

Preparatory Language Course Organization (Lettorati) for Degree Programs offered by the Department of Studies in Language and Culture

GUIDELINES

Course Offerings

In order to graduate, some degree programs require students to achieve a language competence level as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. In detail:

- the “Lingue e Culture Europee Bachelor’s degree (LCE)” requires at least a C1 in the first language and B2 in another language
- the “Storia e Culture Contemporanee Bachelor’s degree (SCC)” requires at least a B2 English level
- the “Languages for Communication in international enterprises and organizations (LACOM)” Master’s degrees and “Lingue, Culture, Comunicazione (LCC)” require a C2 in the first language and at least a C1 in the second language

Any higher level will be a plus and may positively affect the final grade assigned by the teachers holding core courses.

The final language competence level is assessed through an exam named LANGUAGE COMPETENCE LEVEL (LCL) prepared by the University Language Centre (CLA)’s teachers and it is required by LCE, LACOM and LCC degree programs for graduation.

In order to achieve the language competence levels required, students attending LCE, LACOM and LCC courses will have to achieve a minimum level of language communicative skills by attending preparatory language courses (see table 1 for further details).

Students will join different preparatory language courses according to their preliminary language level, as reported by table 1. Second and third-year students will join preparatory language courses organized by the CLA according to the average students’ level for each course year. Preparatory language courses are full year courses with no more than 25 attendees per course.

Both attending and non-attending students of LCE first and second year, SCC first year and LACOM and LCC first year, will be evaluated through final or ongoing tests to check the achievement of the minimum language proficiency levels (see table 1).

Bachelor’s degree (LCE)

LCE students having an international language certificate for the proficiency level required by the end of any of the three years are **EXEMPT from taking both the final test and LCL exam** in their first and second languages. However, **having a certificate does NOT exempt students from attending** any of the preparatory language courses of the three academic years. Students can submit more than one language certificate.

As far as the prova di lettorato is concerned for first and second year LCE students, as of the 2021/2022 cohort, these students should refer to the paragraph “Prove di lettorato as of the 2021/2022 cohort”.

Demonstration of the target level is a **necessary requirement** for first and second year exams to be signed off (*verbalizzazione*) by the course professor. The LCE third year English language professor’s exam may, on the other hand, be taken without first passing the LCL language proficiency test.

Third language (LCE students only)

The minimum final language competence level required for third languages is reported in Table 1 and cannot, in any case, replace the minimum level required by first and second languages.

Bachelor's degree (SCC)

SCC language entry level will be assessed with a specific test or after a language certificate is presented. The international certificate must be at least B2 and in its original copy, and it must be submitted to the instructor teaching the courses, providing that it is listed in the table of those accepted by CLA. Passing the test or presenting such a certificate will exempt students from compulsory attendance of the English preparatory language courses and from taking its related final test (first year). Students who fail the test or do not submit any certificate must attend preparatory language courses and pass their related final tests to have access to the English course exam.

As far as the prova di lettorato is concerned for first year SCC students, as of the 2021/2022 cohort, these students should refer to the paragraph "Prove di lettorato as of the 2021/2022 cohort".

Demonstration of the B2 minimum target level by means of final course testing or international certification is a **necessary requirement** to be able to take the course professor's exam.

Master's degrees (LACOM/LCC)

LACOM and LCC students having either two C2 language certificates or a C2 language certificate in their first language of study and a C1 language certificate in their second language of study, are EXEMPT from taking preparatory language courses final test and LCL exam.

If the certificate refers to a lower proficiency level than the one required by the end of the year, **it does NOT exempt them from attending the first year preparatory language courses and from taking the related final test.** In this case, at the end of the first year, students must prove that their language proficiency corresponds to the language competence level required, as listed in Table 1. Such proficiency will be assessed through ongoing tests for attending students and with a specific final test (prova sommativa) for non-attending students.

Preparatory language course attendance is **highly recommended** for all the students, including those who already have a certificate corresponding to the final proficiency level required.

As far as the prova di lettorato is concerned for first year LACOM and LCC students, as of the 2021/2022 cohort, these students should refer to the paragraph "Prove di lettorato as of the 2021/2022 cohort".

Demonstration of the target level is a **necessary requirement** for LCL exams to be signed off (*verbalizzazione*).

Attending students

70% course attendance is required to be considered an attending student.

Attending students will be assessed through in-class evaluations based on the skills required by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: listening, reading, writing, oral interaction and production.

Ongoing tests for attending students will be prepared by language instructors (CEL – Collaboratori ed Esperti Linguistici).

Non-attending students

Non-attending students, fuori corso students or those who have not been assessed will have to take a final test (*prova sommativa*) to be assessed on the skills trained during the full-year course.

Language proficiency tests for non-attending or underperforming students (*prove sommative*) will be held three times a year in December or January, May or June, and between August and September.

Access to exams

LCE students must achieve the required language level in order to have first- and second- year language exams registered. On the contrary, the LCE third year core language exam can be taken independently from LCL exams.

As mentioned above, SCC students are required to achieve at least B2 level to access the core language exam.

Languages for Communication in international enterprises and organizations (LACOM) and Lingue, Culture, Comunicazione (LCC) students must achieve a minimum language proficiency level by the end of the first year to have access to first and second language LCL exams. The minimum level achievement can be assessed through an ongoing or a final test, implying that the first chance to take the LCL exam is during the summer session (June) at the end of the first year.

LACOM and LCC students have access to first- and second-year core language exams independently from LCL exams.

