



## Establishing a language program in your community

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Tips for establishing a community-based language program in partnership with a post-secondary institution

### Advisory Board or Committee

Often interest in a program comes from more than one community who share a language, but one nation takes the lead in establishing the partnership with the University. It is useful, however, to establish and maintain an advisory committee with representation from all the interested communities, who can inform and direct the lead nation and ensure information is spread.

### Community goals

Find out what it is the community, and potential students want to accomplish through a program. Do they all want a teacher education degree, or is learning the language the main goal? How many years do they want to be in school? A survey is a very good way to gather information on what the goals of the community are.

### Language Authority

A language authority must be established for your language in order to assess fluency and to sign off on applications to the BC College of Teachers if that is a goal.

### Choose a program

Once the community has been surveyed, and goals have been established, it will be easier to determine which program is the one that best fits the needs of your potential students.

### Partnership agreement

Work with the institution of choice to create a Memorandum of Understanding or partnership agreement that projects the goals established, and protects the interests of the language community

### Establishing a Cohort

Work with the partner institution to recruit students and local instructors into the program and begin the admission process to the university.

### Community Coordinator

It is often useful for both the community and university partners if a community coordinator for the language program is hired who can be the main contact for students and for the university.

### Applying for Funds

Different funding opportunities are available for supporting community-based language programs, such as the DSTC Support Fund, and the Indian Studies Support Program.

