

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

M.A.:

- Non-native English speakers must pass the English proficiency examination.
- Native English speakers* are required to pass a proficiency examination in one of the modern foreign languages offered at SAIS, either at the Bologna Center (Arabic, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish) or in DC. Some academic programs may require a specific language proficiency - please read the program requirements carefully.

M.A.I.A.:

- Non-native English speakers must pass the English proficiency examination.
- Native English speakers* are required to pass a proficiency examination in one of the foreign languages offered at the Center (Arabic, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish).

M.I.P.P.

- Non-native English speakers must pass the English proficiency examination.

One-Year Diploma:

- Non-native English speakers must pass the English proficiency examination by the end of the academic year or complete successfully two semester courses of advanced English.
- Native English speakers* must pass a proficiency examination in one of the modern foreign languages offered at the Center (Arabic, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish) by the end of the academic year or complete successfully two semester courses in any of those foreign languages. If completed successfully, the intensive Italian course will count as a semester language course.

* At SAIS, a native-English speaker is a person who meets TWO of the following criteria:

1. English is the main language of communication between you and one of your caregivers;
2. English is an official language in the community where you grew up;
3. English is the language of instruction in the high school you attended

Any questions about this requirement/definition should be addressed to the English language instructor, Prof. Rebecca Hopkins (rhopkins@johnshopkins.it).

LANGUAGE COURSES: GENERAL INFORMATION

Language courses are designed to prepare students for the required language proficiency examinations. Students are strongly urged to select the language necessary to meet their specific academic program proficiency requirement. Once students have met their proficiency requirement, they may choose to study a different foreign language.

Language courses do not count towards the eight courses required for the Bologna Center diploma, nor do they count toward the 16 courses required for the SAIS M.A. Credit is given in the sense that letter grades are recorded on the student's transcript. Enrollment in a language course or the English writing workshop always entails a letter grade on the transcript.

These are the languages and course levels offered at the Bologna Center:

ARABIC and RUSSIAN

Since the minimum level for the proficiency in these languages is Intermediate Mid, instruction is offered at the following entry levels:

- Novice
- Novice High
- Intermediate Low
- Intermediate Mid I

FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, PORTUGUESE, SPANISH

Since the minimum level for the proficiency in these languages is Intermediate High, instruction is offered at the following entry levels:

- Novice
- Intermediate Low
- Intermediate Mid I
- Intermediate Mid II
- Post Proficiency: Intermediate High and above (during the second semester only)

ENGLISH

- All non-native English-speakers are required to take the English proficiency written examination during the Orientation Week. Those who do not perform satisfactorily on the English proficiency examination will be required to take either the English language course or the English writing workshop during the first semester. They may, at the professor's discretion, also enroll in another language course.
- Regular English courses are offered at advanced levels only and consist of three 90-minute classroom sessions per week plus tutorials. These courses cover grammar, vocabulary work, writing skills, note taking, listening comprehension, oral presentations and discussion.
- The writing workshop consists of two 90-minute classroom sessions per week and is designed to improve writing skills for academic purposes. It will be entered on the student's transcript with a letter grade, but it does not fulfill the language course requirement for the one-year Diploma.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM: POLICIES

- Students may enroll in **one** regular language course per semester.
- Each language course consists of three 90-minute class meetings per week (4.5 hours)
- Language course grades are determined by class attendance, participation, assignments, mid-term and final examinations.
- All graded activities (mid-term and final exams) cannot be rescheduled or made-up.
- Attendance at language courses is mandatory: If a student misses more than 5 classes, his/her final grade will be lowered; more than 10 absences from a language course will result in a final grade of C (failure). The grade of I (incomplete) is not used for language courses.
- Those who drop a course after the drop/add deadline will receive a final grade of C (Failure).
- Deadlines for registration, dropping or adding language courses are indicated on the academic calendar (<http://www.jhubc.it/incomingstudents/academiccalendar.pdf>).
- Language courses may **not** be audited.

