

Student Exchange Programme Language Preparation Programme (SEP LPP) Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding LPP...

What is the purpose of the French/German/Korean Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

The purpose of the LPP is to equip students with the requisite language skills (French, German or Korean) for the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea respectively. The LPP allows selected students to be given priority in learning French, German or Korean through courses conducted by the Centre for Language Studies as they are preparing for SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea.

This is especially important for first-year students as they are usually unable to obtain the introductory language modules (French 1, German 1 or Korean 1) due to insufficient bidding points in the Centralised Online Registration System (CORS).

What are the eligibility criteria for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

The LPP is only open to first year students without prior knowledge of French, German, Korean and who are committed to go on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea in their studies in NUS.

Due to Faculty restrictions, students enrolled in Accounting, double degree programmes through the School of Business, Law, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Medicine are not eligible for participation in the LPP.

I have some knowledge of French/German/Korean. Can I still apply for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

As the LPP is designed to help students learn a new language, if you have prior knowledge of a language you can still apply for the LPP, but not in the language that you have prior knowledge of. For example, students who have a background in French can apply for the German or Korean LPP.

If you would like to continue learning the language that you have prior knowledge of in NUS, please make arrangements to sit for the placement test organised by the Centre for Language Studies.

Students who have prior knowledge of French, German or Korean and who wish to use this language on SEP should continue their studies to allow the best chance of successful language integration while on SEP.

How can I use my Language Preparation Programme (LPP) modules to fulfill my degree requirements?

LPP students should be able to match the language modules to any of the following:

- Programme Major modules
- Unrestricted Elective modules (outside the major)
- University Breadth modules

The classification of the language modules into any of the above categories depends on your Faculty and choice of discipline. You are therefore advised to check with your respective Faculty/Department academic advisor(s) or SEP coordinators for further clarification.

Can I learn only one language through the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

Yes, you are only allowed to learn one language - French, German or Korean. In the LPP application, you will be able to rank the three languages according to your preference, but only one language will be assigned to you.

I am only interested to learn French/German/Korean but have no plans to go on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea. Should I apply for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

No, you should not apply for the LPP. There are limited places in the programme and students who are not prepared to go on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea should not apply for the LPP. If you are merely interested to learn the language, you should bid for the language modules under CORS.

Are the language modules for Language Preparation Programme (LPP) intensive?

For the French/German/Korean languages, each language module comprises 52 contact hours per semester. There will be 2 lectures weekly (2 hours per session). Class attendance is compulsory.

For further information on the language modules, please visit the Centre for Language Studies website.

Are there any additional fees involved for Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

No, there is no additional cost. Students will only have to pay the regular NUS tuition fees.

Regarding LPP application...

How do I apply for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)? When do I apply for the LPP? Who is eligible to apply for the LPP? How can I find out more about the LPP?

The Language Preparation Programme (LPP) is ONLY opened to successful NUS undergraduate applicants who have received an offer letter from the Office of Admissions. Students will usually receive the invitation from the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) to sign up for LPP sometime in late May or early June. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome via email by the end of June.

Information sessions will be held around the same period and students are encouraged to attend.

Please visit Centre for Language Studies website <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cls/courses/seplpp.htm> on LPP related matters.

Students can apply for LPP online from around May to June. The URL link will be available when the application period starts. Please refer to our website for application period.

How should I go about writing the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) application essay?

There is no fixed way to write the application essay. Students are encouraged to write in a way that demonstrates their commitment to completing both the LPP and SEP. One suggestion is to share your reasons for wanting to participate in the LPP and SEP, as well as how you think both programmes will help in your personal growth. Students should also demonstrate that they clearly understand the implications of being in the programme.

I would like to make some changes to my application. Can I re-submit my Language Preparation Programme (LPP) application?

All applicants are given only one chance to apply. You should review your application thoroughly before submitting it.

Is there a waitlist for Language Preparation Programme (LPP)? How can I get my name added to the list?

Yes, there is a waitlist. Students do not have to apply to join the waitlist. Students will be informed if they are on waitlist or if they have been rejected for the programme.

I missed the deadline for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) applications. Can I still apply?

First year students who have missed the LPP application deadline cannot apply for LPP. However you are strongly encouraged to bid for language modules via CORS to prepare yourself for SEP.

What are my Application and Personal Identification Numbers for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) online application system?

Your Application Number and Personal Identification Number will be assigned to you by the Office of Admissions when you submit your application for NUS. If you do not have or have forgotten your Admission Number or Personal Identification Number, please send an email to uaspin@nus.edu.sg to request for the information. Alternatively, you may go the Office of Admissions in person with your NRIC/passport.

