

# Frequently Asked Questions: Bilingual Mandarin

**Q: Am I applying for a Bilingual Credential?**

**A:** *The State of California does not grant a Bilingual Credential; they grant a **Bilingual Authorization**. You are applying for a Bilingual **Authorization**. The Bilingual Authorization is added to a Multiple or Single Subject Credential and cannot be granted without a teaching credential. You must meet all the requirements of your regular credential in order have an authorization added to it.*

**Q: How will I demonstrate my Mandarin fluency?**

**A:** *You will demonstrate your Mandarin fluency by taking and passing CSET Mandarin-subtest III (test code 165). This must be passed before August 1st (prior to the start of the credential program) if you wish to pursue the Mandarin Bilingual Authorization. However, teachers who hold a three-year or higher degree from a Chinese institution in which all instruction is delivered in Mandarin do not need to take CSET Mandarin Subtest III to qualify for a Bilingual Authorization in that language. For more information about the Mandarin CSET and how to register, please click [here](#).*

**Q: Are there any additional course requirements for a Bilingual Authorization?**

**A:** *Yes, there are additional courses that satisfy state requirements for the Bilingual Authorization that you must complete during your Credential year. In addition, you must pass CSET Chinese subtest V (test code 253). For more information about the Chinese CSET and how to register, please click [here](#).*

**Q: What is the additional cost to get a Bilingual Authorization?**

**A:** *You will need to pass two CSET exams: CSET Mandarin subtest III and CSET Chinese subtest V (geography, history, politics, and culture). Each subtest costs \$99. UC Davis does not charge an additional fee for the bilingual course(s) as they are taken along with your regular credential coursework.*

**Q: Will I be placed in a bilingual student teaching setting during the Credential year?**

**A:** *Yes, you will be placed in a classroom setting to practice your Mandarin teaching skills. Multiple Subject candidates will be placed in a bilingual classroom for the long-term placement. Single Subject candidates must teach in a Mandarin setting for a minimum of 3 weeks.*

**Q: Does my Mandarin need to be perfect? Do I need to be a native Mandarin speaker?**

**A:** *You do not need perfect Mandarin (there is no such thing!) and you do not necessarily need to be a native speaker. There are many kinds of bilinguals and ways to learn Mandarin. However, you do need to have more experience than just taking a couple of Mandarin classes would provide. If you can read, write, speak, and understand advanced Mandarin and communicate clearly, you may be eligible for a Bilingual Authorization.*