

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2021/2022

The prizes were set up in AY2009/2010 to honour the achievements of top students in the Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Tamil and Thai language programmes. These prizes are funded by donations. Awardees will be awarded cash 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 2021/2022.



FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2022

S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Syed Muhammad Firdaus Bin Syed Siraj Uddin

I am honoured to have received the S.A.T Alsagoff Arabic language prize. I have enjoyed attending Ustaz Omar and Ustaz Muzammil's lessons in them helping me not only learn the fundamentals of the Arabic language, but also fuel my curiosity in learning about the culture, tradition and outwardly the Arab diaspora here in Singapore.

Having Arab ancestry myself, I've always wanted to learn Arabic in my bid to reconnect with a part of my heritage. With this prize, the opportunity provided to me by NUS serves as a reminder of my endeavours in learning the language and expanding my Arabic further beyond my university life.



FASS AWARDS RECEIPIENT 2022

CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize – Teo Neil Russell

I am deeply honoured and grateful to receive the CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize. As a Nursing student, I initially took up Bahasa Indonesia to better communicate with my patients.

However, with each completed Bahasa Indonesia module, my love for the language and culture grew. Eventually, I completed my Bahasa Indonesia journey out of passion for the language. My weekly Bahasa Indonesia lessons had become a highlight of my university life. Whilst learning a new language may not have been easy, the caring and encouraging teachers made the process enjoyable and fulfilling. Knowledgeable and attentive, the teachers would take note of my shortcomings and work with me to overcome them. Coupled with enthusiastic and engaging classmates, Bahasa Indonesia classes were truly delightful.

To end off, I would like to thank Ibu Indrianti, Ibu Liana and Ibu Yuke. It is only with their patient tutelage was I able to achieve this prize. To my dear Ibus, I promise to continue learning and practicing Bahasa Indonesia. Thank you for all the lessons and memories, it was truly my privilege to have been your student.



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – Megan Chew En-Rui

I am very surprised to be receiving the Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize. Although I am Singaporean, I was exempted from learning Mother Tongue as I studied abroad. My family members, especially my grandparents, converse in Chinese and when I entered NUS, I took the opportunity to take up Chinese Language. I was fortunate enough to have family members to speak to in Chinese.

When I started learning the language, they helped to correct my grammar and vocabulary along the way. The toughest part for me was writing. The materials such as the workbook helped me greatly.

Learning Chinese Language not only helped me to converse with my family members but also helped to improve my cultural knowledge. In fact, I grew to love the language so much so that I have started to converse in Chinese with my friends as well.

I never would have thought that I would be so blessed to receive this award and I am glad my hard work paid off. It was tough at the start, but the love for the language pushed me through.

**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2021/2022
- Best NUS student in Japanese Language – Heng Fu Yuen**



I am extremely surprised and honoured to have won the prize and very grateful to have had this opportunity to study Japanese at NUS. Japanese classes were my oases in university and despite the high workload, I looked forward to every lesson.

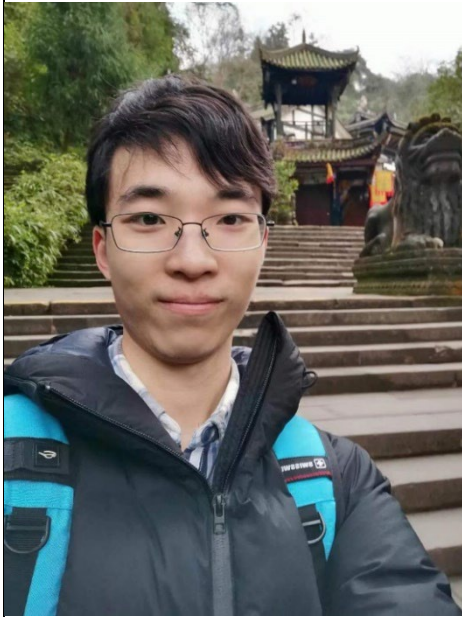
Not only was the curriculum very well-structured and tailored towards the application of the Language in conversations, but also had a nurturing and encouraging environment with many nice and kind classmates and teachers. Through the eight Japanese language modules that I have taken, I was able to build a strong foundation in the basics and had the chance to study more advanced business and media Japanese.

In addition, I also learned more about Japan itself. For example, their culture and tradition, media, geography and many more. Throughout my journey, I have also met many life-long friends and picked up many relevant skills and knowledge like business etiquette and even had the opportunity to go on a summer immersion trip to Japan which I enjoyed and am very thankful for as I was able to further practice my Japanese while exploring Japan.

FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

My only regret would be not being able to complete the last higher-level Japanese module due to lack of time. Learning Japanese at NUS has empowered me to continue mastering the language in various ways even after my graduation.

To all the teachers and friends that I have met on my journey: Thank you so much for helping and caring for me, answering my questions, providing me guidance whenever I needed and practising my Japanese with me. It was an incredibly fun and amazing four years filled with memories I will remember for a lifetime!



