

Vietnamese Language and Culture Day at UBD
Ngày Ngôn ngữ và Văn hóa Việt Nam
tại Đại học Quốc gia Brunei



Dr Tran Trong Nghia explaining the display to Dr Hazri bin Haji Kifle and H. E. Tran Anh Vu

This past October, the Embassy of Vietnam in Brunei, in collaboration with UBD, successfully organised the Vietnamese Language and Culture Day. The event played a crucial role in promoting cultural exchange between the two countries, reaffirming the strong development of bilateral cooperation.

Speaking at the event, Vietnamese Ambassador to Brunei, H.E. Tran Anh Vu, emphasised that education, culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges are key priorities in the Action Programme for the Vietnam-Brunei Comprehensive Partnership (2023-2027). Notably, educational cooperation between the two nations has seen substantial progress, as demonstrated by the successful implementation of Vietnamese language courses at UBD and ongoing faculty and student exchange programmes.

Since 2022, the Vietnamese language programme has attracted an average of 60–90 students each semester. The Vietnamese Government’s strong commitment to this initiative is reflected in the visits of Vietnam’s Prime Minister and Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly to Vietnamese language classes at UBD. These significant milestones not only highlight the role of education in the comprehensive partnership but also pave the way for deeper and more extensive cooperation between Vietnam and Brunei in the future.

Tháng 10 vừa qua, Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Brunei, phối hợp với Đại học Quốc gia Brunei (UBD), tổ chức thành công Ngày Ngôn ngữ và Văn hóa Việt Nam. Sự kiện góp phần tích cực vào việc thúc đẩy giao lưu văn hóa giữa hai quốc gia, khẳng định sự phát triển mạnh mẽ trong quan hệ hợp tác song phương.

Phát biểu tại sự kiện, Đại sứ Việt Nam tại Brunei - Trần Anh Vũ nhấn mạnh rằng các lĩnh vực giáo dục, văn hóa, du lịch và giao lưu nhân dân là trọng tâm trong Chương trình Hành động triển khai quan hệ đối tác toàn diện Việt Nam - Brunei giai đoạn 2023-2027. Đặc biệt, hợp tác giáo dục giữa hai nước đang có những bước tiến thực chất, thể hiện qua việc triển khai hiệu quả chương trình giảng dạy tiếng Việt tại UBD, cùng các hoạt động hợp tác đào tạo, trao đổi giảng viên và sinh viên.

Từ năm 2022, Đại học UBD đã triển khai chương trình dạy tiếng Việt, thu hút trung bình 60 - 90 sinh viên mỗi học kỳ. Sự quan tâm đặc biệt của Chính phủ Việt Nam đối với công tác này được thể hiện rõ qua các chuyến thăm của Thủ tướng Việt Nam và Phó Chủ tịch Quốc hội Việt Nam đến các lớp học tiếng Việt tại UBD. Những dấu ấn quan trọng này không chỉ khẳng định vai trò của giáo dục trong quan hệ đối tác toàn diện mà còn mở ra nhiều cơ hội hợp tác sâu rộng hơn giữa Việt Nam và Brunei trong tương lai.



Top 100 | Asia
Top 400 | World
Top 700 | Sustainability



Top 150 | Asia
Top 600 | World
Top 1500 | Impact



Sustainability
Starts Here

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop at Student Centre, UBD

文莱大学的书法工作坊

The Language Centre organised a Chinese Calligraphy Workshop on 19th February at the Student Centre in UBD. This enriching workshop was led by 10 instructors from the Chinese Calligraphy and Painting Cultural Society of Brunei, with Mr. Sim Jong Siang serving as the main instructor. A total of 50 participants, including UBD students and staff, enthusiastically joined the workshop. The event commenced with an inauguration by the guest of honor, Puan Hajah Maudena binti Haji Abdul Hamid, the acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor (University Life and Governance). She was accompanied by Dr. Juliana Shak, the director of the Language Centre, and Dr. Min Shen, the deputy director of the Language Centre.

During the workshop, participants were treated to an immersive two-hour session that delved into the rich history and culture of Chinese calligraphy. The instructors not only shared insights on the traditional art form but also provided hands-on experience in calligraphy writing. The attendees had the opportunity to practice various techniques and styles under expert guidance, making the workshop an engaging and educational experience. The workshop was a resounding success, leaving participants with a deeper understanding of Chinese calligraphy and its cultural significance.

文莱大学语言中心于2月19日举办了一场书法工作坊。此次工作坊由文莱中华书画文化协会的10位导师引领，主要导师为沈仁祥先生。一共有50名参与者，包括在籍的学生和教职员参加了此次工作坊。活动由代助理校长（大学生生活与治理）Puan Hajah Maudena binti Haji Abdul Hamid主持开幕。她由语言中心主任Dr. Juliana Shak 和副主任Dr. Min Shen陪同。

工作坊期间，在导师的引领下，参与者探讨了中国书法的悠久历史和文化。导师们不仅分享了这一传统艺术形式的见解，也针对书法练习进行指导。在各导师的指导下，参与者们有机会练习书法中的基础技法。工作坊取得了圆满成功，让参与者对中国书法及其文化意义有了更深入的了解。



Main instructor Mr Sim Jong Siang conducting the workshop



Dyg Hjh Maudena bte Hj Abdul Hamid, acting AVC (University Life and Governance) together with instructors and participants

Professional Communication Programme for Southeast Asian Officers

In the August semester of 2024, the Language Centre once again conducted an English language professional communication skills course for in-service officers from Southeast Asian countries.

The eight-week programme addresses the English language and communication needs of participants in the everyday operations of their workplace, with a particular emphasis on increasing their knowledge about the English language as well as on developing their language usage skills. Communication skills in both the formal professional and informal social domains were covered within the course.

By the end of the programme, students had improved their English proficiency as well as communicative competence in the English language and are expected to be able to effectively apply these skills to their respective job roles.

Bridging English Course Now at The Language Centre

Now housed at the Language Centre, the Bridging English Course (BEC) has been launched once again at UBD. The BEC is an English language course designed for students who have met the minimum entry requirements to the university but have not achieved the minimum English language qualification entry requirement.

The 14-week course is currently offered once per academic year in March, allowing students to apply for admission into the university for the August intake.

At the end of the course, students will sit for the UBD English Proficiency Test (UBD-EPT) as their final assessment, which will then determine their eligibility to be admitted to UBD.

For more information on the BEC, please visit <https://lc.ubd.edu.bn/bridging-english-course/>

For more details about the UBD-EPT, please visit <https://lc.ubd.edu.bn/ubd-ept/>

The Language Centre's First Student Research Showcase

For the first time at the Language Centre, the LE-2503 module Academic Report Writing and Oral Presentation Skills hosted a public showcase for students' poster presentations as part of their assessment. On 28th and 29th October 2024, both invited guests and public visitors were welcome to attend and view students' work while the LE-2503 students presented their posters to attendees.

In line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, students presented their SDG-related findings based on their research conducted during the semester. The specific SDGs covered were: SDG 3- Mental Health Awareness & Support among University Students; SDG 8- Impact of Entrepreneurship Programmes on Youth Employment; SDG 12- Promoting Zero Waste Initiatives in the University Campus; and SDG 12- Impact of Consumer Awareness Campaigns on Reducing Plastic Use.

Over 300 students worked in groups to present their research findings, presenting their ideas in the form of a poster they designed. Among other criteria, students were assessed on their ability to relay their ideas clearly and professionally while working effectively as a team. Additionally, based on votes, two student groups also ultimately won the Best Research Poster Award.



A student presenting her group's poster



LE-2503 instructors and students



A sample of student posters



Students preparing to present

First LC Seminar Series of the Semester

On 15 January 2025, Dr Omar Columbo and Dr Tran Trong Nghia of the Language Centre presented at LC's first Seminar Series for the semester on their topic: 'Understanding the Vocabulary Learning Strategies (VLS) of Bruneian Students Learning Vietnamese as a Foreign Language – A Social Interaction Perspective'. The researchers shared that, given the limited exploration of VLS use by both Bruneian students and learners of Vietnamese as a Foreign Language, this research investigates the VLS, particularly the Social Strategies applied by Bruneian students of Vietnamese as a Foreign Language. The research found that, since learners value these Social Strategies, it is crucial that instructors incorporate interactive communication strategies to provide real-life language experiences and therefore enhance Vietnamese language education.

The LC Seminar Series is conducted monthly at the Language Centre and is open to all interested academic colleagues.



