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# MIM Language Policy

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***NB: This Language Policy applies to applicants of the MIM 2025 Class. For all other MIM Classes, please use this document as a reference only and be sure to contact the MIM Admissions Office for confirmation.***

*Last revised in September 2023. Please note that this Language Policy document is subject to change regularly and without prior notice.*

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# Summary of INSEAD MIM Language Requirements

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## General Guidelines

The INSEAD MIM Language Policy serves the purpose of ensuring that every graduate has demonstrated a willingness and an ability to evolve as a global leader by acquiring a certain level of proficiency in several languages.

To apply and be admitted to the MIM Programme, a candidate must have at least a C1 “Fluent” level of knowledge in English.

In order to graduate, MIM students will need to demonstrate a B1 “Practical” level of knowledge in a second language, and an A2 “Basic” level of understanding in a third (commercially useful) language, which is the official language of a country.

The certification requirements will differ for each candidate, depending on whether English is your native language or not.

In order to make the most of your INSEAD experience, both academically and socially, we strongly encourage you to put as much time and effort into learning and validating your language requirements as soon as possible. If you already have language proof, you may provide this during the admissions process.

Alternatively, you will have the opportunity to validate your languages through the languages courses and tests, provided by INSEAD. Access to language courses will be offered free of charge to every MIM student, regardless of the validation of their language requirements.

# INSEAD Language Proficiency Measurement Scale

INSEAD uses a six-level scale which measures language competency. This is in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for language levels (CEFR).

Please refer to the table below, which indicates the proficiency needed to fulfil INSEAD language requirement.

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	INSEAD REQUIREMENTS
Native	Ability to communicate spontaneously, very fluently and precisely in more complex situations. <b><i>Equivalent to C2 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	
Fluent	Ability to communicate very fluently and precisely in complex situations. <b><i>Equivalent to C1 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	Minimum Required Level for English Proficiency
Business	Ability to interact with a degree of fluency and communicate on a wide range of subjects including in a professional context. <b><i>Equivalent to B2 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	
Practical	Ability to understand and communicate on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc. <b><i>Equivalent to B1 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	Minimum Required Level for Second Language
Basic	Ability to communicate in a simple and direct exchange of information on routine matters. <b><i>Equivalent to A2 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	Minimum Required Level for Third Language
Beginner	Ability to communicate in a simple way, using familiar, everyday basic phrases. <b><i>Equivalent to A1 on CEFR scale.</i></b>	

## **Native Languages - Please note the following:**

- ✓ The definition of a native language is the first language you have been exposed to from birth AND the language in which you consider yourself most fluent and skilled. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to certify your first declared native language.
- ✓ You may declare a second native language in your application. Please note that proof will be required to validate your second declared native language.

# English Proficiency Certification

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If English *is* your native language, we do not require proof to certify your level of English.

If English is *not* your native language, then official English certification must be sent with your application.

Only the following methods are considered as acceptable means of certification for English Language proficiency.

- **A UNIVERSITY DEGREE** - *a minimum of one full-time academic year, taught exclusively in English, with a diploma received from that host university (an exchange programme does not qualify, English major at university does not qualify.)*

The transcripts should clearly mention the language of instruction is English.

- **TOEFL\***

[www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)

Internet-based test (*recommended minimum score: 103*)

- **PTE Academic\***

<https://pearsonpte.com> (*recommended minimum score: 70*)

- **IELTS Academic\***

[www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) (*recommended minimum score: 7.5*)

\* *To be valid, the acceptable tests above must be less than two years old, prior to the application deadline, to which you are applying.*

# MIM Second Language Requirement

To satisfy the second language requirement, you will need to provide acceptable proof as soon as possible.

Acceptable means to certify competence for the second language requirement (*in addition to English*):

- **Native language** **Native**  
No proof required.
- **Second native language** **Fluent**  
Examined only on a case-by-case basis and requires evidence of actual use.
- **Final Secondary School Exam** **Fluent**  
Exam and schooling must be conducted in the language:  
E.g. Brevet or Baccalauréat to validate French; Immersion programme in Canada; Abitur for German; Maturita for Italian, (for Singaporeans) GCE "A" level or "O" level for Mandarin, Tamil & Malay; Secondary Education Certificate for Hindi or other national Indian languages (10<sup>th</sup> grade minimum) and for Afrikaans, etc.
- **University education** **Business**  
a) Conducted in the language (certification required).  
b) A university major or minor in the language.
- **Certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies currently known to INSEAD** **According to Performance**  
You are free to choose which second and third languages you declare, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the languages you choose are compatible and can be tested (both oral and written) by an official institution.  
*\* Please check your private language institution for validation with your Admissions Officer.*
- **INSEAD Language Provider** **Practical**  
You may validate your second language from the choice of 4 European languages, offered through your INSEAD language courses in French, German, Italian or Spanish. You will need to obtain a placement score of B2 - indicating that you cleared B1 Practical level - to validate your second language.

# MIM Third Language Requirement

To satisfy the third language requirement, you will need to provide acceptable proof by graduation.

Acceptable means to certify competence for the third language requirement:

- **Family Origin** **Fluent**  
Examined only on a case-by-case basis and requires evidence of actual use.
- **Final Secondary School Exam** **Fluent**  
Exam and schooling must be conducted in the language:  
E.g. Brevet or Baccalauréat to validate French; Immersion programme in Canada; Abitur for German; Maturita for Italian, (for Singaporeans) GCE "A" level or "O" level for Mandarin, Tamil & Malay; Secondary Education Certificate for Hindi or other national Indian languages (10<sup>th</sup> grade minimum) and for Afrikaans, etc.
- **University education** **Business**
  - a) Conducted in the language (certification required).
  - b) A university major or minor in the language.
- **Certification from state-recognised cultural or commercial bodies currently known to INSEAD** **According to Performance**  
You are free to choose which second and third languages you declare, but it is your responsibility to ensure that the languages you choose are compatible and can be tested (both oral and written) by an official institution.  
*\* Please check your private language institution for validation with your Admissions Officer.*
- **INSEAD Language Provider** **Basic**  
You may validate your third language requirement through the wide choice of over 20 languages, offered through your INSEAD language courses, including, but not limited to European languages. You will need to complete Units 1 to 12 of any language offered on the platform, with a score of at least 90%. Every lesson can be taken several times so that you reach your desired score.

Please note that we take into account linguistic similarities between your declared second and third languages.

*For example INSEAD will not allow the following combinations:*

*German-Luxembourgish*

*Danish-Norwegian-Swedish*

*Finnish-Estonian*

*Bahasa Indonesia-Bahasa Malaysia*

*Dutch-Afrikaans*

*Slovak-Czech*

*Croatian-Serbian-Bosnian-Macedonian*

*Mandarin-Cantonese-Taiwanese-Hokkien*

*Hindi-Urdu*

*(Several Indian national languages are linguistically similar and hence could be mutually intelligible – please check with the Admissions Office for confirmation.)*

## Useful Links and FAQs

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Please find below some useful documents to help you prepare your languages for studying on the INSEAD MIM Programme.

[Official Language Tests recognised by INSEAD](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)