- All students, except those enrolled in a regular Italian course, may also take Italian conversation.
 - *Italian conversation is offered for students who DO NOT enroll in a regular Italian language course. It is conducted by a teaching assistant and is designed to facilitate student integration into life in Italy. Courses are offered at intermediate levels and consist of one weekly class meeting (90 minutes). Conversation classes are focused on spoken interaction, oral presentations and lexical improvement. These are non-credit courses and are not entered on the transcript.*

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Language Program Director will be available for language advising during the two weeks prior to each semester registration, and during regular office hours after registration (refer to the academic calendar for the exact registration deadlines). Exact times of consultation will be posted on the door of office #213.

Language Professors will be available for consultation during the week prior to each semester registration, and will hold regular office hours every week during the academic year (except during Winter and Spring vacations, and semester recess). Office hours will be indicated on the language bulletin board located on the second floor and/or individual office doors.

Below is a list of languages, professors and office numbers:

Language	Professor	Room
Language Director	Sara Gelmetti	213
Arabic	Amina Serghini	212
English	Rebecca Hopkins	215
French	Clara Cheilan Clara Contento Corinne Lahrer	212
German	Susanne Krüger Frieda Jürgens	215
Italian	Claudia Brighetti Fernanda Minuz	214
Portuguese	Luis Fernando Beneduzi	212
Russian	Yana Godova	215
Spanish	Maria Blanco Facal Giorgia Marchiori	214

PLACEMENT TESTS

- Placement tests are held in Modern Foreign Languages (*not for English*) at the beginning of each semester in order to determine the level at which students may enroll in a specific language course.
- If a student has had no previous instruction in the language that s/he intends to take, and wishes to begin studying the language at the beginner level, s/he must NOT take the placement test. It will suffice to enroll in the "Novice" course.
- Exact dates of the placement tests are listed on the academic calendar.
- Exact times and rooms will be posted on the language bulletin board after registration.
- Placement tests consist of both a written section and an oral section.
- Students who attended the pre-term Italian courses and wish to continue studying Italian do not need to take the placement test in October, as they will have already taken it at the end of the pre-term course.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATIONS
(for advanced students only)

- Proficiency examinations are normally offered three times a year in October, January and May (see the current year academic calendar for exact dates).
- Sign-up sheets will be posted on the language bulletin board on the second floor.
- Students MUST consult with professors before signing up for the proficiency examinations.

All non-native English speakers are required to take the written section of the English proficiency examination during the Orientation Week (see Orientation Schedule for the current academic year).

The following chart describes the minimum proficiency levels by language and skill that a SAIS student must attain in order to fulfill his/her language graduation requirement:

LANGUAGE	LISTENING	SPEAKING	READING	WRITING
<i>English</i>	<i>Superior</i>	<i>Advanced High</i>	<i>Superior</i>	<i>Superior</i>
Arabic	Intermediate Mid	Intermediate Mid	Intermediate Mid	
French	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate Mid
German	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate Mid
Italian	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate Mid
Portuguese	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate Mid
Russian	Intermediate Mid	Intermediate Mid	Intermediate Mid	
Spanish	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate High	Intermediate Mid

- Proficiency Examinations consist of four separate sections: Listening Comprehension, Oral Expression, Reading Comprehension, and Written Expression.
- Electronic devices or dictionaries are NOT allowed during any part of the examination.
- The four separate sections will be administered as follows:
 1. **Written Exam:** Two-hour and 30-minute exam.
 - **Listening Comprehension:** a 20-minute listening exercise with comprehension questions (*N.B.: for English only the Listening Comprehension section will be administered on a different date*)
 - **Reading comprehension:** on a text in the field of international relations
 - **Written expression:** exercises to test use of the target language and a composition (250 words for foreign languages, 350 for English)
 2. **Oral Exam:** 30-minute exam.
 - **Oral Expression:** a 5 to 10 minute presentation on one of three subjects proposed by the examining board (*subject of your choice in English*) followed by general conversation (15 to 20 minutes) with the board
- The result of each section will be recorded on a separate certificate issued to each student according to the following scale for foreign languages: Intermediate Mid (for Arabic and Russian only), Intermediate High, Advanced Low, Advanced Mid, Advanced High, and Superior.
- An “unsatisfactory” result in any section results in failure of the proficiency exam. On the transcript ONLY the passing date is recorded. No grade is entered.

Samples of past proficiency exams are available on the BCWeb at:
<http://bcweb.jhubc.it/language/proficiencyexams.cfm>