



 In the Innovation Lab

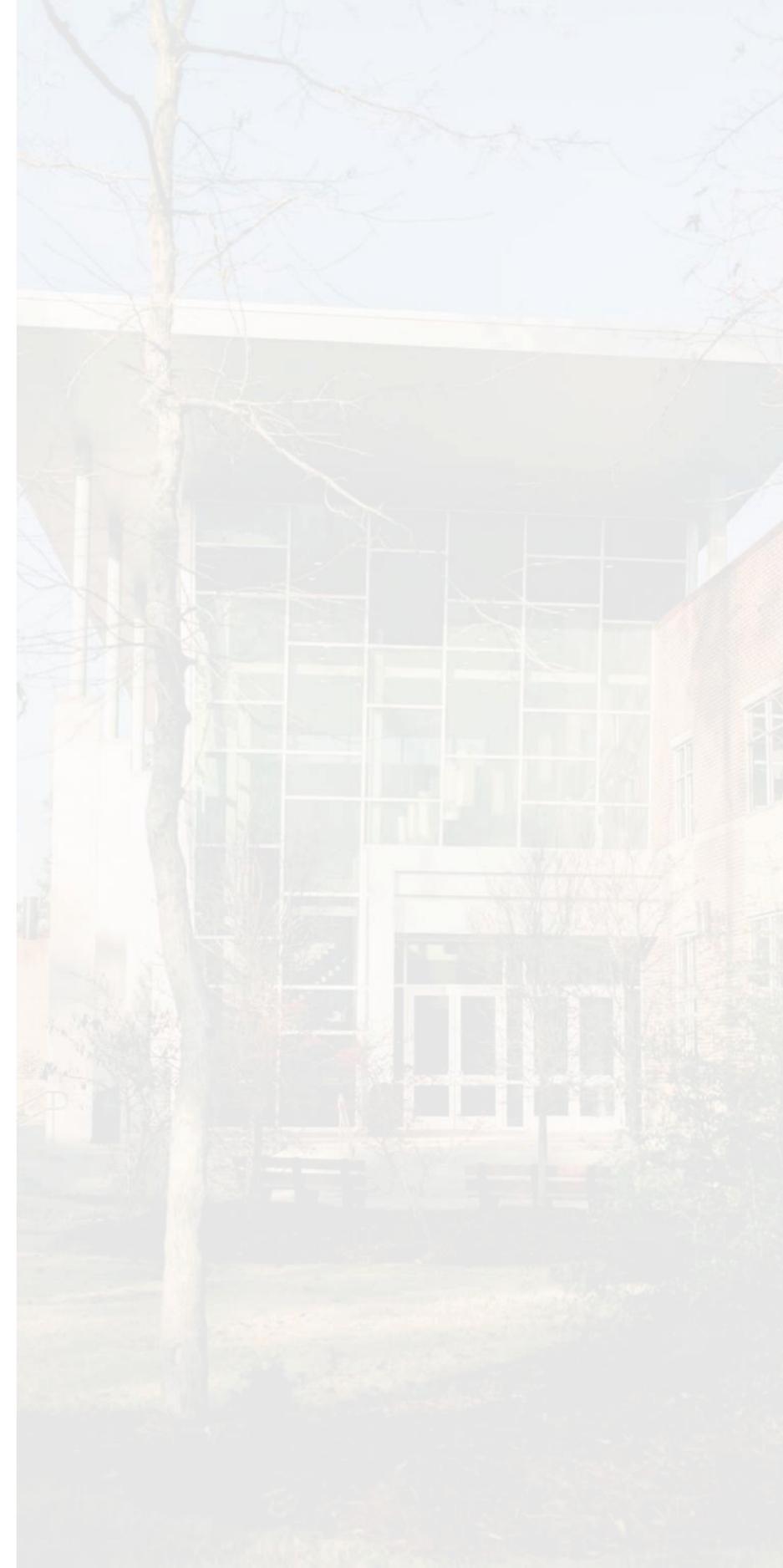
# **The Nuts and Bolts of the Joint Pathway Program**

## **Programmes de passerelle conjointe : mode d'emploi**

Rachel Lindsey, Languages Canada

Ali Noori, ILSC

Dr. Jennifer MacDonald, Languages Canada





# Our Agenda

- 01 **TAKING THE TEMPERATURE  
OF THE ROOM**
- 02 **KEY JPP PROCESSES**
- 03 **IRCC and the JPP**
- 04 **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
REFERENCE GUIDE**
- 05 **Q & A**

01 Taking the  
Temperature  
of the Room

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?



