

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2017/2018

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 2016/2017



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

MAK KAI FENG DARREN
with Associate Professor Suthiwan
Titima, Director of Centre for
Language Studies

S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – MAK KAI FENG DARREN

I am very grateful to receive this award. Over the 3 years of tuition received under Ustadhah Maryam, Ustadhah Ghadah, Ustadh Omar, and Ustadh Muzzammil, I have learnt much about not only the Arabic language, but also Arab culture as well - and experienced first-hand the Arab generosity. I may have reached the end of the Arabic course in NUS, but this is not the end of my journey in the language and culture. This award is a motivation to further my understanding and learning, and I am again very grateful to receive it.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

P AYILISHA
with Associate Professor Suthiwan
Titima, Director of Centre for
Language Studies

Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – P AYILISHA

I value having had the most encouraging and passionate teachers from CLS supporting me through this journey in learning Mandarin. My goal when setting foot in NUS was to only leave after studying the language up till level 6, as I felt it was an enormous opportunity I should never miss. I've always looked forward to Mandarin classes during every week of my semester, where I learnt about Chinese cultures, arts, and philosophy, beyond just growing my vocabulary in a foreign language. Many a time, I have felt bad for asking so many questions in class because of the great effort our teachers would take to clarify our doubts and explain the nuances in Mandarin to us. But on those many occasions they have never failed to appreciate our curiosity and encourage us to ask more. My learning experience together with friends during our fun lessons has given me fond memories I will always treasure. This award is a deeply humbling one, and motivates me to go on in expanding my learning. To all who are thinking of taking up a new language and feel discouraged by the effort it would entail, I'd say go for it, because it'll always be worth it.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

ARIEL LIM SONG FANG
with Mr Lee Kang Yam, Chief
Learning Curator, The Flame Centre
Pte Ltd

**CLS German Language Prize– ARIEL LIM
SONG FANG**

I am surprised and honoured to receive the CLS German Language Prize. Learning German has been one of the highlights of my university career, and I am immensely grateful for the help, effort, and dedication of all my teachers. It seems like just yesterday that I was in German 1 and barely able to communicate; I can hardly believe that three years have passed so quickly and I have now completed German 6. Learning German has been a wonderful experience that has brought immense fun and joy into my life! I am thankful for the prize and for the opportunity to learn this fascinating language. Even though German 6 is sadly over, I definitely plan to continue improving my German and learning more in the future.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

CAITLIN CELESTINE FERNANDEZ
with Mr Ninad Deshpande, Deputy
High Commissioner of India

**CLS Hindi Language Prize– CAITLIN
CELESTINE FERNANDEZ**

I am very honoured and humbled to receive this award. I would to specially thank my patient and caring teachers, Sandhya-ji and Sadhana-ji. They have been wonderful teachers in the past 4 semesters. They take the time and effort to make every Hindi lesson engaging for the students by incorporating aspects of Indian culture into our dialogue and lesson plans. Despite having no prior knowledge of any Indian language or culture, I discovered the intricacies and beauty of the Indian culture and the Hindi language together with my teachers. Learning Hindi in NUS has been a remarkable journey as I not only gained an understanding of the language but also a deeper appreciation of Indian customs and traditions in every lesson. If given the chance once more, I would learn the language with my teachers again!

FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

NG SHAO HUAN

**Japanese Association, Singapore Medal &
Prize AY2017-2018 – NG SHAO HUAN.**



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

CLAUDIA KOH JIA NING

with Counsellor, Mr Seong Jongwon,
Embassy of Republic of Korea

CLS Korean Language Prize – CLAUDIA KOH JIA NING

I am really honoured to have been awarded the CLS Korean Language Prize. I was told by our Korean teacher about such an award at the start of the semester but did not expect myself to receive such an award at all because of the large number of classmates that were much more fluent than me in Korean. I would like to thank all the dedicated Korean teachers that taught me in the past 3 years and all the hard work that they put in in order to allow me to understand complex Korean grammar and the passion they put in to make Korean lessons so engaging and fun. I can't believe that I am able to strike conversations with native Koreans in just a short span of 3 years, taking into account that I learnt Korean from scratch in NUS, and it's all thanks to the cheerful and passionate Korean teachers that put in their very best to make learning Korean so enjoyable and something that I would look forward to every single week. Learning a new language is definitely not an easy task but it is really a rewarding experience and a useful skill to acquire in the future, be it when travelling or in the workforce. While I must admit that there were tough times when juggling with exams and language modules to the point that I wanted to give up, I did not regret my decision of taking all 6 of the Korean language modules in NUS and if given a chance again, I would still make the same decision :) Learning a language really broadens one's perspectives in the way one views something and through Korean language, I was not only able to learn more about the Korean culture and history, but also learn more about my own country as well, through cultural and social differences. One of the most rewarding things about learning a new language would be the people I must say, having to meet new friends of a different nationality and being able to communicate with them through their language. Because of that, I feel like it really changed my character and personality over the 3 years from someone who was afraid to step out of my comfort zone to talk to people of other nationalities to someone who is more comfortable to talking to strangers and it definitely helped boost my confidence level as well. Korean lessons are by far the best memory in my 4 years in NUS and something that will definitely be etched in me even after I graduate!



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

GOH TIONG ANN

with Professor Robbie Goh, Dean, Faculty
of Arts & Social Sciences

CLS Tamil Language Prize – GOH TIONG ANN

Tamil has always been an interesting language for me. I started off learning Tamil so that I could connect better with my future students as an educator, but this journey has been so much more. I would like to first thank my Tamil language teacher Mrs Saba for her unwavering patience and guidance that allowed me to pick up the language quickly, and also for going beyond the classroom to help us appreciate the Indian culture. I would also like to thank my wonderful classmates for making Tamil class the lesson I would always look forward to every week.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

TAN YI XUAN

with Mr Mohd Nizam Ismail, Assistant Editor, Berita Harian / Berita Minggu

CLS Malay Language Prize – TAN YI XUAN

I am surprised and humbled to receive the CLS Malay Language prize. I took Bahasa Melayu as a third language in secondary school but lost touch with it for four years after graduation. NUS and CLS have offered me the opportunity to be exposed to the language again. Starting from Malay 3, I have indeed recalled and accumulated much more vocabularies that come in handy when conversing with my Malay friends and neighbours. Through learning the peribahasa and pantun, I have gained a better understanding of the Malay culture, and am also surprised that there are many similarities between the Chinese values and Malay values, even though we express them through different practices. I would like to thank Cikgu Aishah for the interesting lessons and for exposing us to Malay language and culture through various mediums -- newspaper articles, videos, song, etc. Of course, I would also like to thank my classmates for making the class lively and for exchanging conversations in Malay; I'm sure we have all strengthened our proficiency in the language through our conversations.



FASS AWARDS CEREMONY 2018

TAN YI XIAN

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

CLS Thai Language Prize – TAN YI XIAN

I feel honored and humbled to have been selected for this award, it is truly a pleasant surprise. Choosing to take up Thai is one of the best decisions I have made in NUS. Instead of feeling stressed up and overwhelmed, Thai classes allowed me to relax and unwind. I had so much fun learning about the culture, interacting with my classmates and even going for the immersion programme. The past 3 years of learning Thai has been an enjoyable and fruitful journey, and I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities given to me. Most importantly, I am grateful to the patient and caring Thai teachers that have taught me throughout these 3 years. Thank you so much to Ajarn Pornwipa, Ajarn Tukta, Ajarn Sasiwimol and Ajarn Titima! Thank you to the Thai department and CLS for everything that you have done for the students, making learning a new language fun and less daunting!