

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2019/2020

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 2019/2020



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2020


S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Abdul Azeez

It is indeed a great pleasure to have been awarded the S.A.T Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize. I started off from Arabic 1 as a complete beginner with only a rudimentary understanding of the language. That being said, it has also always been my lifelong desire to understand this language and to gain an insight into Arab culture. Many a times, I have found it overwhelming to comprehend the intricacies of the language and the versatility with which Arabic prose is written. But, the challenge has only made the long and arduous journey to Arabic 6 more rewarding. The satisfaction of finally understanding the complex grammatical structures used in the texts studied cannot be explained and it has made me appreciate the language even more. With unwavering support and guidance from Mr Omar and Mr Muzzammil, I have amassed a wealth of knowledge that has enabled me to experience the beauty and eloquence of this language. In addition to that, learning a foreign language has taught me more about life and human interactions through the lens of a different culture. This has left me even more motivated to continue mastering the language to the best of my ability. My NUS Arabic journey might have come to an end with the completion of Arabic 6, but my quest to delve deep into this language has just started.



CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize – Koh Tze Yong

Upon entering NUS, I continued my strong interest in Southeast Asia and Indonesia by enrolling into the Bahasa Indonesia (BI) programme here, which complements my undergraduate degree in FASS Southeast Asian Studies. It has been an absolute joy to be taught under the attentive guidance of the lecturers in the BI programme. Although my playful nature must have been a handful for the teachers, they patiently helped me understand the language and nurture my passion in it. The programme is inclusive and enriching, combining different aspects such as regular textbooks, and short passage exercises, to lively cultural performance, interesting short stories, relevant news articles, famous

<p>FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>Indonesian films, great literary works and regular field trips. I would highly recommend the BI language programme to anyone regardless of your background and your experience and I am grateful and honoured to receive this prize from CLS and the BI language department. Thank you for such a wonderful experience!</p>
 <p>FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – Terry Tantio</p> <p>My journey of learning Chinese language in NUS has been the highlight of my first two years of undergraduate studies. With a little bit Chinese language background that I had before coming into the university, I decided that I wanted to further hone my Chinese language proficiency. I was first enrolled in Chinese 3 in my first semester and completed Chinese 6 at the end of my second year. I feel that taking a language module is extremely time consuming as a lot of practice is required to master a language. With passionate and caring teachers, every Chinese class was fun and engaging. With various group projects and class activities, I was able to get to know many international students from all over the world. The time I spent learning Chinese language has been absolutely meaningful and I am incredibly grateful and honoured to be the recipient of Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize.</p>
 <p>FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>CLS German Language Prize – Song Tuck Meng Kenneth</p> <p>First and foremost, I am deeply honored to receive this prize as it is a recognition of the hard work I have put into learning the German language, as well as all the effort my lecturers took to teach me. Picking up the German language was one of the best decisions I have made in NUS. The German lectures were always interesting and engaging; the lecturers went to great lengths to come up with various activities, from playing charades, watching German documentaries and movies, listening to weekly podcasts in German, to eating Apfelkuchen. Having received this prize, I am even more motivated to continue studying German beyond German 6. A big thank you to CLS and all the German lecturers who have taught me well – I will never forget my past 3 years studying German.</p>



FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020

**CLS Hindi Language Prize
– Ang Kang Ling**

I would like to thank my teacher, Dr Sandhya Singh, for consistently encouraging me to explore different societal issues in Hindi. Her emphasis on improvements instead of results motivated me to step beyond simply mastering the grammar basics in Hindi. Indeed, in the last two semesters, I learnt beyond the superficial aspects of Indian culture, and I gained a deeper knowledge on India's social issues through various discussions in class. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friends in class, who have been very helpful and supportive. The past three years I spent learning Hindi at CLS was a fruitful and enriching experience which I will never forget!



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**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2019-2020
- the best NUS student in Japanese Language from the
Centre for Language Studies – Gloria Hoh Si Hui**

Offering Japanese language at CLS has been one of the best decisions of my time in university. From Japanese 1 all the way until Business Japanese 2, I've had the privilege of being taught by a team of really dedicated and thoughtful Sensei. It was under their guidance that I managed to find learning a new language fun and learn about the intricate nuances of Japanese culture. I would like to thank all the Sensei under whose tutelage I've improved, especially Walker-Sensei, Amazaki-Sensei and Morita-Sensei. Thinking about the friends I've met in my Japanese classes and on summer immersion also makes me look back with great fondness and gratitude. Although I still have a long way to go, it is an honour to have been chosen for this award. Thank you!



**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2019-2020
- the second best NUS student in Japanese Language
from the Centre for Language Studies - King Guan Xue
Nicholas**

I am both surprised and honoured to receive the Japanese Association, Singapore Prize. When I first took up Japanese in my first year, it was with some apprehension about how time-consuming and rigorous the modules would be. And now, having taken 4 Japanese modules, I am proud to say that every bit of time was worth it. Japanese lessons were always filled with laughter and enthusiasm, and especially so when everyone puts in so much effort! I would always feel invigorated by the classes, even when it was at the end of a gruelling day of other

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lessons. Special mention must go to Saito-sensei and Walker-sensei, the two giants of my Japanese language education, who always conducted very insightful, engaging and fun lessons. Looking back, learning Japanese has given me a new worldview and made me more confident, and I can scarcely imagine my university life without taking up Japanese. While a huge affirmation of my effort, this award is certainly not the end of my language studies. I would continue to improve my Japanese communication skills and learn more in the future.