## Instructions

Go to

**[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)**

Enter the code

**1558 1352**



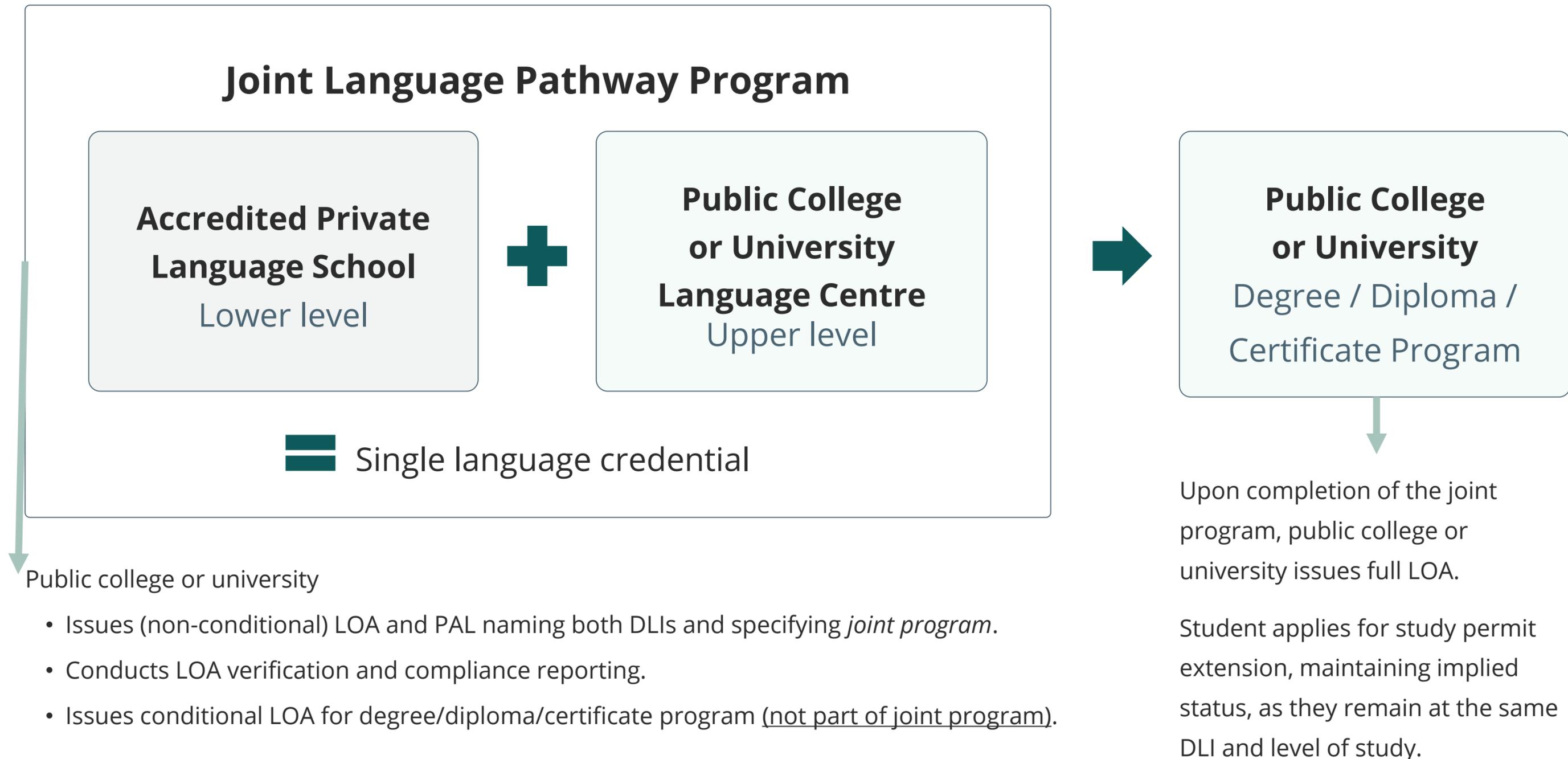
Or use QR code

# 02 Key JPP Processes

HOW DOES IT WORK?