I have been approved for Language Preparation Programme (LPP). Can I change to the language of my preference?

You cannot change to your preferred language option. Please note that there are limited vacancies in French, German and Korean LPP and we are not able to guarantee that students will be offered their preferred language. As the LPP programme is highly competitive, we hope you can look into the options before withdrawing from the programme. If you must withdraw from the programme, please inform CLS with valid reasons of your withdrawal.

I have been unsuccessful in my Language Preparation Programme (LPP) application. Can I submit an appeal?

It is not necessary to submit an appeal as selected qualified applicants who are not allocated with a LPP placement will be placed in reserve list. If there are any more vacancies after the acceptance period, the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) will proceed to offer the places accordingly to the reserve list. However, if you did not hear from CLS by mid-July, it means that your application is unsuccessful.

If this is the case you can consider learning French/German/Korean through other platforms:

Bid for the language modules offered by the Centre for Language Studies via CORS. For more information on CORS, please visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/cors/>

Take up language courses offered by external providers such as Alliance Française de Singapour (French), the Goethe-Institut Singapur (German) or the Singapore Korean School (Korean).

I am an SM2/SM3 student and do not know if I have been accepted into NUS yet. Can I apply for Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

Yes, special arrangements will be made to accommodate applications from SM2 & SM3 students. Please check the CLS website at <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/cls/courses/seplpp.htm> regularly for application information and attend the information session.

Regarding continuation of LPP...

Do I have to have a certain Cumulative Average Point (CAP) to stay in Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

No, there is no minimum CAP required to stay in LPP, but students must obtain at least a 'C' or 'Satisfactory' option in their language module in order to be pre-allocated the next module. Those who fail to achieve the minimum grade will not be allowed to remain in the LPP. Kindly note that students under LPP will be given priority and pre-allocation with language modules throughout the 2-year programme. Should you choose to drop the allocated language modules in any semester, you are deemed to have withdrawn from LPP. There will be a minimum CAP of 3.0 required to apply for SEP.

Regarding withdrawal from LPP...

Is there any penalty if I withdraw from Language Preparation Programme (LPP)? How would it affect my SEP application?

We strongly discourage students from withdrawing from the LPP as you will lose the requisite language skills (French, German or Korean) required for going on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea. We suggest students speak first to their language lecturer to determine if there is another option besides withdrawal.

If withdrawal is necessary, there will be no penalty if you are withdrawing from LPP. Please notify Centre for Language Studies with your reason for withdrawal as soon as possible.

What happens if I drop the language modules under the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

Students on the LPP are given priority and pre-allocation of the relevant language modules throughout the 2-year programme. Should you choose to drop the allocated language modules in any semester, you are deemed to have withdrawn from LPP and you have to bid for the language modules through CORS.

Regarding registration of lecture groups for selected LPP students...

Once I have been accepted into the Language Preparation Programme (LPP), how do I register for classes at the Centre for Language Studies?

You will receive an email from the Centre for Language Studies containing instructions on how to go about the online registration. The email will include the registration URL and password for the lecture group registration. Please note that registration must be done online.

I am in Language Preparation Programme (LPP), which lecture group should I choose? The timetable for my Faculty is not out yet.

LPP students are required to select their desired lecture slots for the language modules before the start of the semester. Occasionally this may create some inconvenience as students may not know the timetable for their other classes yet. In order to minimize the chances of a timetabling clash with other modules, it is suggested that you select lecture slots that are held in early in the morning or late in the evening (e.g. 8-10AM or 6-8PM). Students SHOULD NOT drop the LPP language module because of a core modules timetable clash. If students do drop the module, they must bid for the module at their own risk and there is no guarantee that we can allocate a place to them.

If you do choose a lecture slot that clashes with your other classes, please seek CLS General Office for advice.

Regarding Student Exchange Programme (SEP)...

Is the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) the only way to prepare myself for the SEP?

No, it is not. The LPP merely serves as a structured programme that saves students the time and effort required to bid for the modules through CORS. You can consider learning French/German/Korean through other platforms:

Bid for the language modules offered by the Centre for Language Studies via CORS. For more information on CORS, please visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/cors/>

Take up language courses offered by external providers such as Alliance Francaise de Singapour (French), the Goethe-Institut Singapur (German) or the Singapore Korean School (Korean).

If you are unsuccessful in applying for the LPP we strongly encourage you to still study French, German or Korean through one of these alternative platforms and to apply for SEP.

