

LANGUAGE PRIZES 2023/2024

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 2023/2024



S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Muhammad Hazmi Bin Kamsari

I am truly humbled and honoured to have been awarded this prize.

Learning Arabic in NUS has been extraordinary and enriching, which I will cherish for the rest of my life. This can only be credited to my amazing teachers, Dr Omar and Ustaz Muzzammil. I am forever grateful for their endless support and guidance. They made learning the language so much fun and meaningful.

To those who are considering taking up Arabic in NUS, do not hesitate any further! I can assure you that you will enjoy it and learn so much about the language and its cultural background.



Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – Simon Julian Lauw

I am deeply honored to receive this award! Learning Chinese at NUS has been an incredibly rewarding and fun journey for me.

When I first started, I was honestly intimidated—Chinese is known as one of the hardest languages, and the importance of tones, something I had never encountered before, made it even more challenging. But I am so grateful to my friends and Lao Shi(s), especially Chen Lao Shi, who guided me and made this journey enjoyable.

For those who are still hesitating to learn a new language, go for it! I promise you, university is one of the best places to explore a new language, and it's truly rewarding.



**CLS German Language Prize
– Gayathri D/O Ganesan**

I am very honoured to receive the CLS German Language Prize. My experience learning German at NUS has been really great, and I think it has been one of my best decisions so far!

The lecturers are very friendly and their engaging and interactive classes were something I looked forward to every week. Through German classes, I was also able to meet classmates (who have since become my friends) from various backgrounds and majors, and they have definitely made my journey here more fun and memorable.

What started off as a spur-of-the-moment decision to take up a German class at CLS became something I looked forward to every semester, and has now become a passion and hobby of mine that I hope to continue in the future!



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

I am honoured to have my passion for learning recognised through this award.

I would like to expressed my deepest gratitude to Dr. Sandhya, who journeyed with me for nearly 3 years from Hindi 1 to 6. Without her passion for teaching Hindi, I would not have been able to complete the Hindi course. A language module at CLS is not just about learning a language, but it is about learning a culture and making good friends with people from diverse backgrounds.

My encouragement to future students is to be open to learning from cultures vastly different from our own.



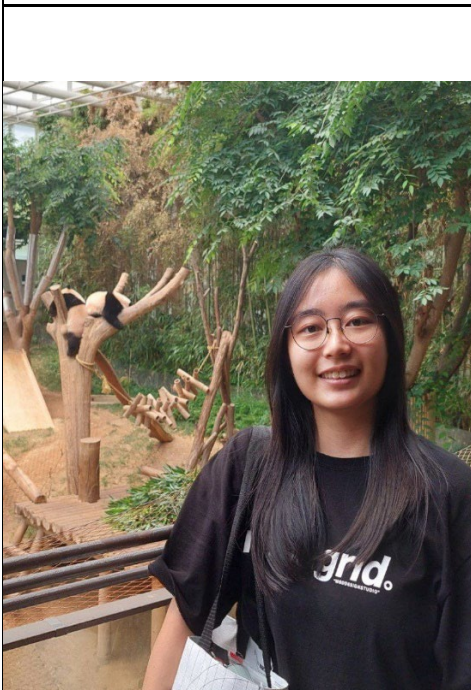
Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2023/2024 - the best NUS student in Japanese Language from Centre for Language Studies – Chong Xu Wei

I am very honored to be awarded the Japanese Association Singapore Prize for AY2023-2024. It has been a very wonderful and rewarding journey studying Japanese in NUS.

From the very beginning, the workload had never been low. Yet, Japanese classes were probably some of the most enjoyable classes I had taken in NUS. Every week of classes brought along new discoveries and eureka moments, giving me a better understanding of the language and a means to better appreciate Japanese culture. It was exceptionally gratifying to be able to make use of what I had learnt to converse with the locals during my graduation trip to Japan.

I would like to thank my senseis, each of whom made every class enriching and engaging (especially Chiba sensei who would answer every one of my questions and even go the extra mile to converse with us in Japanese after lectures). I would also like to thank my classmates who joined this journey alongside me and helped to make each class something to look forward to every week.

Finally, to my juniors learning Japanese, do not be afraid to ask questions and make mistakes as you learn the language. You too, will become jouzu in time to come.



CLS Korean Language Prize (Best Student) - Giselle Yong Chuen Ting

It is a huge honor for me to receive the CLS Korean Language Prize. Ever since picking up basic Korean from watching dramas and variety shows in my schooling days, I was delighted to finally be able to formally learn Korean with CLS in NUS.

