its nuances allow us to build a special connection with someone from another part of the world, and understand north India and its fascinating culture. A multicultural classroom environment also enabled us to appreciate diversity, with some of my classmates travelling to India on internships or just to put the language in practice. I hope to see many more students benefitting from the Hindi programme's amazing opportunities.



Low Zi Qian with Mrs Padmini Kurubalan , Vice-
President, Tamil Language and Cultural Society

CLS Tamil Language Prize – Low Zi Qian

I am truly honored and grateful to my teacher, Mrs Saba, and my fellow classmates who have helped me achieve this Tamil Language Prize. For me, learning a new language is a way to connect with different people, and my experience with learning Tamil has not only been a personal challenge but also a way to better understand the Tamil culture in Singapore. I hope that through this award, I am able to motivate other students, regardless of background, to learn this beautiful language.



Wong Jin Liang Julius with Mr Chairat Sirivat,
Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister, Royal
Thai Embassy

CLS Thai Language Prize – Wong Jin Liang Julius

I am pleasantly surprised and elated to win the CLS Thai language prize! Learning Thai at CLS has not only equipped me with a new language, but also useful oral and reading skills that can be applied in other modules or even at work. What's more, despite the challenges of learning a new language with a hectic schedule, the dedicated group of Thai teachers at CLS certainly made the experience fun and unforgettable!