

# LANGUAGE PRIZES 2024/2025

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 2024/2025



## **S.A.T. Alsagoff Arabic Language Prize – Jannatun Tajrian**

I am truly grateful to have received this award, and would like to dedicate it to my community of Arabic teachers and friends who made the past three years of learning Arabic one of my fondest core memories in NUS.

I started off Arabic 1 with hardly any intentions of completing a minor, but fell in love with the language so much that Arabic quickly became the classes I looked forward to most every week. What I love about Arabic is that it's such a rich and beautiful language, offering learners a glimpse into the shared values, culture, and history of Arabs (and most importantly, food). A pivotal point in my journey was when I travelled to the Middle East and realised that I was actually able to converse and navigate everyday life with my knowledge from Arabic class. I hope to continue growing this knowledge after university.

Thank you to Mudarris Shahid, Ustaz Muzzamil, and Dr Omar for the immense effort and dedication you put into making Arabic classes so enriching. To those wondering whether you should take Arabic, I agree that you can always learn a new language – but learning Arabic in NUS with these esteemed teachers is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I hope you won't miss.



## **Ng Kim Choon CLS Chinese Language Prize – Chayapol Chaoveeraprasit**

I am honoured to receive the Chinese Language Prize. I chose to study Chinese because I believe it is useful in Singapore, and my experience has shown that it indeed is. For me, the hardest part when I started learning was the pronunciation, which I got better at by practicing a lot. I have also met friends from different cultures; even our laoshis come from diverse backgrounds! Not only do I get to learn Chinese, but I also get to learn about other cultures as well.

For those wanting to take up Chinese, do not hesitate to use it in everyday life. There are plenty of opportunities to do that in Singapore, and every little bit of practice helps.



### **CLS German Language Prize – Tang Yijing**

Having completed my minor in German Language Studies, I must express my heartfelt thanks to all my teachers, who have made my learning journey a tremendously enjoyable one. Despite the common conception that the German language is difficult to pick up, my teachers had provided marvellous support every step along the way. I had also made steadfast friends with my classmates through informal events organised by the Deutsche Salat Club :) What I enjoyed most was the capstone assignment, where we got to present our ideas at the Swiss Embassy.

For anyone who is looking to pick up a new language at NUS, you will find here not only interactive lessons (whose grammar may leave your brains fried but are nonetheless thoroughly enriching), but also a community where you can foster lifelong friendships.



### **CLS Hindi Language Prize – Saadhana Ramesh**


I am really grateful to have received the CLS Language Prize Award. Truthfully, I hadn't known such an award existed, but it is an honour to see the effort put into learning a new language being recognised. The experience of learning a new language is very unique. Yes, there's the struggle of wrapping your head around new syntax and vocab. But it is so satisfying when you eventually hear the language elsewhere, and the gibberish suddenly morphs into meaningful sentences you can understand!

Dr Sandhya has been paramount in making the language accessible. She is patient, creative, and passionate about teaching Hindi, always ready to offer guidance even outside of lesson time. And it's a bonus that these classes bring together such a fun bunch of people, bonding over the trials and tribulations of mastering a new way of communicating. These have been some of my favourite memories of university so far, so I highly recommend taking a language class if you've been contemplating it for a while!"

	<p><b>Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2024/2025</b>  <b>- Best NUS student in Japanese Language (1<sup>st</sup>) – Tan Boon Kiat</b></p> <p>I am honored to receive the Japanese Association Singapore Prize for AY24/25.</p> <p>The original decision to register for Japanese in NUS was almost on a whim, but nearly eight semesters later I've never looked back.</p> <p>Make no mistake, it wasn't a walk in the park — probably one of the most demanding language courses we have — but I am ever grateful for the various pathways it opened for me. From struggling with Hiragana at the start, to giving a presentation in front of esteemed corporate guests in Business Japanese 2, the LAJ experience was undoubtedly a core memory for me. It was a privilege learning under the guidance of my tutors over the years — Kitai-sensei, Chiba-sensei, Nagami-sensei and Walker-sensei.</p> <p>To juniors on the fence — take the leap of faith! You never know where your investment in Japanese would take you in the future. Whether it lands you your next interview, or makes your next trip to Japan a little bit easier — I'm sure you won't regret it.</p>
	<p><b>Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2024/2025</b>  <b>- Best NUS student in Japanese Language (2<sup>nd</sup>) – Tan Wee Kiat</b></p> <p>I am very honored to receive the Japanese Association, Singapore Prize AY2024/2025. The LAJ lessons really provided me a platform to utilize the language frequently, both with peers during tutorials, and through the various exchange opportunities with Japanese students.</p> <p>Although I self-learnt the language before coming into NUS, and was able to somewhat hold short conversations, my absolutely horrendous score from the particles section made Kitai-sensei re-evaluate my Japanese competency altogether during the placement test.</p> <p>Fast forward 4 years, now that I have concluded my LAJ journey in NUS, I definitely became more confident, and certainly more accurate in my choice of particles (most of the time) both during speaking and writing. This is all thanks to the countless shadowing and grammar practices during tutorial classes.</p> <p>I want to express my deepest gratitude to Walker-sensei for guiding me through Business Japanese 2 and Japanese for Contemporary Society. It is through these projects that I got the opportunity to step out of the classroom setting and use my Japanese in a 実践 (practical) setting. While the workload can get heavy at times, I could feel a huge boost in my confidence towards using the language at the end of the project, which I feel is the most important thing when learning a language. They are とてもたのしい and very ためになる so do give these</p>



