

CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS,
MICROCREDENTIALS:

Certification in Language Education



Jennifer
MacDonald

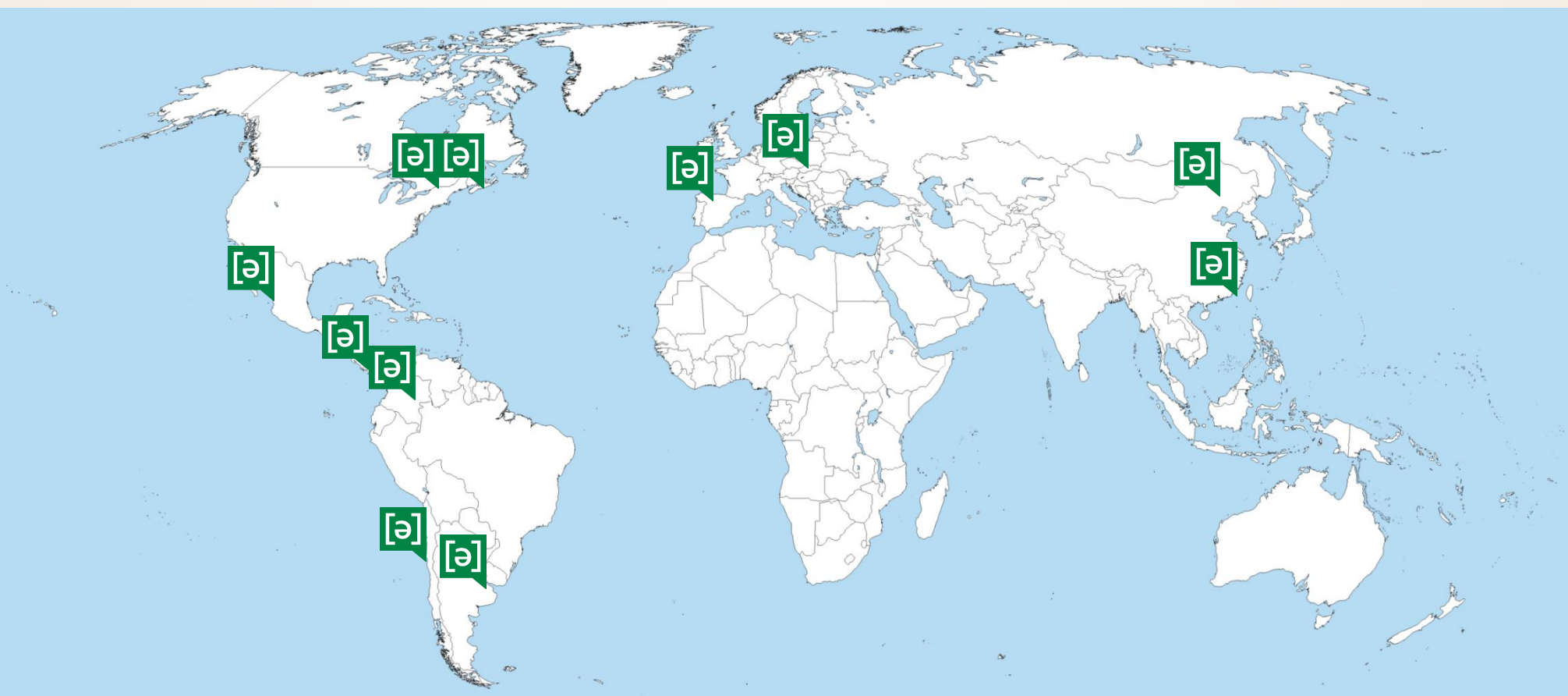
FESTIVAL DELLE LINGUE
UNIVERSITÀ L'ORIENTALE DI NAPOLI

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
JENNIFERMCDONALD.CA



20+ years in language education

Teaching, training, researching, designing programs, curriculum, materials
Twenty years of observations and insights





WHY CERTIFICATION?

Language learners seek certification for many reasons.



Hamid R. Hashimzada • 3rd+

Presidential Scholar| BCG Ambassador| Winner of CAU Internati...

21h • Edited •



From Challenge to Consistency: IELTS 8.0



Sometimes exams test more than just knowledge — they test resilience ...more

IELTS™

Test Report Form

ACADEMIC

NOTE

Admission to undergraduate and post graduate courses should be based on the ACADEMIC Reading and Writing Modules. GENERAL TRAINING Reading and Writing Modules are not designed to test the full range of language skills required for academic purposes. It is recommended that the candidate's language ability as indicated in this Test Report Form be re-assessed **after two years** from the date of the test. To find out more about IELTS, IELTS band scores and the CEFR levels, please visit ielts.org/scores.

Centre Number

AZ001

Date

21/SEP/2025

Candidate Number



EXPORT AREA MANAGER - METALMECCANICA – FRANCESE C2

MODULO Group Onsite Nationwide, IT

Published: September 22, 2025

Per realtà industriale, leader nel settore Idro Termo Sanitario, operativa nella prod termoidraulici e nella distribuzione dei prodotti in 108 Paesi differenti, con partico Francofoni, compreso il ...



TODAY'S SESSION

Language Certification

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats





COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

Completion Certificates

Reflect time spent learning

Certificate of participation, completion, attendance

May be a paper or digital certificate, digital badge

Canada's Open University

Athabasca University

Help Apply

Athabasca University / Calendar / Undergraduate Calendar / Program regulations / Certificate of Completion – English Lar

