

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS – ALL FULL-TIME PROGRAMS

NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Non-Native English speakers who meet the admissions requirements for either program satisfy the graduation requirement.

PRE-MBA INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

A ten-week-long, non-credit intensive English program, offered through the Thunderbird Language and Culture Programs, is held several times each year to help prepare non-native speakers of English for entrance into the MBA in Global Management, MS-GM, MA-GAM, or other graduate business programs. This English program has small class sizes (6-8 students/class) and a business-oriented approach to learning. For more information, visit the Thunderbird Web site at: www.thunderbird.edu/premba.

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Thunderbird requires a speaking proficiency of at least intermediate high for languages in group 1 and intermediate low for languages in group 2 on the ACTFL oral proficiency scale for Native English speakers. <http://www.languagetesting.com>.

LANGUAGES		
Group 1	Group 2	
Dutch	Arabic	Polish
French	Cantonese	Russian
German	Croatian	Serbian
Indonesian	Czech	Slovak
Italian	Hebrew	Thai
Portuguese	Japanese	Turkish
Spanish	Korean	
Swedish	Mandarin	

Native speakers of English can satisfy the requirement in a second language in one of three ways:

1. Take the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and receive a rating of intermediate high or better in group 1 languages and intermediate low or better in group 2. Information regarding the test and the languages in which testing is currently offered can be found at <http://www.languagetesting.com>.

Students should take the OPI during the first two months of starting the program. The test is offered by phone at the Garvin Center. Please contact Ms. Jeannie Barbes at 602-978-7311, jeannie.barbes@thunderbird.edu.

Students who do not meet the required proficiency level in a foreign language may use any provider of their choice, such as other colleges, private tutors, commercial providers, or study abroad to improve their skills. **Thunderbird does not accept language course credits from other providers.** To satisfy Thunderbird's language proficiency the students must then provide an OPI rating of intermediate high or intermediate low, depending on the language.

2. Take the Intensive Language Program offered at Thunderbird during the summer before starting the program.
3. Take up to six credits of language courses in lieu of electives, during the program.

INTENSIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

This 8-week program consists of four modules of two weeks each. Each module builds on the previous one. Participants can begin with any module according to the results of a placement interview (OPI). A student fulfills the MBA, MG-M, MS-GM, and MA-GAM language graduation proficiency requirement upon successful completion of Module 4. The student's level of success is assessed through written exams and performance scenarios in which they speak the language.

BASIC LANGUAGE COURSES AT THUNDERBIRD

Two courses (4015/4020) are offered at Thunderbird for 3 credits each as part of the curriculum to assist students in meeting the language requirements. Classes meet 4 days a week for 90 minutes each. Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian are offered regularly.

ADVANCED LEVEL LANGUAGE COURSES

Advanced language courses are offered every trimester for Spanish & French.

PORTUGUESE FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS

This course is offered for students who are native speakers of Spanish. Non native speakers of Spanish whose OPI ratings are at the level of Advanced High or above can register in this course.

Students are allowed a maximum of 6 credits in a language towards their graduation requirements. Students may take more credit hours in languages, but these will NOT count towards their degree requirements.