

LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS PROGRAMS – 2019 OVERVIEW

The Victorian Government's Education State reform agenda includes ensuring access to high-quality languages education, especially in the context of an increasingly globalised and interconnected world, where the ability to communicate in and across languages and cultures has never been more important.

A number of language assistant programs are available to Victorian schools. These programs place native-speaking recent graduates in selected schools for up to 12 months to support and enrich languages programs through the provision of contemporary linguistic and cultural support. The range of funded and volunteer language assistants programs managed by the Department, and programs managed by external agencies, are outlined below. Schools should read the details of each program carefully to enable them to choose the program/s that best suits their school (or cluster's) context.

Schools or clusters of schools may apply for a funded and/or volunteer language assistant.

Assistants will be allocated on the criteria set out in the guidelines for each program, which are attached.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS PROGRAMS

1. FUNDED LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM (FLAP)

The Funded Language Assistants Program (FLAP) places 24 native speakers of **French, German, Indonesian and Spanish**, sourced by relevant foreign government agencies, in Victorian government schools for a school year.

The Department supports the assistants' visa applications and manages their work contracts. The funded language assistants are employed by the Department as Education Support Staff on a part-time (0.8 FTE) basis and generally work across a cluster of 2-3 schools, including at least one secondary school. The nominated base school is provided funding through its SRP to cover the assistant's salary. The base school should submit an application on behalf of the cluster. Schools should note that only **one** funded language assistant will be allocated per school (or cluster).

See attachment for detailed guidelines.

2. ASSISTANTS TO TEACHERS OF JAPANESE PROGRAM (ATJP) (VOLUNTEER/UNFUNDED)

The Assistants to Teachers of Japanese Program (ATJP) places volunteer **Japanese** language assistants in schools for 9 or 12 months from the start of Term 2. The Department works with Japanese partner universities to source recent graduates for placement in Victorian schools. Host schools are responsible for providing the assistant with homestay accommodation and a weekly stipend of \$120 to cover incidentals during the placement. Each assistant is placed in one school only.

See attachment for detailed guidelines.

3. ASSISTANTS TO TEACHERS OF CHINESE PROGRAM (ATCP) (VOLUNTEER/UNFUNDED)

The Assistants to Teachers of Chinese Program (ATCP) places Chinese Language assistants in schools from the start of Term 1. The Department works with the Chinese Consulate General of the People's Republic in Melbourne and the Office of Chinese language Council International (Hanban) in Beijing, to source recent graduates from Chinese universities. Host schools are responsible for providing homestay accommodation for the assistant. Hanban provides the assistants with a monthly stipend during their placement. Each assistant is placed in one school only. Schools must apply individually for this program; except where two schools agree to a shared arrangement. In such case, the base school should submit an application on behalf of the cluster.

See attachment for detailed guidelines.

Schools (or clusters), interested in hosting a language assistant in 2019 through these programs are invited to submit an application to the Languages Unit no later than **Friday 27 July 2018**.

The Department's decision in allocating assistants to schools will be based on the criteria set out in the relevant program guidelines. Schools will be advised by 6 August 2018 of the outcome of their applications.

Enquiries:

For enquiries relating to any of the Department's Language Assistants Programs, contact Vic Pappas on +61 3 909 77389 or email at pappas.vic.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

LANGUAGE ASSISTANT PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY EXTERNAL AGENCIES

1. CO.AS.IT. ITALIAN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS PROGRAM (FUNDED)

The Italian Language Assistants Program places approximately 25 university graduates from Italy in Victorian government and non-government schools for a school year from the beginning of Term 2. The Italian assistants are funded by CO.AS.IT. (Comitato Assistenza Italiani) and the Italian Government, with funding support from the Department.

CO.AS.IT. manages all aspects of the CO.AS.IT. Italian Language Assistants Program including the recruitment of graduates from universities in Italy, the school application and allocation process, payment of the assistants' salaries and professional learning support for the assistants during their placement.

The school application and allocation process is conducted annually between October-December and assistants arrive at the beginning of Term 2.

Information about the CO.AS.IT. Comitato Assistenza Italiani and its Italian Language Assistants Program is available at <http://italianlanguage.coasit.com.au/co-as-it-language-assistants-program.html>

Enquiries should be made to CO.AS.IT on +61 3 9349 9000 or by email to ferdinando@coasit.com.au

2. GREEK SECONDED TEACHER PROGRAM

The Greek Seconded Teacher Program seconds qualified Greek teachers to work in Victorian schools and universities to support the teaching of Greek. The program is funded and administered by the Hellenic Ministry of Education, and in Victoria is administered by the Greek Consulate in Melbourne.

Greek seconded teachers are allocated by the Greek Consulate in Melbourne to support the teaching of Greek in government and non-government schools and Greek community language schools.

Information about the Greek Seconded Teacher Program is available from the Greek Consulate in Melbourne at <https://www.mfa.gr/australia/en/consulate-general-melbourne/>

Enquiries should be made to the Greek Consulate in Melbourne on +61 3 9866 4524 or by email at grgencon.mel@mfa.gr