	<p>course a shot if you are still on the fences!</p> <p>All in all, my proficiency in Japanese has opened up many new opportunities I would otherwise never dream of, and hope that your LAJ experience will earn you some 日本語上手ですねえ as well!</p>
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	<p><b>CLS Korean Language Prize (Best Student) – Hmuu Myat Moe</b></p> <p>It is truly my honour to have been awarded the CLS Korean Language Prize. It would not have been possible without the guidance from all the Korean Language teachers at NUS.</p> <p>When I first started Korean 1, I did not foresee myself to come this far. The journey was not without challenges, but the unwavering support from the teachers and the encouragement from my peers kept me going.</p> <p>My 4 years of learning the Korean Language in NUS, from Korean 1 to Korean 8, has been nothing short of fun and enriching. Not only have I gained proficiency in the Korean Language, but I have also gained valuable insights into the Korean culture and the Korean society. Through the programme, I have also forged strong bonds and made lifelong friendships.</p>
	<p>The rewarding and enjoyable Korean lessons were certainly part of my highlights in NUS. Thus, for anyone looking to learn a new language, I would like to encourage you to take the leap of faith! You may just enjoy it as much as many of us did.</p>

	<p><b>CLS Korean Language Prize (Second Best Student) – Demi Tan Jingwen</b></p> <p>I remember impulsively making my decision to take on Korean 1 back in Y1S2, purely due to interest and to satisfy my curiosity towards the Korean Language. Looking back at the four years, while this decision was the one I've spent the least amount of time contemplating about, it is the decision I least regret and easily the best decision I've made in NUS. Regardless of the level, Korean classes were always the ones I looked forward to the most because of the enthusiastic in teaching and vibrant content covered during lessons. The part I really loved the most about classes is learning about the Korean culture and getting a glimpse of how life in another country could be different from what I am experiencing here in Singapore. Taking up LAK up until level 7 and 8 has really broadened my perspective on things and gave me many valuable opportunities in life – learning translation, meeting with important persons in the Singapore-Korea organisations -- that I would never have been able to come across if not for my Professor, Dr Chi Seo Won. For anyone contemplating and thinking about taking up LAK regardless of the level, I would highly encourage you to take the leap and give it a try in exchange for a fun-filled journey that you will not regret!</p>



### CLS Tamil Language Prize - Hoo Teng Juan

Receiving this prize is the last thing I would've expected when I started my Tamil journey last year. I am extremely thankful to the Centre for Language Studies for awarding it to me, as well as to my wonderful ஆசிரியர் (teacher) Mrs Saba! It was very intimidating learning a different language for the first time beyond English and Mandarin and I was worried it would be difficult and I would fall behind, but Tamil became the class I would look most forward to each week. I did not expect the lessons to go beyond simple grammar and vocabulary into the history and culture of the language and the people, which I found incredibly fascinating. Learning Tamil even gave me the confidence to begin trying out new recipes of food I had not even heard of before this!

To all those considering Tamil: Go for it! If I could do it as the only Chinese person in my Tamil 2 class so can you!



### CLS Malay Language Prize - Brandon Tan Ming Yi

I am truly humbled and honoured to receive this prize. Learning Bahasa Melayu at NUS has been an extraordinary and enriching journey—one I will always cherish. This would not have been possible without my amazing teacher, Dr Sew Jyh Wee, whose unwavering support made every lesson both meaningful and fun. He explains grammar rules clearly and always shares the cultural context behind the language, making learning truly come alive. You'll not only gain language skills and cultural appreciation, but also make like-minded friends who share your interests. To anyone considering Bahasa Melayu, don't hesitate—you're in for a rewarding experience!



### **CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize – Ning Poh**

It is an honour to be awarded the CLS Bahasa Indonesia Language Prize. More importantly, I am deeply grateful towards the teachers that have guided me across all six levels. I would like to express a big thank you to Ibu Indrianti and Ibu Liana who patiently guided me and marked my extra practices, as well as all the other Bahasa Indonesia teachers who have made the learning process so meaningful.

Having never learnt a third language prior to taking Bahasa Indonesia, I was uncertain about whether I would be able to cope well. However, the learning process turned out to be so much fun! I would encourage anyone who is thinking about learning a new language to take that leap of faith. It is truly a fulfilling experience to uncover diverse ways of thinking and understanding the world through language.