

Institute of Modern Languages



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

CELEBRATING **90 YEARS** OF LANGUAGE LEARNING



1934 - 1945

Establishing the Institute of Modern Languages

The Institute of Modern Languages (IML) was established at The University of Queensland on May 11 1934. IML commenced operations with a total of 78 students learning French, German and Italian.

It was the first adult education extension unit in modern languages to be attached to an Australian tertiary education institution. According to a university statute, the IML was intended to cater for those whose needs were not served by secondary schools or by the university.

Prior to the formal establishment of IML, Professor J.J. Stable (Chair of English from 1922) was appointed as IML's first Chairman in 1934 and was the driving force behind IML.

By 1940, IML had extended its course offering to include Art of Speech (Theory), Chinese Mandarin, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

Courses at the time cost £1.10 to £3.30, and to sit an examination was £1.10 (equivalent to approximately \$115 today with inflation). At the onset of World War II, the acquisition of foreign languages became a desired skill for the war effort. By the end of the war, IML language programs were endorsed as suitable educational ventures towards better international understanding and tolerance.

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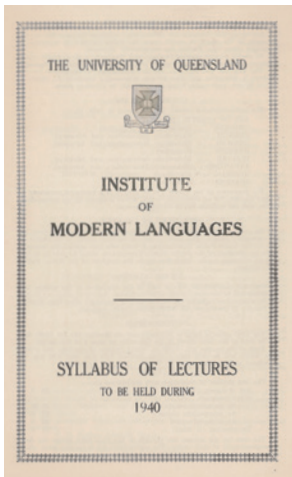
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Department of Public Instruction,
Brisbane, 30th August, 1934.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the Statute set forth hereunder relating to

THE INSTITUTE OF MODERN LANGUAGES,

which has been made by the Senate of the University of Queensland, in terms of section 21 of "The University of Queensland Act of 1909."

FRANK A. COOPER.

WHEREAS by section 21 of "The University of Queensland Act of 1909" it is enacted that the Senate may from time to time make, alter, and repeal Statutes in respect of all or any of the matters therein mentioned: It is hereby enacted by the Senate, by and with the approval of the Governor in Council, that the following Statute relating to the said University shall be in force from the date of publication thereof in the Gazette—

STATUTE RELATING TO THE INSTITUTE OF MODERN LANGUAGES.

1. There shall be within the University an Institute, to be called "The Institute of Modern Languages," controlled by a Board, as appointed by the Senate of the University.

2. Subject to the express control of the Senate, the duties of the Board shall be to promote and extend the teaching of Modern Languages.

3. The Senate shall, from time to time, make rules to govern the membership and activities of the Institute.

In witness whereof the common seal of the University was hereto affixed pursuant to resolution of the Senate dated the twenty-ninth day of June, 1934, by me as the proper officer having the custody thereof.

J. F. McCAFFREY, Registrar.

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- A University of Queensland Professorial Staff of 1922, including Professor J.J. Stable, Professor H. Alcock, and Professor J.J. Michie, fathers of the IML. The University of Queensland Fryer Library.
- B Professor H. Alcock. Dean of the Faculty of Arts, 1923 - 38. A major contributor to the establishment of the IML.
- C Professor J.J. Stable. Appointed first Chairman of IML, 1934. The University of Queensland Archives.
- D 1940 IML Syllabus. The University of Queensland Archives.
- E An extract from the Brisbane Courier-Mail, 14 May 1934 regarding the establishment of the IML.
- F J.C. Mahoney, First IML Secretary, 1934 - 1940. Former Professor of French and President of the Professorial Board. The University of Queensland Archives.
- G Statute announced by the Department of Public Instruction, approving the establishment of IML, August 1934. The University of Queensland Archives.
- H Government House, George Street, Brisbane City, where the first IML classes were taught. The University of Queensland Archives.

1945 - 1970

IML moves to the UQ St Lucia Campus

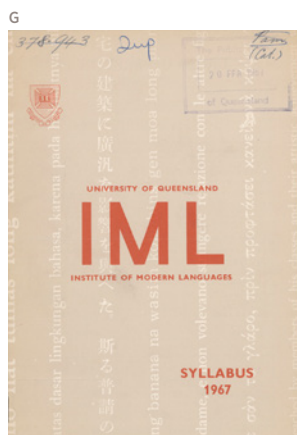
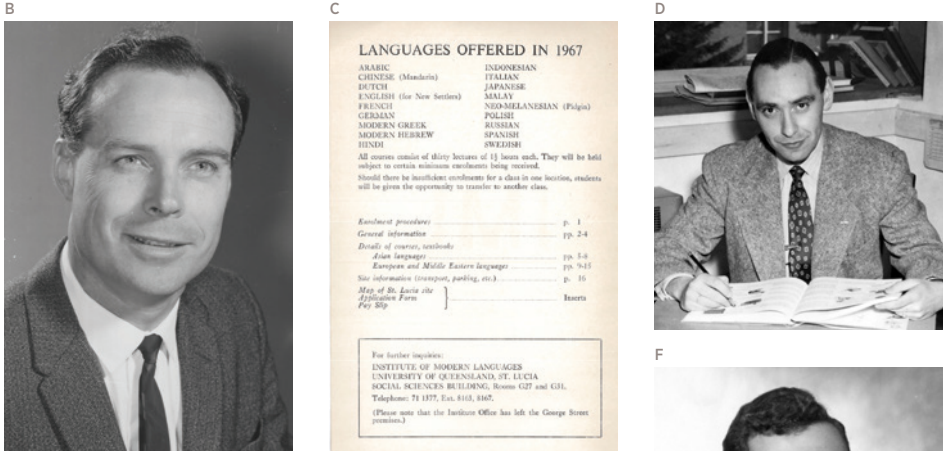
Post World War II immigration to Australia changed perceptions of the non-English speaking world. This was reflected in the increased diversification of language courses and through the changing patterns of IML enrolments.

In 1965 the first IML Director, Mr Donald Munro AM, was appointed and under his directorship IML became well known around Australia, by advocating the idea that learning languages would assist in building community engagement. Mr Munro believed that the study of a language would help students to understand the perspective of those who spoke that language.

Effective networks were created with community organisations to ensure the needs of students and clients were met. By 1967, an additional 9 language courses were offered including Arabic, English (for new settlers), Modern Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Malay, Neo-Melanesian (Pidgin), Polish and Swedish.

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Until the late 1960's all IML classes were held in the Old Government House on George Street, Brisbane City. The old university building in which IML classes took place was previously the residence of the Governors of the Colony of Queensland from 1861.

All classes were held during the evening, using the History Lecture Room and the Modern Languages Lecture Room on the ground floor. As the 1960's drew to a close all IML classes were transferred to the St Lucia campus, where they remain today.

- A The IML office was situated in the Faculty of Arts, Duhig Building, St. Lucia Campus, 1968. The University of Queensland Fryer Library.
- B Mr Donald Munro AM, IML Inaugural Director, 1965 – 1970. The University of Queensland Archives.
- C IML languages offered and course fees, 1967. The University of Queensland Archives.
- D Dr Günther Maurice Bonnin, Reader in German Studies, shared honorary roles of IML Director and IML Secretary, 1940 – 1965. The University of Queensland Archives.
- E IML Guests at opening of the J.J. Stable Tree Theatre (named after the first Chairman), The University of Queensland, 22 Oct 1954. The University of Queensland Fryer Library.
- F Mr (George) Robert Cochrane, Assistant German Lecturer (IML) and Senior Lecturer in Phonetics (English Department), shared honorary roles of IML Director and IML Secretary, 1940 – 1965. The University of Queensland Archives.
- G IML syllabus cover design, 1967. The University of Queensland Archives.

1970 – 1999

Language pioneering, developing TESOL programs and Expo 88

After the transition to the St Lucia campus a new Director, Associate Professor Max Brändle OAM was appointed in 1970.

Dr. Brändle faced different challenges than his predecessor. As technology developed, IML adapted to these changes by embracing new forms of technology including providing state-of-the-art recording booths and cassette-based language labs. Between 1972 and 1975, the IML also offered students the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal language and culture. This was an introductory community course to Aboriginal languages in Queensland and the Northern Territory with particular emphasis on Wik Ngantjera (Cape York Peninsula).

During the 1980's, the IML became financially self-sufficient, largely due to the profitability of offering Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) programs. This included providing English as a Second Language (ESL)/ English as a Foreign Language (EFL) studies through classes and advisory work with large organisations. The first commercial ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) centre in Australia was established at IML teaching English to individual, full-fee paying students. In 1998, due to fast-growing demand, TESOL programs diverged from IML to what eventually became the Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education (ICTE-UQ).

As the Chairman of Language Services with Expo 88 (a six-month long global expo in Brisbane), Dr. Brändle observed the impact on tourism and business development of this international event and the interest it generated in language learning and another of the IML's services: translation. Expo 88 changed the views of the general community in regards to languages and international exchanges, generating an interest in many IML courses.

IML joined the new Centre for Language Teaching and Research (CLTR) in 1989, which saw the arrival of Professor Roly Sussex, who became Director and Dr. Brändle as Deputy Director.

New laboratories were created including a tape library, tape editing and copying facilities, a recording studio, and a technical workshop. A computer-aided language learning laboratory was also added to support the cassette-based language labs and was one of the first in the country.

In 1998, the CLTR was restructured and Dr. Brändle retired after 28 years as IML Director.

A Associate Professor Max Brändle OAM, IML Director, 1970-98. The University of Queensland Archives.

B Dr. Elke Niedermüller preparing for IML French and German classes, 1991. The University of Queensland Archives.

C Mrs A. Petit demonstrating one of the TC60 cassette recorders, 1972. The University of Queensland Archives.

D Emeritus Professor Roland Sussex, Director of the Centre for Language Teaching and Research (CLTR), 1989-1998. The University of Queensland Archives.

E A Courier-Mail language advertisement for Japanese and Russian external studies with IML, 1989. The University of Queensland Archives.

F Many IML classes have been held in the Gordon Greenwood Building from 1986 – Present. The University of Queensland Archives.

G Mr M. Danek, from Czechoslovakia, demonstrating the use of closed circuit TV in the language laboratory, 1972. The University of Queensland Archives.

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The University of Queensland



Japanese and Russian

by External Study

The Institute of Modern Languages

is now taking enrolments for Japanese and Russian language courses in the Distance Education Mode.

These are self-paced non-credit courses, with no educational prerequisites.

For application form

Write to: The Director
 Institute of Modern Languages
 The University of Queensland
 St Lucia, Qld. 4067
 Telephone: (07) 377 3167

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1999 – 2019

Diversifying services for our community

As IML entered the 21st century, it continued to offer services that created a tangible link between The University of Queensland and the wider community. In 1999, IML welcomed a new Director, Ms Georgiana Poulter.

She brought a new vision to IML, further diversifying services and establishing new partnerships in Queensland and across Australia. A communicative approach to teaching and learning and an emphasis on high quality teaching became central to IML's pedagogical philosophy.

During her first year in the role she implemented professional development (PD workshops) targeted to identified training needs, for all IML staff, which continue today.

Under Ms Poulter's leadership, IML launched UQ's first translation and interpreting service which became one of Australia's most comprehensive services working with a range of clients including from the mining industry, law firms, government departments, migration agents, IT sector, travel and advertising agencies and educational institutions. IML went on to develop customised language courses for the business sector and Australian government departments.

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From 2009, cross-cultural training programs were provided and IML engaged internally at UQ with other departments such as the UQ Confucius Institute to provide ongoing opportunities for UQ staff to learn languages.

In order to give more students the opportunity to learn a language, IML gradually introduced different types of courses. This included Survival and Short Courses for Beginners, Language Tasters, conversation and cinema groups, Autumn, Winter and Spring courses and an expanded High School program.

In 2019, IML successfully launched accelerated Language Pathway programs in which students completed three levels in a year.

In 2019, there were 2500 students learning 30 languages in IML's practical and supportive learning environment for adults and senior high school students.

- A IML German Winter High School Enrichment Program class, 2019.
- B Japanese Level 4 class with tutor Akiko Hansen, 2017.
- C Joyce Ackroyd Building 37, St Lucia Campus. Wilson Architects.
- D Spanish Tutor, Anna Gonzalez in the IML library, 2002.
- E Ms Georgiana Poulter, Director of IML, 1999 – Present.
- F IML moved to Level 1 of the Joyce Ackroyd building after a refurbishment of the building, 2009.
- G Historical collection of IML Brochures and course guides. The University of Queensland Archives.



2020 and beyond

Looking towards 100 years of IML

90 years on, IML continues to teach real-life language skills in face-to-face and online classes whilst welcoming digital innovations for teaching and learning.

IML students come from diverse backgrounds including those currently engaged in the workforce, domestic and international students, and retirees. UQ alumni are able to remain connected with the university in a meaningful way through IML's life-long learning opportunities. Many students gain great value out of the courses by learning the necessary language skills and cultural understanding to engage globally.

Today, almost one-fifth of all Australians speak a language other than English at home. These numbers reflect a major shift in Australia to a more multicultural society, where being connected remains a priority.

Australia's future is becoming increasingly multilingual and IML is prepared to meet that demand with courses offered in many languages including those with growing demand like Chinese, Hindi, Hebrew and Scandinavian languages. Learning another language is empowering, and in this way, IML can play a part in helping its students to make their mark on the world.

Looking to the future, IML will strive to continue to deliver for the public good by providing access to formal and informal language learning opportunities that engage with our local, national and global communities. As was the case in 1934, IML continues to be an advocate for language learning as a bridge to cultural and linguistic understanding and acceptance.



A German tutor Kerstin Liebchen, teaching a class for the Winter High School Enrichment Program, 2019.

B Senior Project Officer Tony Steiner and French tutor Loli Padilla with IML students at Semester 1, Market Day 2019.

C Chinese (Mandarin) tutor, Xin Wang, demonstrating calligraphy writing at Semester 1, Market Day 2019.

D Learning Japanese at IML, writing and using iPad, 2019.

E IML staff attend German Film Festival launch at Palace Cinemas, 2019.

F Senior Project Officer Tony Steiner amidst preparations for UQ Market Day, 2023.

G IML's first online brochure, 2019.

H UQ IML at Semester 2 Market Day, 2023.

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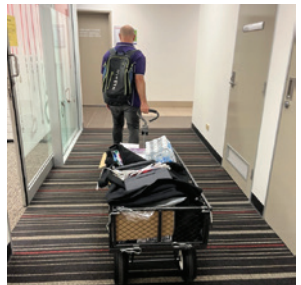
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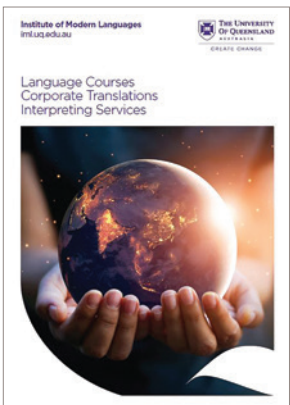
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Want to learn a language?

You can at IML.

We offer courses across 30 languages:

Arabic

Brazilian Portuguese

Chinese (Cantonese)

Chinese (Mandarin)

Croatian

Danish

Dutch

Farsi (Persian)

Finnish

French

German

Greek (Modern)

Hebrew (Modern)

Hindi

Hungarian

Indonesian

Irish

Italian

Japanese

Korean

Latin

Norwegian

Polish

Russian

Spanish

Swahili

Swedish

Thai

Turkish

Vietnamese

Find out more
iml.uq.edu.au