Certificate of Completion – English Language Proficiency Program



COMPLETION CERTIFICATES

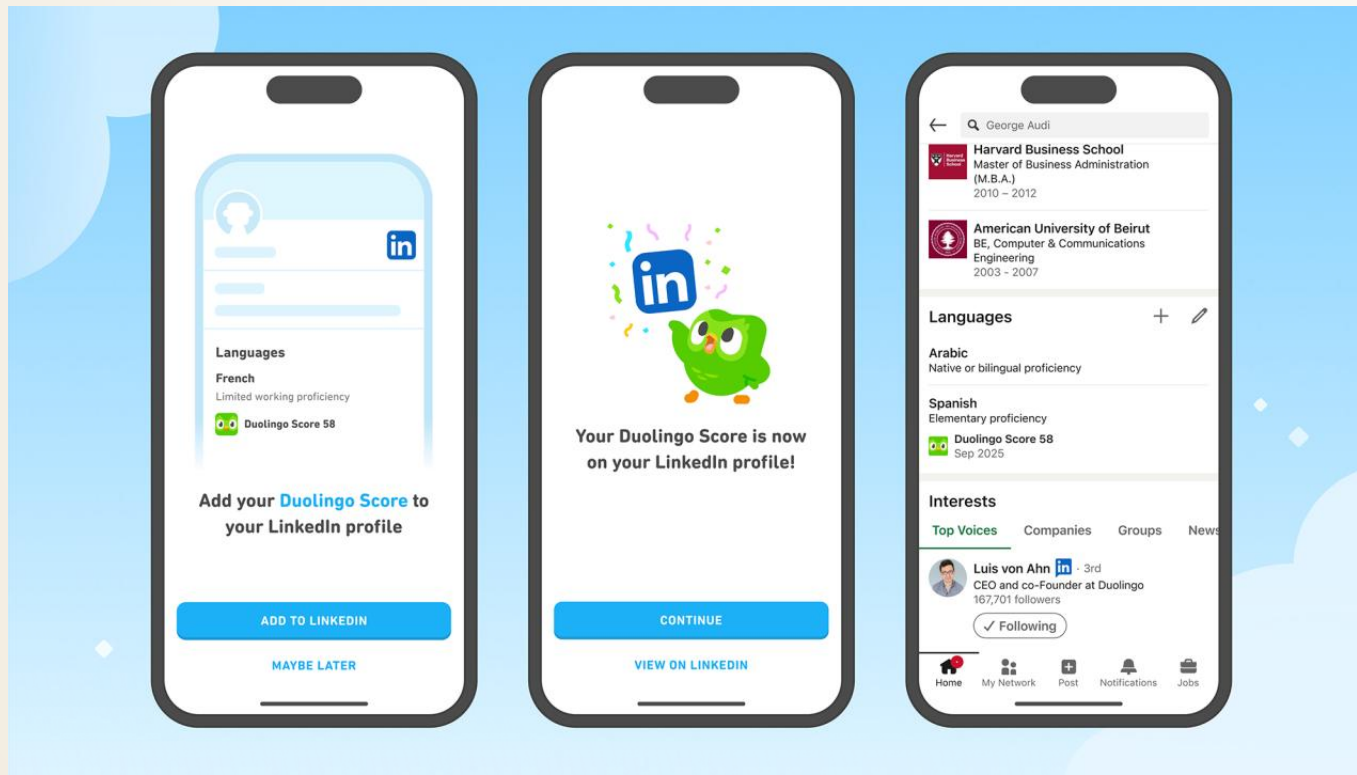
Completion Certificates

Strengths

Straightforward, simple to administrate

Weaknesses

Only signals participation and completion of material, rather than specific skills. The public might not realize this.





Proficiency Certification

- Attests to your level of skill or ability in a language
- Linked to standardized tests or exams
- Often benchmarked to frameworks such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- Paper or digital score report, sometimes certificate as well

CAMBRIDGE English

First Certificate in English

Statement of Results

Candidate name: **Elliott LAW-LIN**

Place of entry: **TOULOUSE CEDEX 7**

Centre Reference: **FR258 0004**

To be quoted on all correspondence

Verification Number: **C5930570**

Session: **02 MARCH 2024**

Result: **Pass at Grade C**

Overall Score: **164**

CEFR Level: **B2**

CEFR Level: **C1**

CEFR Level: **B2**

CEFR Level: **B1**

Cambridge English Scale

Certificated Results

Reading: **154**

Use of English: **163**

Writing: **157**

Listening: **178**

Speaking: **161**

Source

汉语水平考试

Chinese Proficiency Test

HSK (二级) 成绩报告

HSK (Level 2) Examination Score Report

姓名 (Name): **Javier Augusto Rebull Saucedo**

性别 (Gender): **男** 国籍 (Nationality): **墨西哥**

考试时间 (Examination Date): **2021 年 10 月 30 日 (Day)**

编号 (No.): **HW22110003518**

准考证号 (Admission Ticket Number): **H22140532040020001**

总分 129 分为合格 (Passing Score: 120)

	满分 Full Score	你的分数 Your Score
听力 Listening	100	94
阅读 Reading	100	68
总分 Total Score	200	162

听力 Listening	阅读 Reading	总分 Total Score	百分等级 Percentile Rank
100	100	200	99%
99	99	196	90%
96	98	191	80%
93	95	186	70%
91	90	179	60%
88	86	172	50%
85	80	163	40%
80	72	153	30%
74	62	140	20%
66	51	122	10%

主任 **马箭**

Director

教育部中外语言交流合作中心

Center for Language Education and Cooperation

中国 · 北京

Beijing · China

Source

CERTIFICACIÓN DE CALIFICACIÓN DELE NIVEL B1

La candidata cuyos datos constan a continuación ha obtenido los siguientes resultados en las pruebas de examen celebradas en abril de 2016 conducentes a la obtención del **Diploma de español como lengua extranjera DELE**.

Datos Personales:

Apellidos: **KIRSTIN**

Nombre: **KIRSTIN**

Fecha de nacimiento: **LONDRES**

Lugar de nacimiento: **REINO UNIDO**

País de nacimiento: **REINO UNIDO**

Genero: **M**

H (HOMBRE) M (MUJER)

Código de inscripción: **123456789**

Resultados obtenidos en las pruebas:

	Grupo 1	Grupo 2
Comprensión de lectura	25	25
Expresión e interacción escritas	25	25
Comprensión auditiva	25	25
Expresión e interacción orales	25	25
Puntuación máxima	25	25
Puntuación mínima exigida	30	30
Puntuación obtenida	23.33	20.52
CALIFICACIÓN POR GRUPOS	43.85 (APTO)	47.5 (APTO)
CALIFICACIÓN GLOBAL	APTO	

Los datos de resultados en las pruebas de examen DELE que se facilitan en este documento tienen carácter certificador.

El candidato que haya obtenido la calificación global de **APTO** recibirá el diploma acreditativo correspondiente, expedido por el Instituto Cervantes.

Source



Proficiency Certification

Strengths

- Reflect ability, rather than participation in learning
- Internationally recognizable and transferable
- Frameworks such as CEFR are robust and valid

Opportunities

- Development of specialized or skills testing

Weaknesses

- Sometimes a lack of test validity, or if it measures what it intends to measure.
- Gap between someone's test score and real-life ability

Threats

- Test security,
- lack of assessment literacy
- Tests being used not for their intended purpose



Microcredentials

Microcredentials are short, focused courses designed to develop a **specific skill or competency**.

Unlike traditional degrees, they offer targeted learning, allowing you to gain relevant skills quickly.

Microcredentials are developed in **collaboration with employers and industry experts** to ensure that you're learning skills that are directly applicable to [...] workforce needs.

Nova Scotia Microcredentialing Framework





Digital Badges

Can post on your resume or on social media such as Linked In. Employers can click on the badge to read about more about the competencies related to the microcredential.





This badge was issued to [Alex Marmontel](#) on July 05, 2022

[Verify](#)



Microsoft Certified
AZURE FUNDAMENTALS

[Source](#)

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals

Issued by [Microsoft](#)

Earners of the Azure Fundamentals certification have demonstrated foundational level knowledge of cloud services and how those services are provided with Microsoft Azure.

Skills

[Azure](#)[Cloud Data](#)[Cloud Networking](#)[Cloud Security](#)[Cloud Services](#)[Cloud Storage](#)

[Virtualization](#)

What microcredentials exist in language education?

Languages

- English Language (Proficiency)
- Workplace Skills for English Language Learners
- “Foreign/World Languages”: French, Korean, Spanish, Japanese, Italian, Tok Pisin Language and Culture
- ASL
- “Start Speaking [French]”
- Career Building with Languages
- Microcredential in intermediate language skills
- Many exist as sub-majors/minors for university students in the US
- Not a lot in English language education

Training and PD for Language Teachers

- TESOL: Insights into Language Teaching
- Supporting English Language Learners
- Cultural Proficiency & Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy in Refugee Education
- Modular Education: High-leverage teaching Practices
- Linguistics and Multilingualism
- Add-ons and continuing professional development for already-trained teachers
- Orgs like TESOL Int’l, Digital Promise, Bridge; some universities and colleges

What microcredentials exist in language education?

Communication Skills

Communications Skills

- Intercultural Communication
- Science Communication
- Technical Communication Skills
- Business Communications

Language-Adjacent Skills

- Interpretation
- [Intérpretation](#) médicale



Microcredentials in Language Education

Strengths

- Established and validated competency-based frameworks in ELT: CEFR, CLB, ACTFL
- Transparency for employers, etc.
- Responsive and relevant

Opportunities

- Teacher PD. Does it have a place in initial teacher training?
- Non-benchmarked language courses
- Professionally-oriented language courses
- Exam prep

Weaknesses

- Lack of granularity: (Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced)
- Who is “industry”? Employers? Academia?

Threats

- Competition from well-established standardized exam industry, certificates and diplomas
- Lack of recognition in accreditation schemes



Food for Thought

WHICH TYPES OF
CERTIFICATION ARE
MOST IMPORTANT IN
YOUR CONTEXT?

HAVE YOU EVER
WITNESSED A
MISUNDERSTANDING
AROUND LANGUAGE
CERTIFICATION?

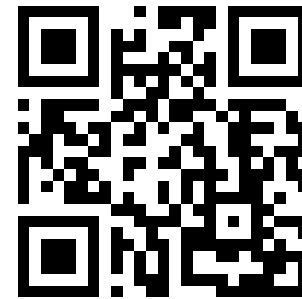
COULD
MICROCREDENTIALS
BE APPLICABLE IN
YOUR CONTEXT?

WHAT
MICROCREDENTIAL
WOULD YOU
CREATE?



Thank You!

Slides



LinkedIn



Email

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Website and Blog

www.jennifermacdonald.ca

Special thanks to:

Ayesha Mushtaq, Tracy Franz, Dianne Tyers

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Dr. Jennifer J. MacDonald

Higher, International & Language Education
Strategy ▪ Programs ▪ Research ▪ Training