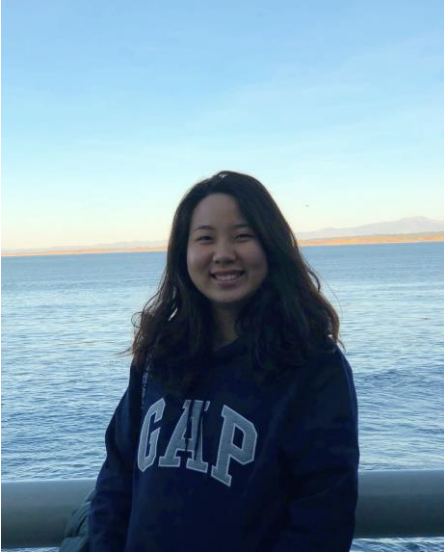
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**CLS Korean Language Prize
– Esther Ng Ka Yan**

It is a great privilege to have been awarded the CLS Korean language prize for something that I truly enjoy and do not see as an academic module. Rather, the past 3.5 years that I spent learning Korean with CLS were more of a passion and a hobby, and that is no less due to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Korean teachers, as well as the unwavering support from my classmates. Korean classes have always been something that I look forward to, even if they are held at an ungodly hour from 6pm to 7.30pm - they are my energisers for the day, an oasis during the week. However, learning Korean had never been easy (or any language for that matter) - I still recall struggling in Korean 6 when it felt like there was a large jump in difficulty, but it was definitely worth the time and effort invested as I truly felt that I had improved by leaps and bounds in the language.

Aside from acquiring a new skill, my journey with the CLS Korean Department had opened many doors for me - I met a lot of like-minded and inspiring individuals, who then became some of my closest friends. I was able to embark on a semester-long exchange to Yonsei University in South Korea, and make the most out of my experience by joining a student club and making lots of Korean friends. I was also able to meet many distinguished individuals, such as university professors, artists, diplomats who were visiting Singapore, and learn from them.

Most importantly, I was able to learn more about another country and their culture, which has taught me greater skills, such as perspective, empathy and cultural sensitivity. I'm incredibly thankful to our dedicated teachers at CLS for making my Korean learning journey

	<p>so enjoyable and fulfilling and I'm deeply honoured to have been awarded this prize.</p>
 <p>FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>CLS Malay Language Prize – Han Hong Yu</p> <p>I always looked forward to Malay language classes as they were a fun respite from content-heavy core modules. Initially, I took up the language just to better communicate with family members of my significant other. However, I learnt much more than I expected to. I got a glimpse into the the Malay culture through songs and short stories, and what the community values through the poetic form of pantun. I also learnt to read signboards when I go shopping in our neighbouring country! My heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr Aishah for her wise and gentle guidance, and to Cikgu Sew for his energetic and engaging classes. Terima kasih!</p>
 <p>FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>CLS Tamil Language Prize – Koh Ming Hui</p> <p>I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive the Tamil language prize, and I owe this award to the people who have supported me throughout this journey. I would first like to thank Teacher Saba for her dedication and expert guidance. I am so very grateful for the time she took to patiently explain grammar rules and colloquial language use throughout Tamil 1 and 2 when I had difficulty understanding, as well as her constant encouragement that I was doing well when I felt I was falling behind. Teacher Saba is one of the most passionate educators I have met, and she has given me a love for Tamil language and culture that I will continue to pursue. I would also like to express my appreciation to my classmates who helped me in my understanding and pushed me to excel in friendly competition. Finally, I am most thankful for my cherished friend who inspired me in the first place to pick up another of Singapore's national languages, and has been my biggest fan all the way.</p> <p>Growing up, I never thought that one day I would be able to read Tamil stories and news articles, understand Tamil signs and MRT station names around Singapore, or order food at Anjappar in Tamil. I hope to go even further – to be able to read ancient Tamil literature, appreciate Tamil</p>

	<p>rhymes and poems, and hold complex conversations in Tamil. I still have a long way to go, but this has been a memorable first step.</p>
 <p>FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2020</p>	<p>CLS Thai Language Prize – Lau Hui Min</p> <p>I am deeply honoured to receive the CLS Thai Language Prize. Reading Thai language modules for the past six semesters has been a very fulfilling journey that has enlivened my university life. I am extremely grateful to all of the Ajarns for making the process of learning a new language so enjoyable and meaningful. I would like to thank Ajarn Tukta, Ajarn Pornwipa, Ajarn Sasiwimol and Ajarn Titima. Thank you for sharing your beautiful language and culture with us, and for being so patient and caring. I appreciate Ajarns' effort in creating opportunities for us to learn more and connect with the Thai culture. Beyond the exposure to Thai language and culture, reading Thai modules has also provided me with the opportunity to meet friends who share the same interest in all things Thai. I am truly grateful to the Thai department and CLS for all the opportunities and the amazing experience over the years.</p>