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Language Speakers with a Bachelor Degree or Higher Degree



About one in five Sydney residents who speaks a language other than English at home holds a bachelor or higher degree. These people are a valuable resource for employers requiring well educated, multilingual employees.

In 2006 there were more than 231,000 people in Sydney with a bachelor degree or higher who spoke a language other than English at home. This represents 45% of the Australian capital cities' total.

Sydney boasts the highest share of all capital cities of residents with academic qualifications who speak an Asian language at home (except for Vietnamese) or French, Spanish and German.

Axis Australia notes that the wide variety of languages spoken by highly skilled workers is the reason most often cited by global financial firms for choosing to establish operations in Sydney.

Language Speakers with a Bachelor Degree or Higher Degree, selected capital cities, 2006 (1)

Language	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Other	Capital city total	Sydney as % of city total
Mandarin	31,671	20,756	7,005	9,778	69,210	45.8
Cantonese	28,278	15,722	3,789	6,660	54,449	51.9
Total Chinese Languages	62,956	39,240	11,302	18,127	131,625	47.8
Hindi	11,639	7,514	1,820	2,570	23,543	49.4
Tamil	5,627	3,904	633	1,767	11,931	47.2
Bengali	5,603	1,899	404	1,100	9,006	62.2
Total Southern Asian Languages	43,729	30,411	5,699	11,631	91,470	47.8
Korean	9,579	1,784	1,249	1,145	13,757	69.6
Tagalog	9,418	3,498	1,075	1,506	15,497	60.8
Greek	8,824	13,333	978	3,541	26,676	33.1
Vietnamese	7,914	8,067	1,721	3,503	21,205	37.3
Filipino	7,264	3,571	977	1,442	13,254	54.8
Spanish	6,560	3,534	1,543	2,197	13,834	47.4
Italian	6,023	10,587	1,164	5,312	23,086	26.1
Indonesian	5,978	3,909	718	2,717	13,322	44.9
Japanese	3,446	2,006	1,125	1,595	8,172	42.2
French	3,433	2,452	946	1,992	8,823	38.9
German	3,357	2,833	1,235	2,544	9,969	33.7
Thai	2,981	1,606	540	998	6,125	48.7
Total of above	197,995	144,285	33,405	67,429	443,114	44.7
Other languages	33,513	20,154	5,649	12,233	71,549	46.8
Total non-English language speakers	231,508	164,439	39,054	79,662	514,663	45.0

Footnotes:

- 1: Numbers of people aged 15 years and over with a Bachelor degree or higher degree (includes Masters, Doctorates and Postgraduate Diplomas) who speak the specified language at home.
- 2: 'Other' includes Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Darwin and Canberra.
- 3: 'Chinese languages' includes Cantonese, Mandarin and other Chinese languages.
- 4: 'Southern Asian languages' includes Hindi, Tamil, Urdu and other Southern Asian languages.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing