

1.5.4 FOREIGN LANGUAGE ALLOWANCE

Employees who are required to learn and/or use a foreign language at their posts may be eligible to receive a nominal allowance under FSD 59. By "foreign", the Directive refers to any language other than English, French or your mother tongue.

Languages are grouped into four categories ranging from those which are comparatively easy to acquire (for example, Dutch, Spanish) to those which are very difficult (such as Arabic and Japanese). There are two levels of proficiency for each language and you will be required to attain at least the lower level in order to qualify for an allowance. You may receive foreign language allowance at one level of proficiency while studying to attain the higher level in the same language. If you need more than one foreign language for your duties, you are entitled to receive an allowance for one language while studying to attain proficiency in the other.

Foreign language allowances are paid monthly and are subject to income tax. It should be pointed out that the objectives and requirements for a Foreign Language Allowance are being reviewed with the result that FSD 59 may shortly be modified or eliminated.