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2020/2021
- Second best NUS student in Japanese Language –
Ni Tianzhen**

I'm deeply honoured to receive the Japanese Association, Singapore Prize which marks the end of an incredible journey of studying Japanese at NUS.

Although I started studying Japanese before entering university, I would never be able to come this far without the great opportunity provided by NUS. Throughout the semesters, not only did I meet different people and converse with wonderful minds, but I also obtained a better understanding of the various facets of Japanese culture and society.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Kitai-Sensei, Saito-Sensei and Nagami-Sensei for providing constant guidance and support, and to all my groupmates who have been together once during this journey. I believe language studies have demonstrated the great significance of intercultural communication, especially in the post-pandemic world.

Learning Japanese has become a truly unforgettable part of my university life, and this award will always remind me to strive for the better.



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**CLS Best NUS student in Korean language
– Chai Xin Tian**

I am deeply honoured to have been awarded the CLS Korean Language Prize. I have always been interested in the Korean language and am thankful to have been given the opportunity to learn it with CLS, especially since it was not an easy-to-get module.

Korean classes have always been interesting and enjoyable. Even if classes were early in the morning or late in the evening, they were one of the few classes which I looked forward to every semester. Not only have I improved my language skills, I have also gained a deeper understanding of the Korean culture. I especially enjoyed Korean 6 and Korean 7 classes as they covered topics on different aspects of Korea's society and culture.

Although it was unfortunate that my exchange to Korea was cancelled due to the pandemic, my time spent learning the language did not go to waste as I found myself being able to travel around Korea more comfortably and speak to the locals with more confidence when I travelled there recently. All these would not have been possible without the patience and encouragement from my Korean teachers.

Without their support and guidance, I would not have been able to improve this much and have had such a fulfilling journey in university.



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**CLS Second Best NUS student in Korean language –
Lee Qian Hui**

I first started off learning Korean in NUS under the Language Preparation Programme as I was interested in Korean Pop and wanted to go on the language immersion programme. However, as I continued to take the higher-level modules, I found passion in Korean Culture and was glad that the higher-level modules offered by the department focused a lot on cultural studies and that made studying so much more interesting!

I'm definitely glad that I pursued a minor in Korean Language and am thankful for all the lecturers and fellow classmates who were always helpful and enthusiastic to learn!



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**CLS Malay Language Prize
– Jay Tan Jun Kiat**

It is a huge honor for me to receive the CLS Malay Language Prize Award. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn Bahasa Melayu under Cikgu Aishah, Cikgu Sew and Cikgu Dul. They were proficient in delivering the lessons in an interactive manner that made learning Malay fun. My journey in mastering the language would not be possible without my enthusiastic classmates as well. I would like to give special thanks to Julian for being an excellent buddy as we motivated one another to be more conversant with the language.

I fondly remember looking forward to Malay lessons during the hectic school semesters. It was a respite from other modules as it was always interesting to learn about the culture that comes together with the language, such as the history of Orang Laut, Peranakans, and Baba Malay. Moreover, I now feel confident in conversing with locals in Malay and also in our neighboring countries.

Thank you, CLS for the award and I am inspired to continue learning the language and engaging with Malay speakers.



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**CLS Tamil Language Prize
– Tan Chuan Jeen, Freyr**

I am honoured to have been given this award by NUS Centre for Language Studies. When I first took Tamil, I did not expect to enjoy the course so much. Even more unexpected was the love I developed for the Tamil language; it is now one of my favourite languages.

Our teacher, Mrs Sabapathy, taught us useful conversational Tamil while ensuring we had fun during lessons. She took time to know her students and include Tamil vocabulary that her students may need in their future careers. The classes were paced according to the students' needs and was very friendly to beginners who had no prior knowledge of the Tamil language. Besides being able to speak basic Tamil, I also took away from the course a lifelong passion for the Tamil language.

I am very happy to have taken the Tamil language courses in NUS, and am grateful to my teacher Mrs Sabapathy, and my Tamil 2 classmates Gurpreet and Michael, for making my Tamil classes the most memorable time I have had so far in NUS!



FASS AWARDS RECIPIENT 2022

**CLS Thai Language Prize
– Koh Jun Ming**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards CLS for awarding the prestigious CLS Thai Language Prize in the final semester of my candidature in NUS.

Not only does this award reaffirm my fruitful language learning journey with the Thai Language Department but it also motivates me to continue to pursue my passion for Thai language. And all of this would not have been possible without two key mentors whom I have crossed path with – Arjan Titima and Arjan Sasiwimol. Thank you Arjan Titima for strengthening my foundation in Thai language and Arjan Sasiwimol for imparting valuable knowledge in the field of Thai academic writing to me.

Also, thank you for piquing my interest in everything Thai – Thai language, culture, history, and of course Thai food. Learning Thai language with CLS is undoubtedly the best choice I have made as an undergraduate in NUS.