

# Professional Certificate in Language Assessment

**100% online**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

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# ONLINE LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT COURSE

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## Overview

Language teachers of today need a firm understanding of the role assessment and evaluation have on learning outcomes of their students.

If you are responsible for developing assessments, monitoring the success of language programs or the ongoing assessment of language learners, the Professional Certificate in Language Assessment will give you the skills to deliver a high standard of testing with reliable results.

*“The course provides students with practical hands-on experience in language assessment while also providing a thorough grounding in relevant theoretical debates. Students will be able to immediately apply what they learn in their own context. This is one of the few courses offered online and entirely devoted to language assessment – the skills learned will be useful to test developers, teachers and other professionals in the field.”*



Associate Professor Ute Knoch,  
Director, Language Testing Research Centre,  
University of Melbourne

## Who is this course for?

Developed by the Language Testing Research Centre, this course has been designed for qualified language teachers and professionals who deliver language assessments such as:

- Teachers of ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) programs,
- Teachers of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) programs,
- Teachers of EAL (English as an Additional Language) programs; and
- Staff in organisations that conduct language testing.

## What are the benefits?

Language assessment is a growing field worldwide, and graduates of this course will be regarded as highly-trained specialists who will be ideal candidates for a multitude of international career opportunities.

We've designed this course to improve the standard of language assessment literacy globally. Students completing the professional certificate will:

- Acquire skills in creating, delivering and evaluating language tests; and
- Develop the capability to enhance the day-to-day running of language programs to improve student outcomes.

## What will I learn?

The Professional Certificate in Language Assessment has been devised to offer a practical focus on providing language assessment in real-life educational contexts and allow practitioners to evaluate the efficacy of their existing assessments. This course will help you deliver more reliable and meaningful results for students, and on completion you will have gained:

- Knowledge of fundamental concepts and principles in language testing
- Practical experience in developing and evaluating assessments for second and foreign language learners; and
- Background knowledge of the key debates in second language assessment and testing.

You'll also learn about the key types of language assessments which promote learning, and have an opportunity to develop your own tests, then receive feedback from your tutors and peers.

## Subject summaries

Core subjects		Points
General Concepts in Language Assessment	In this subject, students are introduced to the general concepts of language assessment and examine the assessment of listening, reading, speaking and writing as well as integrated skills in detail in both theory and practice. Includes general principles of test development, test purposes, writing of test specifications, test items and test tasks. Participants are also introduced to the topic of validity in language assessment and will learn some basic skills in statistical analysis of test data.	12.5
Language Assessment for Learning	Students are introduced to the main concepts of learning-orientated assessment. This subject explores the differences between learning-oriented assessment and other language assessments. Participants will learn key types of language assessments that promote learning and will have an opportunity to learn how to evaluate learning-oriented language assessments and assessment systems.	12.5

## Entry requirements

To apply for the Professional Certificate in Language Assessment, applicants must have:

- An undergraduate degree or equivalent or;
- At least 5 years' worth of full-time documented relevant professional experience.

Meeting these requirements makes you eligible for selection but does not guarantee selection. In ranking applications, the Selection Committee will consider:

- Prior academic performance; and
- Professional work experience.

The Selection Committee may seek further information to clarify any aspect of an application in accordance with the Academic Board rules on the use of selection instruments.

Students taking the course from overseas are not required to have an international student visa.

Applicants are required to satisfy the University's English language requirements for postgraduate courses. For those applicants seeking to meet these requirements by one of the standard tests approved by the Academic Board, **performance band 6.5** is required.

## Course structure and fees

Course	Duration	Structure	Point program	Fees
Professional Certificate in Language Assessment	6 months part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two core subjects</li> </ul>	25 points	AU\$6,416

At the University of Melbourne course fees are the same for both domestic and international students. The fees listed are the indicative cost for the entire course.

The University of Melbourne reviews fees annually and this rate is the indicative total based on typical subject enrolments and includes an indexation of 5 per cent per annum.

## A world class university

The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the leading universities in the world. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 placed us number one in Australia and number 32 in the world. We are also ranked number one for linguistics in Australia and number 24 in the world.

## Studying online

Our courses are designed by a team of graphic designers, education technologists, video producers, video editors and technicians. Our expert e-learning designers work closely with teaching staff to make certain the content we create is ideal for the online medium. And, thanks to recent advances in technology, studying online is more interesting, enjoyable and interactive than ever before.

Online students come from different backgrounds and have many different stories to tell, but one thing that most have in common is that they're very busy. For that reason we make sure their education is as targeted and flexible as possible and available at the times that suit them. We make it possible to connect easily with experts and fellow students and to quickly access grades and academic feedback.

Although it's an entirely different learning experience to face-to-face, you will receive exactly the same qualification and graduation certificate as an on-campus student because you will achieve identical learning outcomes from the same academics that teach our on-campus courses. If you complete a master degree you will also be invited to attend a graduation ceremony in Melbourne.

As an online student at the University of Melbourne you can expect:

-  Enriching and engaging learning
-  Flexibility and choice
-  Connection with leading experts
-  Interaction and feedback
-  Dedicated Student Support team
-  Virtual student community
-  Specialisation and career advancement

## Dedicated student support

As an online student you will receive a high level of administrative, technical and academic support from your initial expression of interest in the course, through to your graduation.

Don't be surprised if you learn our student support team members by name; they are dedicated, personal and friendly and they understand that every student experience is unique. And if a challenge arises, they'll do everything in their power to assist you so that you can continue to have an excellent learning experience.

## Key dates

Term	Intake
Term 1	January
Term 3	July

## Learn more

To find out more details about the Professional Certificate in Language Assessment, contact the Student Support team on [study-online@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:study-online@unimelb.edu.au) or via phone **+61 3 8344 0149** (Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm AEST/AEDT, weekends and public holidays 10am to 5pm AEST/AEDT).

## Ready to apply?

Apply online at  
[online.unimelb.edu.au/la](https://online.unimelb.edu.au/la)

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**CRICOS PROVIDER CODE: 00116K**

Ver. V40110

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