How is Language Preparation Programme (LPP) connected with SEP? Do I really have to go on SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea if I am in the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

Yes, you must go on SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea if you are accepted into the LPP. The LPP is designed to equip students with the requisite language skills (French, German or Korean) for SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea. If you are not prepared to go on SEP in one of the above countries, you should not apply for the LPP.

Will the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) prepare me sufficiently for SEP?

The French/German/Korean LPP was specially planned and designed by the Centre for Language Studies for students who are preparing for SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea. Upon completion of the 4 language modules, you should have the required level of French/German/Korean proficiency to understand lectures and participate in tutorials at the partner university.

Students often find that being immersed in the foreign-language environment helps to improve their language skills rapidly. Students who have completed both the LPP and a language immersion programme before going on SEP have found the SEP experience to be even more positive and enriching.

If I'm in the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) am I guaranteed to go on SEP?

Although the LPP and SEP are related, they are two separate programmes. Admission into the LPP does not guarantee automatic qualification for SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland and South Korea. The LPP only prepares you language-wise for your SEP to these countries.

You must still fulfill all other eligibility criteria required by your Faculty, School and/or the Registrar's Office before you qualify for being selected for SEP. You will also need to apply for your SEP separately at a later stage. Students are still expected to remain competitive for the SEP programme in terms of CAP, and other Faculty-given requirements.

For information on the SEP eligibility criteria, please visit International Relations Office website.

As a Language Preparation Programme (LPP) student, when do I go for my SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea?

Students are required to go on SEP upon completion of the LPP. Students are advised to go on SEP in year 3 so that they can complete the LPP according to the regular schedule. Please note that students are not allowed to go on SEP in their final semester (3-year course) or final year (4-year course). This means that students in a three-year programme can only go for SEP in first semester of their 3rd year.

I am not sure if I would like to go on SEP to one of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea. Should I still apply for the Language Preparation Programme (LPP)?

If you are not sure if you would like to go on SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea, then you should NOT apply for the LPP.

You can consider learning French/German/Korean through other platforms:

Bid for the language modules offered by the Centre for Language Studies via CORS. For more information on CORS, please visit <http://www.nus.edu.sg/cors/>

Take up language courses offered by external providers such as Alliance Française de Singapour (French), the Goethe-Institut Singapur (German) or the Singapore Korean School (Korean).

I didn't get into Language Preparation Programme (LPP). How do I take language courses to prepare for SEP? How do I bid for language courses?

First year students who have missed the LPP application deadline cannot apply for LPP. You are still free to bid for the language module in the CORS exercise. The situation differs in each cohort so we cannot say for sure how many bidding points you will need to be successful. Generally the language modules at entry levels are popular and require high bidding points. If you do not have sufficient bidding points you will have to wait and take the language modules in later semesters when you accumulate more bidding points.

All students should note that the Centre of Language Studies (CLS) has determined that NUS students need a minimum of four semesters of a foreign language in order to take modules taught in the foreign language. In addition, most partner universities offer intensive language courses for exchange students before the start of the semester and you are strongly encouraged to sign up for these tailor-made classes.

Do I have to take language courses to go on SEP? Do I have to speak a foreign language to go on SEP?

It depends on the SEP location. Some universities do not require you to have knowledge of the local language, but it is still helpful to have it for daily life. We recommend that students take 1-2 semesters of a foreign language even if they will not need it for their courses. For other universities where courses are taught in a foreign language, students are expected to have sufficient knowledge of the foreign language in order to go on SEP there. Students can review the partner university's website to see if courses are offered in English. Please approach International Relations Office (IRO) for more information.

Can I go on Student Exchange Programme (SEP) if I am selected for an internship opportunities?

Please approach your Faculty SEP administrators for advice.

If I have a Cumulative Average Point (CAP) lower than 3.0 but am on Language Preparation Programme (LPP) can I still go on SEP?

The minimum CAP required for SEP is 3.0 so if you do not achieve this level you will not be eligible for SEP, whether or not you are in LPP.

Please keep in mind that your Faculty will consider your CAP at the time of application, not at the time you leave for SEP.

I am unable to gain admission into the Language Preparation Programme (LPP). Does it mean that I cannot go for SEP to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland and South Korea?

You can certainly consider SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and South Korea as long as you satisfy the SEP eligibility criteria and meet the necessary language requirements of the partner university. Some of these universities offer courses in English as well.

For information on the SEP eligibility criteria, please visit the International Relations Office website.

Which partner universities can I go on exchange to in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea?

