

NORTHBROOKS SECONDARY SCHOOL MOTHER TONGUE DEPARTMENT

SOP of Application to Offer Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)

Background

A mass customisation approach that allows us to meet the needs of different groups of students has been adopted in the teaching of Mother Tongue Language (MTL). This approach enables the MTL to be taught at a level and pace suitable for students from different language backgrounds and with different language abilities. Four Mother Tongue syllabuses - G1 MTL, G2 MTL, G3 MTL and Higher MTL - are thus available to encourage every Singaporean to study his MTL to as high a level as he is capable of.

Objectives

1. To allow more students to offer HMTL if they have the ability and interest to do so.
2. To develop a larger pool of Singaporeans with a deeper understanding of their MTL and culture.

Eligibility Criteria

- a. **Secondary 1** students who offered HMTL after they received their posting result from MOE will have the options to accept or reject the offer. These students do not need to go through the application procedure in Northbrooks Secondary School.

Eligible students may offer HMTL instead of MTL should they meet the following criteria.

Eligibility Criteria for Secondary School HMTL
(i) An overall PSLE Score of 8 or better <u>OR</u> (ii) An overall PSLE Score of 9 to 14 (inclusive); and attain <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AL 1/AL 2 in MTL or• Distinction/Merit in HMTL

- b. The eligibility criteria for offering HMTL from **Secondary 2** are as below:

- **75% or higher (School-based End-of-Year Results) in MTL and**
- **Passed in EL and**
- **60% or higher in the overall average**
- Positive Learning attitude (based on MTL teachers' assessment)
- Final decision will subject to school approval.

NORTHBROOKS SECONDARY SCHOOL
Foreign Languages (FL)/ Third Languages

1. Applying for Asian/Foreign Language as MTL-in-lieu (not as Third Language)

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility to offer an approved Asian Language (AsL: Arabic, Burmese and Thai) or Foreign Language (FL: French, German and Japanese) in lieu of an official MTL depends on several factors, including the student's parentage and nationality. These students are typically those who join our school system mid-stream and have had formal learning in AsL/FL overseas, or students with a parent who is foreign-born and of non-Chinese/Malay/Indian ethnicity. An application is required for eligible students and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Starting from 2019, Secondary 1 students who have obtained approval at the primary level to offer an Asian/foreign language are **not** required to submit a re-application.

Implications of offering an Asian Language/ Foreign Language - FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

1. The instruction for Asian Languages and Foreign Languages (AsL/FL) is not provided in schools. Parents are responsible to make arrangements for private learning of AsL/FL for their child at the primary, secondary and pre-university levels. Parents must also provide evidence that their child is receiving regular instruction from a private tutor/centre e.g. marked assignment, result slip or payment receipt.

2. For the purpose of Secondary 1 posting, students offering AsL/FL as MTL-in-lieu under the new PSLE scoring system will be assigned an MTL score between Achievement Level (AL) 6 and 8.

3. Students are required to take the AsL/FL papers at the GCE O examination, and the Arabic or FL papers at the GCE A Level (H1) examination.

4. To be eligible for admission into a junior college or centralised institute, students are required to fulfil the MTL requirement by attaining D7 or above for the GCE O Level AsL/FL examination. For admission into a local publicly-funded undergraduate programme, the minimum grade required for the GCE A Level (H1) AsL/FL examination is an S grade.

5. Upon progression to Secondary 1, students offering FL can re-submit an application through their secondary school to be placed on the waiting list for admission to MOELC, subject to availability of vacancies and passing a readiness test. All other students offering AsL/FL as MTL-in-lieu are required to engage in **private study**.

6. An application for MTL exemption due to difficulties in learning AsL/FL will not be possible. A change of language from AsL/FL to Chinese/ Malay/ Tamil/ NTIL will not be accepted from the secondary level.

2. Applying for Third Languages

The result of the Third Language application will be announced through the Parent Gateway.

3. Applying for MTL Exemption

Eligibility Criteria

1. Learning difficulty in MTL is not a valid reason to apply for MTL exemption. MTL exemption should only be considered as a last resort for students under exceptional circumstances as highlighted below:

- **Mid-stream Entry**

The student enters our school system mid-stream after prolonged absence from our school system and with no or weak prior learning of any of our MTLs or languages that can be offered as MTL-in-lieu.

Applications are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and several factors will be taken into consideration holistically, including:

- a. Duration and location(s) of the student's stay overseas
- b. Prior language learning
- c. MTL curriculum and assessment demands

- **Special Educational Needs**

The student has certified Special Educational Needs (SEN) and shows severe difficulty in coping with his overall learning.

***Application Form can be collected from the General Office.**

2. Students granted MTL exemption from the primary level are not required to submit a re-application.

3. Applications submitted based on mid-stream entry must be supported by the student's school results for the past two years prior to entering our school system (translated to English if applicable).

4. Supporting Documents

Applications submitted based on SEN must be supported by a medical/psychological report. The report must be dated within the past 3 years.

5. Processing Time

Depending on the complexity of the case, it can take up to three months to process an MTL exemption application submitted on the basis of having SEN. To minimise unnecessary delays, we seek your cooperation to ensure that all supporting documents are submitted promptly.

Frequently ask questions:

How do I know whether my child is exempted from MTL?

If you have applied MTL exemption when your child was in Primary School, you would have a copy of the approval letter from MOE/CPDD. Please submit this letter to your child's Form teacher.

My child did not take MTL in PSLE, does it mean that he/she is exempted from MTL?

NO, this is because students who are taking AsL/FL in Primary School also do not need to sit for PSLE. Parents must check whether their child are exempted or taking AsL/FL by ensuring that they have the approval letter from MOE/CPDD.

Is it possible for my child to change from FL to CL/ML/TL in Sec Sch?

As your child has missed the PSLE MTL, he/she will not be able to change from FL to CL/ML/TL in Sec Sch.

My child has not been taking regular lesson in Primary School, can I apply MTL exemption?

No. Not able to cope with AsL/FL will not be an acceptable reason to apply for MTL exemption.

What can I do if my financial situation does not allow me to send my child for AsL/FL private lesson?

Parents who decided to apply for AsL/FL for their child in Primary School and have signed the approval letter would have been briefed that they are required to engage private study for their child in AsL/FL. MOELC only accept students who passed the readiness test or when there is vacancies at the centre. Parents would still need to engage private lesson for their child.

Can my child change his/her FL from French Language to Japanese Language?

Yes, but he/she would need to re-apply for Japanese Language.

Can my child still apply to take HMTL in Secondary 1 even though he/she was not offered HMTL by MOE?

Your child can still apply to take HMTL at the end of Sec 1 if his/her results meet the criteria.

Can I apply for exemption in MTL if my child is not doing well academically in MTL?

No. Being weak in academically in MTL cannot be use as a valid reason for exemption in MTL.

My child is very weak in CL, can he/she change his/her MTL to ML?

Yes, but your child will need to take an entry test to prove that he/she can do better in ML. An application to change MTL subject will need to be submitted.