Second Language Proficiency

BPE students must show proficiency through the Intermediate-II level (i.e., the 4th semester of a college sequence in a language) of a second language other than English (see "Foreign Language Courses at NYU," below, for details).

You may demonstrate this level of language proficiency before even starting at NYU through one of the following means:

1. A sufficiently high score on a SAT-II Language exam for French, German, Italian, or Spanish (score varies by language—you should contact Mark if you have a score to confirm—it’s often above a 650 or so),
2. A 4 or 5 on an AP language exam* (other than English, Chinese, Japanese, or Latin Literature),
3. A 6 or 7 on a Higher Level IB exam* in a language (other than English, Chinese, Japanese, or Korean)
4. An A or B in certain GCE A-Level courses* in a foreign language (varies, but would definitely not be accepted for English, Chinese, Japanese, or Korean)
5. Taking and receiving a sufficiently high score on a NYU language placement exam (see below), OR
6. Having attended all 4 years at an international high school in which all courses (except English courses) are taught in a language other than English.

*The NYU East Asian Studies Department (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages) will only accept the results of an NYU placement exam for purposes of exemption or placement. No AP, IB, or A Level results are accepted for these languages.

If you are exempt, you do not have to read further. (Please note that, even if you are exempt, you will have to take a course in Mandar in the semester in Shanghai.)

If you are not exempt under these conditions, please read further to see other options for testing out of some/all of the language requirement.
NYU Language Placement Exams**
The NYU language placement exams have two possible results: (1) exemption from the language requirement or (2) placement:

- Result 1: High scores (qualifying scores vary by exam) would exempt you from having to take second language courses at NYU (except for the required Mandarin course in Shanghai)
- Result 2: Lower scores will place you anywhere between Elementary I and Intermediate II of a language (see "Foreign Language Courses at NYU," below for information on course sequences), and you might then complete the language sequence through Intermediate II to complete your requirement.

Language placement exams will be offered at the following times in summer 2012:
a) Friday, June 8
b) Friday, July 27
c) Friday, August 24

- All of the 3 above dates will be at 1:00pm in Silver Center, room 520. No RSVP is required for these dates, but you should e-mail mark.nakamoto@stern.nyu.edu to notify Mark if you’re taking one of these exams, so he can ask for the results. Also, you will need to show your NYU ID to take an exam, so you must stop by the NYU Card Center sometime before the exam (at least several hours before in case there is a line).

d) and once during the mandatory August 27–31 Stern Orientation (RSVP information and dates TBA).

- **We strongly encourage you to take a placement exam before classes start in September if you do not meet one of the above criteria for outright exemption.**
- **Please note:** NYU placement exams are for placement/exemption purposes only. No credit is earned by placing into higher levels, and the exam results are not reflected on your transcript.
- Placement exams are only to be taken once.

There are 3 main types of language exams:

1. **SAT-style Exams**
   The following 4 placement exams through NYU are 60-minute SAT-II–style exams. The exams are reading-based (rather than writing-based), so if you are proficient in multiple languages, please pick the one in which you read the best:

   - French
   - German
   - Italian
   - Spanish

   †
   ‡
   ***
*** Native speakers of Spanish should not take the Spanish exam; there are specific courses for native Spanish speakers. Native speakers should contact Prof. Nemethy (jn2@nyu.edu) to determine an appropriate course.

† If you know that you will not be able to place out of Spanish or French completely, but would like to know what level to place yourself into, there is also an online placement option. Please contact Mark for more information. The online exam cannot be used for exemption purposes.

2. Departmental Exams
The following placement exams are 60-minute exams (except where indicated) created by NYU departments. Many of these exams involve some writing:

- **Chinese** (Mandarin) (90 minutes) (writing) (simplified- or traditional-character versions available)
- Filipino (Tagalog) (writing)
- Greek (Modern) (writing)
- Hebrew
- Japanese (75 minutes) (writing)****
- Korean (writing)
- Latin
- Portuguese
- Russian

****The Japanese placement exam is only for students who have studied Japanese in the past; they do not apply to students whose primary language is Japanese. **Students for whom Japanese is their primary language (i.e., have completed secondary education in Japan in Japanese) should consult the Japanese Language Coordinator before registering for an exam.**

3. Individually Arranged Exams
Some other languages (Arabic, Cantonese, Hindi/Urdu, Persian, and Turkish) also have a free placement exam at NYU, but the exam arrangements must be made individually with the respective department. **These particular exams are only available through arrangements with the departments; they are not available at the dates listed above through Stern or the testing office.**

If you are fluent in a language not listed above, please contact us to see if there is an exam that can be arranged. If we are able to offer an exam in that language, there might be a testing fee.

**If you have a qualifying condition that may require special testing accommodations, you must contact the NYU Moses Center (+1-212-998-4980) at least two weeks before the exam date to learn about and provide the necessary documentation.**

Placement Exam Grading
SAT Subject test-style exams, Latin, Russian, and Portuguese should be graded within a week.
Other exams may take several weeks for grading. In particular, Japanese, Filipino, and Modern Greek exams may not be graded until late-August.
Foreign Language Courses at NYU

If you are not able to be exempt, it is important to understand how language course sequencing works at NYU:
At NYU, language courses progress mostly in the following sequence, with one course taken per semester:
Elementary I
Elementary II
Intermediate I
Intermediate II
Some languages also then have Advanced I and Advanced II courses that follow the intermediate-level courses, while other languages just branch off into advanced, non-sequential elective courses in the language.

Thus, if you were to start taking courses at NYU from the beginning of a language, demonstrating the required level of proficiency would take 4 semesters, with a few exceptions:
(1) French, German, Italian, and Spanish offer the traditional 4-semester sequence, but they also offer “intensive” 6-credit language courses: one that covers both of the Elementary-level courses in one semester, and one that covers both of the Intermediate-level courses in another semester. So you could take two Intensives and complete the requirement in 2 semesters, or you could take one Intensive and two traditional-sequenced courses and finish the requirement in 3 semesters, or you could just take the 4-semester sequence.
(2) Hebrew and Latin offer the traditional 4-semester sequence, but each also offers an intensive 6-credit Elementary option (combining Elementary I and Elementary II), but they do not have an intensive Intermediate option.
(3) Portuguese only offers an Intensive Elementary Portuguese (6 credits) option for non-Portuguese/Spanish speakers or an elementary "transition to Portuguese" course for Spanish speakers (4 credits). In both cases, you would then progress on to Intermediate I and Intermediate II in Portuguese.

While you could theoretically take language courses in most any of NYU’s language offerings to get through the required Intermediate II proficiency level, some languages do not offer every level of the language every semester. For example, Modern Greek only offers Elementary I and Intermediate I in the falls, while Elementary II and Intermediate II courses are only offered in the springs. This may make course sequence planning more important since you are at Washington Square for 5 semesters—London does not usually offer language courses (other than one semester of Elementary I Mandarin) and Shanghai only offers Mandarin.

Although this may change, in the past, the following languages have only offered courses in sequential semesters as per the Modern Greek example:
Arabic
Cantonese
Filipino (Tagalog)
Modern Greek
Hindi
Modern Irish (sometimes both Elementary I and II are offered in the same semester)
Japanese
Korean
Latin
Persian
Portuguese (off-sequence: Intermediate I in springs, Intermediate II in falls)
Quechua (sometimes both Elementary I and II are offered in the same semester)
Russian
Swahili
Turkish
Urdu

More-difficult-to-complete language sequences
In the past, some languages have been offered irregularly or only uptown at Columbia, which can complicate language sequence completion. If you have an interest in any of these languages, it would probably be better taken for pure enjoyment rather than toward completion of your language requirement:
Armenian
Bengali
Czech
Indonesian
Polish
Punjabi
Tamil
Modern Tibetan
Ukrainian
Uzbek
Vietnamese

Note: If your language is not listed at all in this section, but you find it in a search of Albert (e.g., Catalan), it could be a language that is only offered very infrequently or a language in which there may only be one or two courses and not enough to achieve the proficiency needed to satisfy the requirement. Very rarely, it might be a new language offering.

Note: Some language courses at NYU are offered through NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS), but only CAS (-UA) courses are allowed.
We encourage all students who want to learn the basics of another language (before travel or perhaps to sample a language before taking it as an official course) to consider NYU's free Speaking Freely program. This free, non-credit program runs during the fall and spring semesters and meets once a week for 75 minutes each for 10 weeks. Languages offered regularly include the following: Arabic, Cantonese, Czech, French, German, Greek (Modern), Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Twi. Several levels of many of the languages are often available—although these are conversation-oriented courses and will not replace the academic course requirements of the language requirement.