As I mostly learnt basic Korean on my own, I was weak in my fundamentals and had no experience speaking in Korean. However, with the structured and well-designed curriculum, as well as the infinite patience and deep expertise of CLS's lecturers, I was not only able to build strong fundamentals, but also progressed to a level where I could communicate fluently during my semester exchange to Korea (which helped me make friends there whom I am still in contact with till today!) and eventually attained a minor in Korean Language. Through my 3 years of studying from Korean Level 3 to 8, I have not only gained Korean language skills, but also discovered my newfound interest in linguistics, and honed soft skills such as perseverance and time management. I have also forged lifelong friendships with like-minded peers who have inspired me with

their passion for learning and self-development.

For anyone contemplating learning a new language, I would like to encourage you to take on the challenge! CLS provides the utmost conducive environment for all levels and types of learners, so seize the opportunity to discover yourself, make friends and have fun along the way!



**CLS Korean Language Prize (Second Best Student)
– Aida Bte Mohamed Zulkifli**

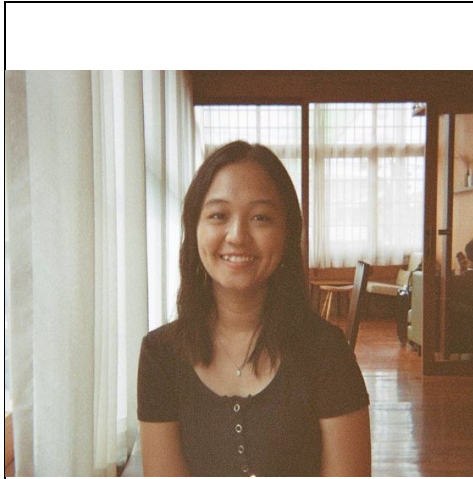
About four years ago, when I'd finally decided I would take up a Minor in the Korean Language, I joked to all my friends that I would someday achieve the CLS Language Prize. Despite my burning passion and immense love for the Korean language and culture, I was doubtful that I could actually accomplish this feat. To have been awarded this prize has therefore been a dream (though tiny, nevertheless a dream) come true.

I did not achieve this prize alone. I share this honour with my Level 7 Korean classmates – Jensen, Alison, Chern, Jia Wen, Gin, Jasmine, Cheryl and Shu Fen – whom I hold close to my heart. I could not imagine a better bunch to grind assignments, go on side quests and giggle the stress away with. I also share this honour with Ka Wei and Darryl, who have been a great support on my Korean language-learning journey. Most of all, I share this honour with Minern, who has always been like an older brother to me – I am thankful that Korean classes brought us together.

I would also like to thank all my Korean language teachers for their patient guidance, with a special mention to Dr Seowon Chi. Her hard work has allowed thousands of students like me the opportunity to study Korean to a high level in Singapore as part of the university curriculum.

She works tirelessly to make learning Korean enjoyable and to find valuable opportunities for us to use Korean outside of the classroom. For being the reason, I can take great strides towards my dreams, 지서원 선생님, I will always be grateful to you.

I hope this Language Prize will continue to be a source of motivation to everyone who learns a language at NUS – even if the thought of winning it starts out as a little joke.



**CLS Thai Language Prize
– Rita Tan Mei Ying**

Learning Thai at NUS has been an enriching and rewarding journey. It has allowed me to deepen my understanding of Thai culture while making new friends with similar interests. It is one of the main highlights of my undergraduate experience.

I am truly thankful to receive the Language Prize. I would like to thank all my Thai teachers (Ajarn Titima, Ajarn Sasiwimol, Ajarn Pornwipa, Ajarn Panida, and Ajarn Tukta) and the friends I've made through the CLS modules for this achievement. I have learned a lot from each one of you and will certainly miss taking Thai lessons and bonding over Thai food with you.

To those who are currently learning a new language, enjoy the process, don't be afraid to make mistakes, and always stay curious!



CLS Tamil Language Prize - Chin Yen Jun

I am honoured to receive the CLS Tamil Language Prize. While I was already blessed to be raised in a multilingual community, I noticed that I lacked basic knowledge on how the Tamil language functions despite its presence in Singapore. This course was the perfect opportunity for me.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Saba and the lively participation of my fellow coursemates, I gradually picked up the Tamil language and gained deeper knowledge on Tamil culture. Most importantly, this course has allowed me to gain experience learning a language in a systematic and structured way. I have found success applying a similar structure when self-studying other languages.

Learning a new language is like adopting a new framework for thinking, and I encourage everyone to do so. Best wishes on your language learning journey!