Dr Omar Columbo and Dr Tran Trong Nghia presenting at the seminar

Turkish Language Course Resumes at LC

In January 2025, the Language Centre offered two beginner courses in partnership with the Embassy of Türkiye in Brunei Darussalam, with classes conducted by native speaker and Turkish language instructor Mr Sahabattein. The free courses, open to both UBD students and the public, allow participants to explore and learn about Turkish language and culture, from recognising individual words

to learning everyday phrases. The first language course ran from 13th January to 28th February 2025, and the second course, which is currently in session, began on 10th March and will conclude on 25th April 2025. For each seven-week course, participants will be awarded a certificate upon completion.

Open to public & UBD students

MERHABA

Explore and learn Turkish language and culture

We are pleased to announce that the Language Centre will be offering two new FREE courses in partnership with the Embassy of Türkiye.

BEGINNER TURKISH LANGUAGE COURSE 1
(13TH JANUARY - 28TH FEBRUARY 2025)

BEGINNER TURKISH LANGUAGE COURSE 2
(10TH MARCH - 25TH APRIL 2025)

- This course is a **7-week** course. Each week will consist of two sessions, each lasting 2 hours.
- Certificate** will be awarded upon completion.
- Participants are required to attend at least **twelve (12) sessions**.
- Participants may enroll in Course II without the prerequisite of completing Course I.
- Please note that this course **does not offer modular credits**.

REGISTRATION PERIOD: 2ND TO 9TH JAN 2025

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- Please note that this course **does not offer modular credits**.

REGISTRATION PERIOD: 4TH MARCH TO 7TH MARCH 2025

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Posters on the Turkish Language Courses offered at the Language Centre, UBD

Academic Activities by LC Staff

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published an article along with Miranti and Mukodas (2024): Mythological Narratives and Modern Reinterpretations in the Deconstruction of Narcissus Stories. In: Jurnal Sastra Indonesia 13(3), 213–228.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka published an article along with Alexander Stark, Hajah Zurinah Haji Ya'akub, Nur Ezzati Rasyidah Haji Abd Rahman and Robita Ika Annisa (2025): Temporal Metaphors as a Linguistic Phenomenon: Conceptual Frameworks across Different Languages. In LingPoet: Journal of Linguistics and Literary Research 6(1), 31–43.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka completed a research project along with Alexander Stark, Hajah Zurinah Haji Ya'akub, Nur Ezzati Rasyidah Haji Abd Rahman and Robita Ika Annisa: Temporal Metaphors as a Linguistic Phenomenon: Conceptual Frameworks across Different Languages.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka presented at a conference along with Indah Aini and Robita Ika Annisa on 'Strategi dan Tantangan Diplomasi Lunak Bahasa Indonesia menuju Bahasa Global' at The Fourth APPBIPA-Thailand Conference on Indonesian Language and Culture for Non-Native Speakers in Chiang Mai (Thailand), on 30 November – 1 December 2024. Organiser: Afiliasi Pengajar dan Pegiat Bahasa Indonesia bagi Penutur Asing (Thailand Branch).

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka presented at a conference along with Alexander Star and Jamilah Shaari on 'Strategies for Revitalizing and Maintaining Minority Languages: Comparative Insights from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam' at ERABC 2024 The 2nd Education Research and Applied Business Conference 2024 in Pamatawan (Philippines), on 14 – 15 December 2024. Organiser: ERABC.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka delivered a talk on 'Melukis Identiti: Metafora yang Menggambarkan Jiwa dan Jati Diri Bangsa' as part of the CFS Global Classroom Programme, Management and Science University (Shah Alam, Malaysia), on 19 December 2024. Invited by: Dr. Siti Rabiatul Adawiah Jaffar.

➤ Dr Balazs Huszka delivered a talk on 'Warisan Sastra Melayu di Sumatera Utara: Menelusuri Tradisi, Genre dan Pengaruh Sejarah' at the LC Seminar Series, Language Centre of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, on 12 February 2025.

➤ Dr Omar Columbo and Dr Tran Trong Nghia delivered a talk on 'Understanding the Vocabulary Learning Strategies (VLS) of Bruneian Students Learning Vietnamese as a Foreign Language – A Social Interaction Perspective' at the LC Seminar Series, Language Centre of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, on 15 January 2025.

CONSULTANCY AND SERVICES

The Language Centre offers consultancy in Language Programmes and in Premium Editorial Services (proofreading, editing and translation)

Please contact LC Assistant Registrar, Siti Aisah @ Ayuni binti Sepawi at aisah.sepawi@ubd.edu.bn for further enquiries

Contact Us:

office.lc@ubd.edu.bn
 ic.ubd.edu.bn
 @lc.ubd
 @language_centre.ubd