

# LANGUAGE PRIZES 2018/2019

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 2018/2019



**FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2019**

## **S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – KHADEEJAH BINTE RAWSHAN**

I am very honoured and grateful to be the recipient of the S.A.T Alsagoff Arabic language prize. Under the guidance of Ustadh Omar and Ustadh Muzzammil I have been able to learn a lot about the Arabic language and understand the beauty behind the language. Having lived previously in the middle-east, I had always wanted to further my knowledge of the Arabic language and culture, and studying Arabic here at NUS provided me with this opportunity. I hope to expand my knowledge on the Arabic language, even though my studies at NUS have come to an end.

## **CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize – LIM HUI EN, ISABEL**

I am really honoured to receive this award after learning Bahasa Indonesia (BI) for six levels. BI has been an integral part of my university life. They brought me great joy as I loved learning the language, and the many aspects of Indonesian culture. Not only that, I had loving and kind teachers who were really like mothers to me. Although learning a new language is not easy, I looked forward to every class because of my encouraging teachers and friends. I am extremely grateful for all my teachers who continuously supported me throughout this journey. I am happy to say that I left NUS with the knowledge of a new language, and many close friendships from BI classes. Learning BI is undoubtedly the best decision I made in university.



**FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2019**

## **Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – VU DUC NAM**

I took my first Chinese class in my first year from Chinese 1. However, due to clashes in timetable I was unable to continue with the module but eventually decided to continue the language in my third year semester 2 - and it was an absolute blast for me when I really felt that I want to continue study Chinese. However, with only 2 semesters left I would be unable to finish the 4 remaining levels from 3 to 6, and decided that I really wanted to make the most of the wonderful teachers here in FASS. As such, during my summer before year 4 I decided to buy the book and learn level 3 and 4 on my own, before coming back to take the test and was kindly accepted by Chen laoshi to take level 5 despite knowing that it will be a bit hard for me. However, I genuinely enjoy laoshi's classes, they are the highlight of my year 4 struggle in academic deadlines. Eventually, I am glad that I finished 6 modules of Chinese, and backpacked to China after the year without any advance plan, to ask and interact with the locals and find out my travel plan there was an absolutely exhilarating experience when I realize all my time put into Chinese was absolutely fruitful.



**FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2019**

**CLS German Language Prize  
– LIM SZE HUI**

I am extremely honoured to receive the CLS German Language Prize. Initially, I took up German because of a mild interest in German music. Eventually, I fell in love with the language and culture, thus deciding to pursue it all the way. My German language journey has opened so many doors for me - giving me the opportunity to attend summer school in Stuttgart as well as an exchange in Mannheim. Learning German was one of the best parts of my NUS life. It has been a fulfilling experience for me as I made many friends in German classes and even connected with German-speaking students both abroad and back in Singapore. I am immensely grateful to my patient and encouraging teachers for going the extra mile in helping me grow. When I first visited Germany after learning German 1, I could barely form basic sentences while communicating with my host family. After 2 years of classes, I visited my host family again and was pleasantly surprised that I could converse completely in German with them. That was heartening and made me appreciate the intimate connections that speaking a foreign language allows us to form. Although German 6 is over, I am learning German Studies as a guest student and will continue to improve my language skills from here.



**FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2019**

**CLS Hindi Language Prize  
– ANG KANG LING**

I would like to thank my teachers, Dr Sandhya and Ms Sadhana, for their patience. I wanted to pick up Hindi as I am interested in learning more about India. Learning Hindi was initially very challenging as I had to grasp grammar concepts which are different from English. For example, I struggled to understand compound verbs as this grammar concept is not used in English. In addition, I was not very confident in speaking. However, my teachers pushed for me to become a more confident speaker, such as providing opportunities for presentations and even emceeing for Hindi day. I am grateful that my teachers patiently guided me and created a safe environment for making mistakes and giving me room for improvement. Moreover, the textbook the teachers created provided various valuable insights on Indian culture, such as its diverse festivals, customs, etc. With my teachers' encouragement and constant engagement, I will continue to strive and improve on my Hindi language skills,



**FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2019**

**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize, the best NUS student in Japanese Language from the Centre for Language Studies  
– VIVIAN GOH YIT MIN**

It is a great privilege to be awarded the Japanese Association, Singapore Prize. My language learning journey began back in 2015 when I decided to enrol in Japanese 1, and it has been a whirlwind of a journey ever since. Besides making many valuable friends who shared my passion for learning the language, participating in study programmes and SEP in Japan also gave me the chance to experience how it is like

to connect with people from different parts of the world through the Japanese language.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Japanese language teachers, tutors and staff who have helped me along the way. In my opinion, the NUS Centre for Language Studies offers one of the strongest Japanese language education programmes in Singapore, and I hope that more students pursue their passion for the Japanese language with this team of dedicated teachers!

**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2018-2019 - the second best NUS student in Japanese Language from the Centre for Language Studies  
- CHIANG YI CHEN REBECCA**

I looked forward to and enjoyed the Japanese module I took every semester. The teachers were dedicated and encouraging, classes were engaging and well-structured, and my classmates - many of whom became my most intimate NUS friends - were wonderful company. I have made considerable progress since I took LAJ1201 as a freshman and I thank the Japanese programme as well as my course mates and teachers for enabling my growth with their steadfast support. With or without the prize, which I am pleasantly surprised and honoured to receive, I am glad that I chose to learn Japanese and persevered with my decision



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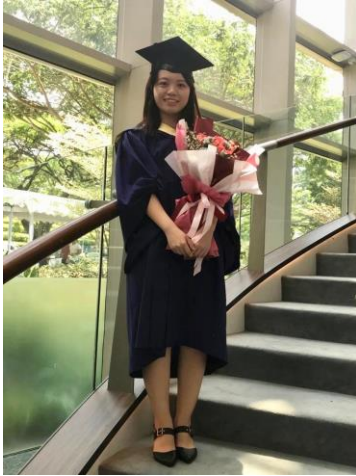
**CLS Korean Language Prize  
- CRYSTAL WEE BAOYU**

The past 3 years I spent across 5 modules of the Korean language with CLS are probably my best memories in NUS, winning the language prize was secondary and something I did not expect. Throughout the 3 years, I have not only managed to increase my language ability in Korean but also gain valuable opportunities for social and cultural exchange with many Koreans. The idea of communicating cultural ideas in the Singapore context across language barriers and country borders always excites me and I believe that more opportunities will be there for me even after I graduate. Being able to communicate directly in Korean, I have also established many friendships with native Koreans whom I frequently contact, and whom are as close to me as my Singaporean friends are.

For making all of that possible, I would like to express my gratitude towards all of my Korean language teachers who have dedicated much time and effort in mentoring me. Without their quality lessons and guidance, I would have not been able to achieve this standard of Korean in such a short time. I would also like to thank my Korean class' classmates for always being so kind and enthusiastic in practicing Korean with me.

**CLS Tamil Language Prize  
– ALISON TEE XIN YI**

I am very grateful and honored to receive the CLS language prize for Tamil. To me, language is a way of connecting with people from different groups and backgrounds and accessing new experiences and perspectives outside of the ones we were born into. It has been my privilege to learn Tamil and experience a little of its rich culture and history through the language classes provided by CLS and the patient and caring guidance of Mrs Sabapathy. From its script to its phonology and grammatical structures, Tamil is a beautiful language and I intend to continue engaging with it in my everyday life and improving my proficiency beyond what I have learned in the classroom.



**FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2019**

**CLS Malay Language Prize  
– TEE JIA MIN**

I am very surprised and humbled to be awarded the CLS Malay Language Prize. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Cikgu Aishah and Cikgu Sew for their kind guidance in the past three years. It was truly an enriching and enjoyable learning experience that allowed me to better understand the Malay language and culture. Being conversant in Malay has also come in handy in various situations e.g. conducting interviews with pak cik (uncle) and mak cik (aunty) in Malay in completion of my final year internship as well as navigating my way when I was travelling in Malay-speaking countries. I am very glad that I picked up Malay again in NUS after losing touch with it for more than seven years. I will continue to work hard and practise. Terima kasih!

**CLS Thai Language Prize – TAN FANG NING**