Language proficiency tests (prove sommativa or prove di letterato)

For first and second year LCE students and first year SCC students, as of the 2021/2022 cohort, all students must sign up to the lecturer's exam (prova di letterato) on Esse3, to enable the registration of the lecturer's assessment from the course. This procedure is required for both attending students, who will have completed in-course assessment, and non-attending students who will be required to complete the Language proficiency tests for non-attending or underperforming students (prova sommativa). All students must demonstrate the required language level in order for the first and second year course professor's exams to be signed off.

First year LACOM and LCC students, as of the 2021/2022 cohort, must demonstrate the minimum required level in in-course assessment or the prova sommativa in order to access the LCL.

This procedure concerns both attending and non-attending students. Moreover, this exam will be available for registration under the LCL exam which is required to be taken.

The language proficiency tests for non-attending or underperforming students (prova sommativa) will be held three times a year, in December or January, May or June, and August or September.

Language Competence Level (LCL)

Language Competence Level (LCL) must be achieved and certified before graduation, both for bachelor's and master's degrees. In particular:

- B2 level for LCE second language
- C1 level for LCE first language, LACOM and LCC second language
- C2 level for LCC and LACOM first language

Language Competence Level (LCL) final mark

The Language Competence Level (LCL) needed to graduate complies with the Common European Framework of Reference for language levels. It is assessed by CLA's teachers through an exam based on international language certificate tests. Proficiency in the required level will be recorded on Esse3.

Additional information about English, French, German and Spanish LCL exams can be found on the "LCL" section of Moodle: <https://moodle.unimore.it/course/view.php?id=12561>

LCL exams apply to LCE, LACOM and LCC degrees only.

Other certifications

The final language competence level can be replaced by an international recognized certification for the same level. The minimum linguistic levels to be achieved are the following:

- B2 for LCE second language and SCC English language
- C1 for LCE first language, LACOM and LCC second language
- C2 for LCC and LACOM first language

Equivalent certifications can be found on the CLA website:

<https://www.cla.unimore.it/site/home/certificazioni.html> (regularly updated).

The certifications replacing LCL tests that do not indicate any expiry date do not have any expiration.

Further Language Competencies (Ulteriori Competenze Linguistiche - UCL)

Students who certify levels of language competence beyond the level required, and documented by international certification or a University Language Centre (CLA) exam, will have this level recognised with extra credits.

Extra credits are validated as “Other” credit types in students’ study-plan transcripts.

In particular:

For LCE: only one further certification of competences, with respect to the language level registered officially, at C1 or C2 level is recognised. However, due to the fact that the only C2 level exam is in English, English is the only language for which further language competences may be requested. 3 credits are awarded for further competences and are indicated as “chosen credits” or “other credits”, if in pre-graduation checks the student requires credits in the “other” category and all other categories of credits have been covered.

For LACOM and LCC only one further certification at C2 level will be recognised with 3 credits (CFU). These credits will be inserted as “chosen credits” or “other credits”, if in pre-graduation checks the student requires credits in the “other” category and all other categories of credits have been covered.

Equivalency recognition of language tests taken abroad

Students who have taken part in international programmes can have the department language proficiency exam (LCL) in their first-choice or second-choice language, signed off as ‘passed’ if one of the following conditions have been met:

1. the student is in possession of a specific certification demonstrating that they have reached the required level. Such certification must not only respect Transcript of Records, but must also be formally issued by the partner university on headed paper and must be presented to the coordinator responsible together with the request for the validation of exams taken abroad. All of this documentation must unequivocally show that the student has reached the language level required and attended the courses in question and passed any assessment.

or

2. in the Transcript of Records of the student’s studies abroad, the CEFR level reached and the results of assessment carried out on the ECTS scale must be indicated.

Table 1
 LANGUAGE COMPETENCE LEVELS
 PREPARATORY LANGUAGE COURSES OUTLINE for language degrees

LCE

FIRST AND SECOND LANGUAGES

LCE – 1ST YEAR				
1 ST LANGUAGE ENTRY LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE ENTRY LEVEL		1 ST LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
Lower than B1	Lower than A2		B1/B2	A2
B1	A2		B2	B1
B2	B1		B2+	B1+
B2/C1	B1/B2		C1	B2
LCE – 2ND YEAR				
1 ST LANGUAGE LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE LEVEL		1 ST LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
B1/B2	A2/B1		B2	B1+
B2	B1		B2+	B1/B2
B2+/C1	B1+/B2		C1	B2
LCE – 3RD YEAR				
1 ST LANGUAGE LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE LEVEL		1 ST LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL	2 ND LANGUAGE MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
B2 and higher	B1/B2 and higher		C1	B2

THIRD LANGUAGES LCE

LANGUAGE	1 ST YEAR FINAL LEVEL	2 ND YEAR FINAL LEVEL
French	A2	B1
Spanish	A2	B1
German	A2	B1
Arabic	A1	A2
Chinese	A1	A2
Russian	A1	A2

SCC

LANGUAGE	1 ST YEAR ENTRY LEVEL	MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
ENGLISH	A1	B2

MASTER'S DEGREES (LACOM/LCC)

LACOM AND LCC – 1ST YEAR		
ENTRY LEVEL		MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
B2		B2/C1
C1		C1/C2
LACOM AND LCC – 2ND YEAR		
ENTRY LEVEL		MINIMUM FINAL LEVEL
B2/C1		C1
C1/C2		C2