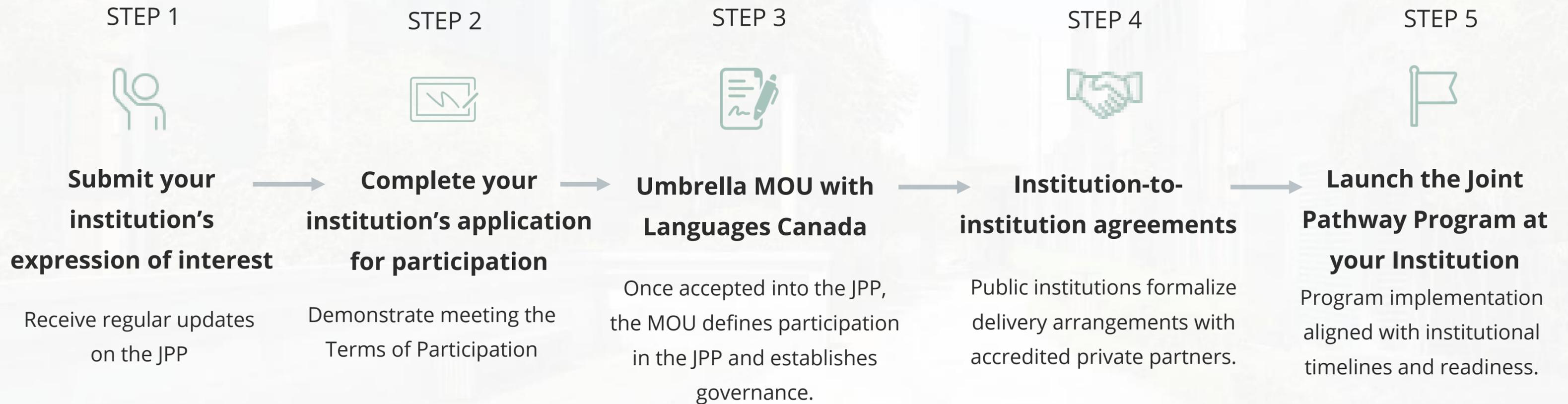


# The JPP Operational Flow



# Key JPP Processes

## From Interest to Launch

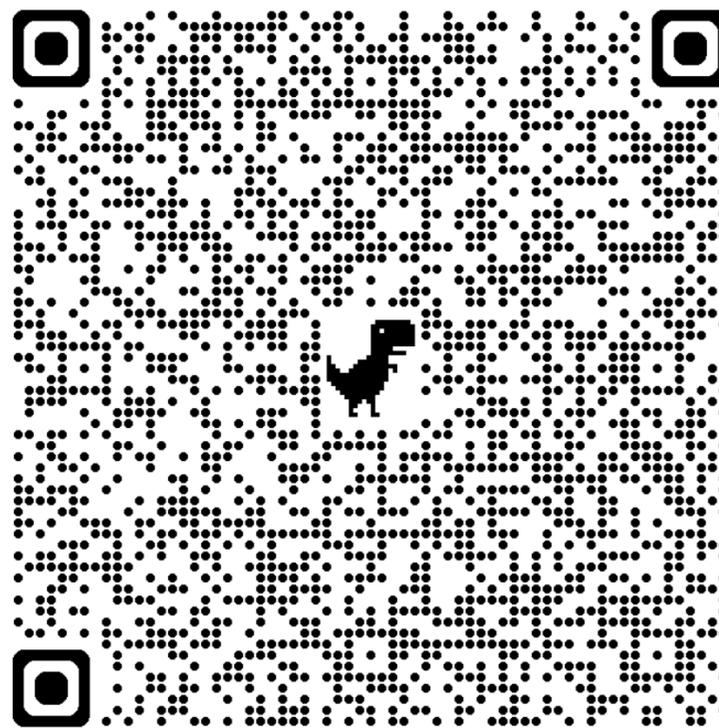


Languages Canada supports members throughout each stage of the process.

# Expression of Interest Form

Receive regular updates on the JPP.

1. Submit an  
Expression of  
Interest for your  
Institution



English



Français

# Terms of Participation in the JPP

To position participating institutions for success, the JPP Working Group and the Languages Canada team have been refining the Terms of Participation to ensure that partnerships are robust, collaborative, and aligned with IRCC's definition of a joint program.



## **Terms of Participation – Private Sector Institutions (DLI-1):**

To become a participant in the JPP, a private sector institution must:

- Be a Designated Learning Institution (DLI);
- Be an accredited member in good standing of Languages Canada;
- Have taught pathway EAP/FAP programming within the last 5 years;
- Have an active pathway relationship with a public sector institution or written confirmation from a public sector institution of its willingness to engage in a pathway partnership for the purposes of the JPP.



