



# USAID Tenuring Languages

## A Mandatory Reference for ADS 438

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## USAID TENURING LANGUAGES

The following list includes all languages and tested levels (S= Speaking and R = Reading) that satisfy USAID's requirement for Foreign Service career candidates to demonstrate proficiency in a USAID-useful language before being considered for tenure. Consistent with the intent of the Foreign Service Act, selection is based on usefulness defined as languages 1) that are spoken by a significant portion of the population in one or more countries in which USAID has a presence or active program, 2) that are spoken by more than 10 million people in those countries, and 3) whose proficiency supports the achievement of USAID programmatic objectives. This list is comprehensive, and testing is not provided for other languages. The language training coordinator in the Office of Human Capital and Talent Management, Center for Professional Development (HCTM/CPD) arranges testing. USAID usually provides training for tenure in languages used by posts for language designated positions. However, USAID also provides training when career candidates test in another USAID-useful language on the lists below and need only a minimal amount of training to achieve the required proficiency level (e.g., if the requirement is S-2 and the candidate tests at 1+).

### A. USAID Category A Languages (S-3/R-3 or better)

Haitian Creole	Portuguese	
French	Spanish	
German		

### B. Other Languages Qualifying for USAID Tenuring

#### 1. S-2/R-2 or better

Akan	Kurdish	
Albanian	Kyrgyz	Singhala/Singhalese
Amharic	Lao	Somali
Armenian	Lingala	Swahili/Kiswahili
Azerbaijani	Macedonian	Tamil
Bengali	Malagasy	Telugu
Khmer/Cambodian	Mongolian	Thai
Georgian	Nepali/Nepalese	Turkish
Gujarati	Persian Tajiki	Turkmen
Hausa	Punjabi	Ukrainian
Hebrew	Romanian	Urdu
Hindi	Russian	Uzbek
Indonesian	Serbo-Croatian (all variants)	Vietnamese
Kazakh		

#### 2. S-2/R-1 or better

Arabic (all variants)

Bosnian

Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin)

Pashto

Persian-Dari (Afghan)

Persian Farsi  
Pilipino/Tagalog

**3. S-2/R-0 or better**

Burmese  
Byelorussian  
Sotho/Sesotho  
Visayan  
Wolof  
Yoruba

**Note:** Tenure in the above languages is subject to language proficiency testing at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) or other USAID-contracted training facility. The list is subject to change, based on the program needs of USAID, and the ability of FSI or other USAID-contracted training facility to conduct a test of proficiency in the language of interest.

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