

Why learn Malay?

- Singapore is situated in the Malay Archipelago
- National languages of neighbouring countries
- Official language in Singapore
- Useful for work and communication
- Understand Malay culture and Singapore's heritage.



Besides classroom!

- Watch Malay movies
- Witness local festivals
- Short visits and homestay programme in neighbouring countries



Co-curricular Activities and Student Events

Students can interact with native Malay language speakers or speakers of Malay language locally and regionally through:

- Local trips such as immersion programmes to East and West Malaysia or Brunei Darussalam.
- Malay for work programme where students use the language in local institutions and organisations where Malay is required.
- Malay language 'encounters' where students interact with the Malays in local area of lives such as markets, housing estates, cultural centres and schools.



About Malay Language

The Malay language is a living language of the Malay Archipelago. It is the language spoken by Malays of this region. To foster a better understanding of Malay culture, tradition and history, one has to learn and understand Malay. In Singapore, the Malay language is one of the official languages of the country and it is widely spoken by the Malays here. In Malaysia and Brunei, Malay is recognised as national language. The ability to speak Malay will allow students to communicate in Bahasa Indonesia, as the two languages have many similarities, since the latter formed its basis from the Malay language.

Many Malays are fluent in English yet your knowledge of the Malay language will equip you with the necessary practical tool for everyday communications which will open doors to understanding Malay culture and values. Your ability to speak Malay will enhance your career in various fields such as in the civil service, journalism, social work, psychology, education, medical work and even in politics.

Structure of the Language Programme

At our centre, the Malay Language Programme aims to guide the beginner to achieve competence in understanding and using basic Malay language. The initial emphasis will be on the use of Malay at the level of everyday discourse. To facilitate immersion in the language, students would be taught the necessary skills of listening, reading, writing and conversing in basic conversational Malay. Subsequently, we will build upon the standard attained by students by introducing the use of standard Malay in relation to other functional and formal purposes.

Elementary Level:	Malay 1 and Malay 2
Intermediate Level:	Malay 3 and Malay 4

Entry Requirements

Malay 1 is available for absolute beginners, i.e. those without formal or informal background in Malay or Bahasa Indonesia. A pass in Malay 1 is a pre-requisite for Malay 2 and a pass in Malay 2 is a pre-requisite for Malay 3 and 4. Students who wish to major in Malay Studies but have no knowledge in Malay Language are encouraged to complete Malay 1 and 2. Students with prior knowledge can sit for placement test to be placed in a suitable module.

For enquiries, please contact:

Dr Aishah Mohamad Kassim (Convenor)
Ms Lim Min-Chin

at clsamk@nus.edu.sg or
at clsmc@nus.edu.sg

More about us

