

Language-Based Pathways to Enhance Intercultural Proficiency

The development of both language and cross-cultural competency has consistently formed two important components of all SIT programs. Within the Graduate Institute, students pursuing certain degrees will demonstrate their intercultural proficiency through fulfilling the **Language & Culture Proficiency** requirement. This requirement can be completed through the following pathways:

- **Language Proficiency**
- **Language Learning**

The **Language Proficiency Pathway (LPP)** is beneficial for students for whom proficiency in the target language aligns with their career goals and professional interests. We recommend this pathway for students who enter their program of study with mid-level to advanced knowledge of their target language. It requires documentation of language proficiency at a satisfactory (i.e. Intermediate Advanced on the ACTFL scale) level.

The **Language Learning Pathway (LLP)** is beneficial for students whose career goals and professional interests would be well served by improving their ability to interact in cross-cultural settings without attaining a specific level of proficiency in the target language. This pathway is recommended for self-motivated students who enter their program of study with no or basic knowledge of their target language. Students choosing this pathway should be comfortable learning independently. It requires documentation of language study and cultural engagement.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PATHWAY (LPP)

For Multilingual Speakers of English:

Evidence of language proficiency is documented through testing. If a non-native speaker of English was admitted to SIT with evidence of TOEFL or IELTS scores, they automatically meet the language requirement.

If a non-native speaker was admitted to SIT without evidence of TOEFL or IELTS scores, their case will be reviewed to determine if they meet the language requirement. In rare cases, an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) may be required to fulfill this requirement.

For Native Speakers of English:

Evidence of proficiency in a target language is demonstrated through the following methods:

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI): Pass with one language at the ACTFL* level of Intermediate High or above by completing an Oral Proficiency Interview. An Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) can be arranged through the Office of Assessment & Learning Support: lcd@sit.edu. Students

who would like to refresh their oral proficiency skills in the target language prior to scheduling the OPI are welcome to complete Part I and Part II of the Language Learning Pathway.

*American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
(*Explanation of ACTFL levels can be found at www.actfl.org.)

Certificate of Proficiency: Previously completed certificates--such as Peace Corps--indicating an achievement level of Intermediate High or above may be accepted if completed within the past 3 years.

LANGUAGE LEARNING PATHWAY (LLP)

For Native Speakers of English:

Evidence of proficiency in intercultural interactions is demonstrated through the following:

Part I: Independent Coursework through Mango Languages (30 hours). Complete 30 hours of dedicated language study in Mango Languages. Typically, these hours will be devoted to completing Unit 1 for your approved language. On average, units are broken into 10 chapters comprised of 6-7 lessons per chapter. Each chapter concludes with a review and chapter quiz. Document your progress on the Language Learning Log. This component will be supervised by the Associate Dean for Assessment & Learning Support.

Part II: Conversation Partners (10 hours). Improve listening and speaking skills through conversation with a qualified conversation partner. Students may nominate a conversation partner or select one available through SIT. Ideally, the conversations align with the content of each chapter of coursework. Students document their progress on the Language & Culture Learning Log and Conversation Partners document progress on a separate Conversation Log. This component will be supervised by the Associate Dean for Assessment & Learning Support.

Part III: Cultural Activities (5 hours). Actively engage with the language of study through cultural activities in your local context, when available, and/or through media/multimedia. Appropriate activities for the target language/culture include: watching films or television programs; reading/watching news; reading/listening to books; listening to live or recorded music; listening to podcasts; and attending local cultural events such as festivals, concerts, dances, religious services, or relevant programs run through a library or community center. Document these activities and reflect on them using the Language Learning Log. This component will be supervised by the Associate Dean for Assessment & Learning Support.

Part IV: Critical Reflection. As part of your Reflective Practice course, complete a Reflective Practice Question (RPQ) essay in which you evaluate your ability to communicate effectively in cross-cultural settings. This reflection should synthesize your Language Learning Pathway, and connect to you your field of study and your experiences as a practitioner. This component will be supervised by your advisor in your degree area.

Language & Culture Pathway Declaration

STUDENT NAME (please print):

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

DATE:

COHORT:

LANGUAGE PATHWAY OPTION:

Language Proficiency Pathway (multilingual speaker of English)

Language Proficiency Pathway (native speaker of English)

Language Learning Pathway (native speaker of English)

TARGET LANGUAGE:

ADVISOR NAME:

ADVISOR SIGNATURE:

DATE:

DATE RECEIVED @ LCD OFFICE:

RECEIVED BY: