

## Getting a Handle on Life Abroad Starts with Language Skills.

*CFSL Language Programs are Tailored to your Needs*

The General Professional Proficiency Program is geared to develop an employee's language competencies for specific tasks associated with foreign language designated positions. Public speeches are a priority for senior management, for example, while understanding radio and television broadcasts is an important concern for the operational sector. Making arrangements, answering the telephone, giving directions and reading the newspaper are other key concerns for some employees.

The Maintenance Program is designed to help students maintain their intermediate or advanced proficiency at the professional level.

The Beginners Program set up in 1999 encourages employees and their spouses to begin learning another language with a view to a foreign posting at some later date.

Distance learning is a good option for personalized instruction. Courses are offered in English and French for locally engaged staff (LES) and in seven other languages for DFAIT employees other than LES.

The Social Integration Program helps staff and families use the local language to adapt to everyday situations in their new environment.

## Who's Who at CFSL

*A Look at the Team at Your Service*

You realize that acquisition of, or improvement in a language offers you a competitive advantage in your effectiveness at home and abroad. The process of language training at the Centre for Language Training (CFSL) begins.

Step one: You get approval from your supervisor or assignment officer to get yourself launched.

Step two: You complete a CFSL application which goes to Josée Guitard or Rachel Leduc at the registrar's office (phone 953-4751).

Step three: Four counsellors who are language training specialists can answer any questions you have. They will be with you all the way during your training to provide support and assistance and oversee the quality of the instruction. You would see Raymonde Cloutier for the European languages program, Nicole Coulombe for Asian, African and Middle Eastern languages, Annie Taillefer for Spanish

and Portuguese, and Inara Moeser for training requirements in other government departments and the private sector. For official languages, you will see Guy Mompoin who oversees intensive and maintenance courses for employees and spouses. In the evaluation unit you will meet Claude-Sylvie Alschuler, Nawal Moussa and Bahia Abboudy. Multimedia adviser François Deshaies and specialist Martin Comeau along with Suzanne Barake manage the ever expanding learning materials.

Your distance learning team consists of Delphine Renié and Lise Desmarais.

### DO IT NOW...WHY WAIT

Call: 953-4751

Website: [www.cfsi-icse.gc.ca](http://www.cfsi-icse.gc.ca)

## How Do You Do?

*Testing Testing...Have We Taught You Well?*

The Centre for Language Training (CFSL) designs tests to assess oral proficiency, that is, how an individual uses language in an authentic situation, in 40 foreign languages.

There are two types of oral tests. The CFSL Proficiency Test is a work-related performance test administered by two native speakers. The test can be administered wherever you are in the world. Candidates participate in a conversation, a briefing and an interview.

The Social Integration Proficiency Test, administered in a language lab, focuses on survival skills in the local language. Coming soon will be a computerized version that can be delivered on-line through Intranet.

Feedback from either test, in the form of a detailed report, identifies strengths and weaknesses in the new language to help you identify areas that need further work. The information is important to the Department too, in areas such as recruitment, forecasting training profiles for DFAIT personnel and identifying its language resource base. Proficiency information also helps teachers place students of similar ability. A 1997-98 survey showed that the average foreign language proficiency level at DFAIT was Level 2 or working proficiency. This led to an intensified effort to improve language skills of personnel, including a focus on distance learning to develop needed skills outside the traditional classroom.

Book a proficiency test. Call Bahia Abboudy, testing assistant, at (819)994-7175.

### Out of Sight

...But not off our screen were the 477 DFAIT personnel around the world enrolled in 46 reading and writing courses in the past. There are 193 students taking these distance communications skills courses at this moment and over 700 personnel have registered on-line at DFAIT since language pilot studies began three years ago. Wait 'til we have audio!

### It Pays to Study

CFSL reimburses 75 per cent of tuition fees and book costs for employees studying a language outside working hours for a language considered a priority by the Department: French, English, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, German and Mandarin.



Pierre Pyun, 2nd year Mandarin student, participating in a teacher workshop on creating a stimulating cultural environment in the classroom.