



WORLD SKILLS
EMPLOYMENT CENTRE D'EMPLOI
COMPÉTENCES MONDIALES

LANGUAGE RESOURCES FOR NEWCOMERS IN OTTAWA

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INTRODUCTION

This guide was developed as part of World Skills Employment Centre's Inclusive and Equitable Workplace for Newcomers Project, funded by Canadian Heritage. Please note that the information included is subject to change. We encourage you to visit the websites provided for more information on the latest program offerings and eligibility criteria.

World Skills Employment Centre

Founded by Local Agencies Serving Immigrants, a coalition of settlement agencies in Ottawa, World Skills is a non-profit employment centre dedicated exclusively to the employment needs of newcomers and to the needs of the local labour market. We help newcomers integrate into the workforce through employment competency building, job search training and support, and language training.

We connect talented newcomers to employers in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. We partner with employers to help them meet their labour market needs by understanding their business requirements, pre-screening internationally trained newcomers, and organizing employer-driven events.

For more information, visit ottawa-worldskills.org.

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

To attend government-funded language programs in English or French, eligible individuals will be required to complete the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) or Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens (NCLC) assessments, respectively. These assessments are free for eligible individuals.

The CLB/NCLC describe 12 levels of ability, moving from Basic to Advanced, in four different language skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

For more information on the CLB and NCLC assessments, please visit the [Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks](#) website (refer to “Assessment resources for clients”).

To learn more about the CLB/NCLC assessment process and eligibility criteria, refer to the [Language Assessment and Referral Centre’s official page](#).

To book an assessment, eligible individuals can contact the Language Assessment and Referral Centre (LARC) by email at larc.celo@ymcaywca.ca, or call them at (613) 238-5462. Appointments can also be requested via the [online registration form](#).

The [CLB and NCLC Online Self-Assessments](#) can provide approximate benchmarks on listening and reading skills. It is for information only and not an official assessment. It can also be useful practice before an official assessment. More information about this tool can be found on the [Achêv](#) website.

Looking to contact a specific assessment area or training options outside of the Ottawa region? Achêv's Language Assessment and Training Supports (LATS) department maintains a [list](#) of all Language Assessment Centres in Ontario and across Canada.

Additional Details on Language Assessment

- [Canadian English Language Benchmark for Nurses - CELBAN](#) is an assessment used to measure the language proficiency of internationally educated nurses who are applying for licensure in the nursing profession in Canada.
- [Settlement.org](#) also includes language assessment options for citizenship, university, etc.
- Click [here](#) to check out the Language Test Equivalency Chart by IRCC to compare other language tests, like the IELTS or CELPIP, to the CLB. It also compares French language tests, like TEF and TCF, to the NCLC.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

After you complete your CLB/NCLC assessment, the Language Assessment and Referral Centre will provide you with information about government-funded language courses. You can also check out [LARC's Language Resources webpage](#) for more information.

Other English Courses Options

If you are unable to attend funded English language courses, there are other options you can explore. Please check each organization's website for information about their eligibility criteria and enrollment processes.

- [Ottawa Catholic School Board \(OCSB\)](#)
- [Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre](#)
- [Alliance Française Ottawa](#) offers professional English workshops for francophones.

Not able to attend regular classes?

- [LINC Home Study](#) provides free, flexible, online language training for IRCC-eligible clients. The program is a combination of self-study and one-on-one instruction. A CLB assessment from a Language Assessment and Referral Centre is a pre-requisite.
- [People Words & Change](#) offers free, one-on-one tutoring in English Writing and Reading for eligible learners with strong listening and speaking skills in English.
- [CanAvenue](#) is an open learning platform for all newcomers, designed to support learners at high beginner to intermediate levels through interactive, self-directed modules and activities.
- Learn French or English with [Mauril](#), a free app from CBC/Radio-Canada that offers a wide range of stimulating and entertaining content. Watch videos, listen to audio clips, and answer questions developed by language learning experts to test your skills and progress at your own pace.



LANGUAGE CLASSES

French as a Second Language (FSL) Course Options

Free or subsidised course options:

- College La Cité offers free online courses (CLIC en ligne) for Permanent Residents and Convention Refugees.
- Cooperation Integration Canada offers free lessons for eligible newcomers, who are unable to attend regular FSL classes.
- Éducation Permanente offers French non-credit course options to adult learners born outside Canada, who reside in Ontario.
- Carrefour offers French as a Second Language courses for eligible newcomers

Other course options:

- Alliance Française Ottawa
- Collège Boréal



LANGUAGE CLASSES

Occupation-Specific Language Courses

Several organizations offer government-funded language courses, tailored to the workplace or a particular occupation.

World Skills Employment Centre (WSEC) offers Workplace Language Training courses for eligible individuals with CLB scores from 3-6. Language for the Workplace CLB 3 -5 focuses on the oral and written communication skills needed to conduct an effective job search and transition into the workplace. WSEC also offers language courses on the following topics: Business and Project Management, Public Administration, Office Administration, and Written and Oral Communications. For more information, visit [WSEC's WLT page](#).

The National Healthcare Language Program offers courses for internationally educated medical graduates, pharmacists, and nurses. For information and registration, please visit the [website](#).

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) offers an English as a Second Language for Home Renovation Program, in collaboration with the YMCA/YWCA Pre-Apprenticeship Program. OCDSB also offers a Workplace English/Advanced Communication course. For more information, visit [OCDSB's website](#).

The Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) offers specialized language courses, including: Home-Based Business for Women Entrepreneurs, Office and Accounting Basics, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Focus. Many of these courses have short work placements to help learners demonstrate their skills. For more information, visit [OCSB's website](#).

Other Options

[Humber Polytechnic](#) offers free Occupation Specific Language Training (OSLT) to eligible newcomers who have educational training and/or work experience from outside Canada in a particular field. OSLT courses will provide participants with the technical work-related language skills and awareness of Canadian workplace culture needed to enter and be successful in their profession in Canada.

CONVERSATION CIRCLES

Conversation Circles are a great opportunity to practice spoken language skills in a safe and welcoming space. They also provide opportunities to learn more about Canadian culture and meet new people.

There are multiple options for Conversation Circles in Ottawa, available:

- in English or French
- online or in-person
- in a group or one-on-one

Here are some examples:

- Ottawa Public Library: available by location, in English and French, in person.
- Catholic Centre for Immigrants: available in English and French, online and in-person.
- Immigrant Women Services Ottawa: available in English and French, online and in-person, for eligible newcomers.
- English Conversation Group open to all newcomers. The conversations take place one-on-one with English speaking volunteers, and there are online and in-person sessions. Contact Ashwin Shingadia (ashwin@ashidor.ca) for details of the in-person sessions. Contact Heidi Roukema (heidi.roukema@gmail.com) for information about the online sessions.
- Centre d'Établissement, de Soutien et d'Orientation Communautaire (CÉSOC): in-person English and French Conversation Circles for eligible newcomers to build community connections. Contact info@cesoc.ca for more information.



OTHER LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Language Exchange Programs:

Language exchanges are opportunities for learners to practice their speaking and listening skills with a partner who is proficient in their target language. These sessions can be organized as one-on-one meetings or as part of larger events. An added benefit of language exchanges is that they give participants a chance to share their language expertise with other English/French speakers.

Here are some platforms that post language exchange opportunities:

- [Language Exchange in Ottawa](#) provides helpful guidelines on conducting language exchanges as well as possible learning partners in the Ottawa area.
- [Meetup](#)

Other Resources:

- [Ottawa Toastmasters Club](#)
- [Speak Confident English](#)
- [A Guide to Canadian Slang](#).
- [Phrasal Verbs and Idioms in Canada](#)