Please refer to International Relations Office (IRO) website for a listing of partner universities in various countries.

How do I indicate that I have taken language courses on my SEP application? If I know a foreign language should I note this on my SEP application?

When students apply for SEP, they are able to indicate if they are a LPP student or if they have taken external language or academic courses in the system. If students are applying to study in countries where this foreign language is used, it will be beneficial to the student's application and should be noted.

I am not sure if I can commit to going on SEP in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or South Korea from a financial standpoint due to the high cost of living overseas. What should I do?

There are various options open to students who wish to find ways to finance their exchange. You can:

Apply for scholarships, awards, financial assistance or the Overseas Student Exchange Programme Loan. For more information, please check with International Relations Office (IRO).

Start looking for part-time or vacation jobs to save money for your exchange.

Going on student exchange is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Among other things, it will help you to cultivate friendships with people from different cultures, develop your independence and flexibility, and as a bonus, enhance your résumé. Many students have taken loans, worked hard and successfully financed their SEP. With this global experience you will stand out from other applicants when you apply for a job, and you will be paying your loan back in no time at all!

Regarding language immersions...

What is the Language Preparation Programme (LPP) language immersion?

The language immersion is an optional programme that LPP students can participate in during the term break between their first and second year. It gives students the opportunity to experience life in a French/German/Korean speaking environment and will be invaluable in increasing your French/German/Korean language proficiency. Students can look forward to an enriching language and cultural immersion in France, Germany or Korea. For more information and application, please refer to Centre for Language Studies website.

Is it compulsory to go for the language immersion?

No, it is an optional programme. However, students are strongly encouraged to participate in the immersion programme as it will greatly improve their language proficiency. Students who have gone for the immersions have found the programme enjoyable, enriching and beneficial to their language learning and SEP experience.

When do the immersions take place?

The language immersions are held during the term break between academic years. Each of the language immersions in the various destinations operate on a slightly different schedule and will last for a period of 3 to 4 weeks sometime in May, June or July. For more information on the dates for the immersions this year, please visit the Centre for Language Studies website.

The International Relations Office (IRO) also organises language immersions to France/Germany/Switzerland. Please refer to IRO website for more information.

Are credits granted for the language immersion classes?

No, credits are not granted for the language immersion classes.

Are the immersions free of charge?

No, they are not. The immersion programmes organised by the Centre for Language Studies (CLS) are to be funded by students. Please refer to CLS website for more information.

Students under Language Immersion Awards (LIA) will be funded for immersion. For more information, please visit the CLS website.

Regarding Language Immersion Award...

What is the Language Immersion Award (LIA) and what LIAs are available?

The Language Immersion Award is proudly presented by the International Relations Office and is jointly sponsored by various external agencies and NUS. This award is administered by the Centre for Language Studies (CLS). The award covers the cost of the language classes, accommodation and some meals. Students will have to bear the cost of their plane ticket to France and Germany, as well as any other costs. For more information please visit CLS website.

What are the terms and conditions of the Language Immersion Award?

The Language Immersion Award is only open to students who take French 2 or German 2 in their Year 1 Semester 2, before the May - July vacation period. Students must agree to return to selected universities or country for SEP upon accepting the award. The list of universities or countries will differ depending on which Language Immersion Award a student accepts. Please visit the International Relations Office website for more information.

I want to apply for the Language Immersion Award but I may have National Service training during that time. What should I do? Can I still apply for the Language Immersion Award if I have National Service training?

Please check with your camp in advance to see whether you have in-camp training on the dates of your desired immersion programme. If your camp is unable to give you an answer now, we suggest that you still apply for the immersion first.

In the event that you get selected and you find out that you have in-camp training during that time, please approach CLS to write a letter to prove that you are attending the immersion for you to inform your camp, but IRO unfortunately cannot guarantee that your camp will allow you to defer the training.

Do I have to go back to a certain university/country for SEP if I accept the Language Immersion Award?

Yes, you have to go back to a particular university/ country for SEP if you accept the Language Immersion Award.

If I accept the Language Immersion Award but decide to withdraw, do I have to pay any penalty?

No, there will not be any penalty for the withdrawal. However, you need to inform CLS of the withdrawal.

Regarding students who have prior knowledge in French/German/Korean...

What is the placement test and how should I make arrangements to sit for it?

Placement tests are administered by the Centre for Language Studies. This test helps to ascertain a student's level of competency in a language. A student who has sat for the placement test and assigned a suitable language module may bid for it online through CORS.

For more information on the placement test, please visit CLS website.