## **Terms of Participation – Public Sector Institutions (DLI-2):**

To become a participant in the JPP, a public university or college must:

- Be a Designated Learning Institution (DLI)
- Be a member in good standing of Languages Canada.

2. Submit an application for the JPP.  
(As of late March)

## Laying the Groundwork for a Successful Program

Participation at this stage involves a commitment to active engagement in the pilot.

### Once an institution signs an MOU with Languages Canada and becomes a JPP participant, it will:

Be listed as an official JPP participant on the Languages Canada website, which will serve to promote the program and may be referenced for verification purposes by visa officers;

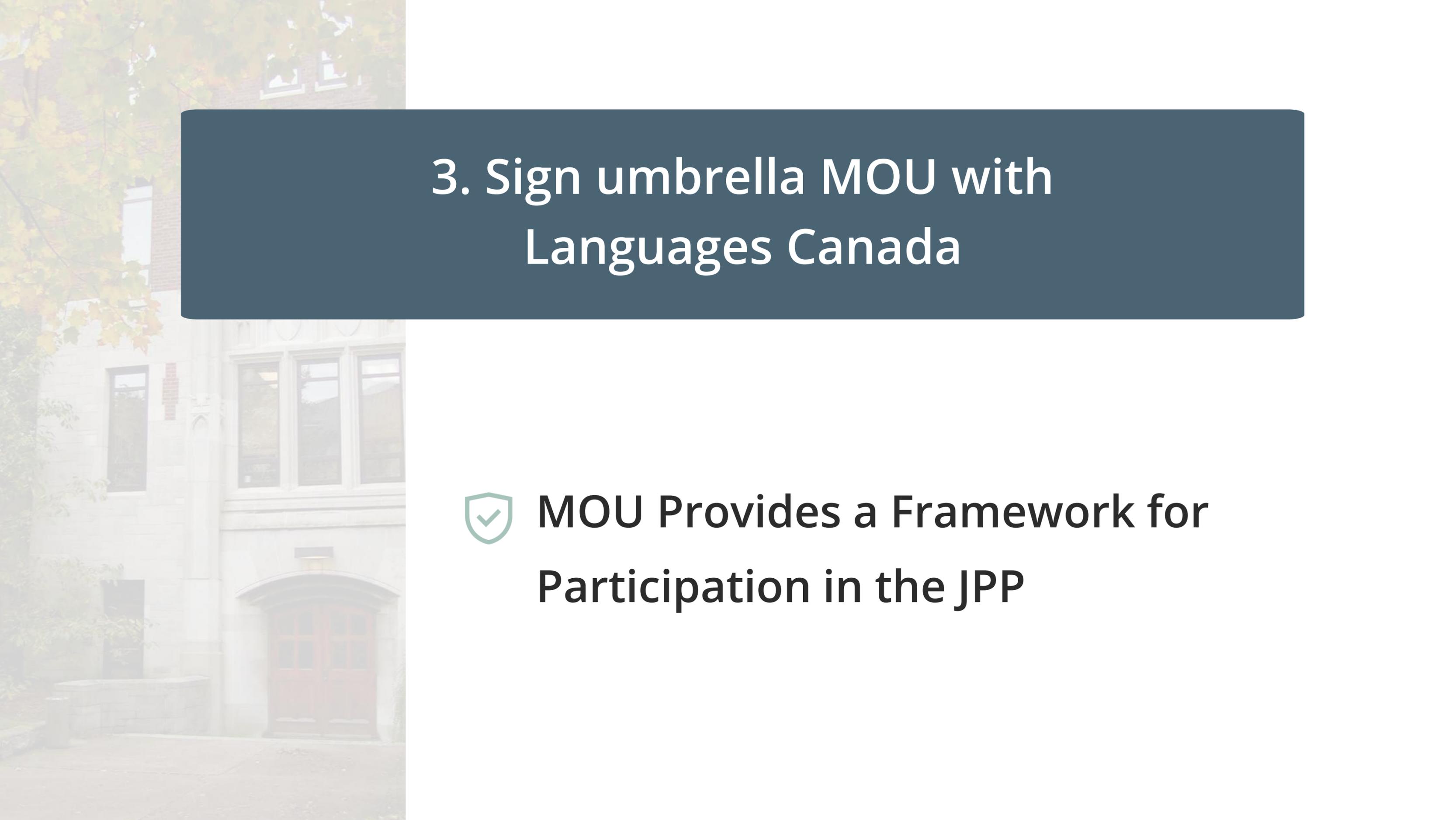
Advance through subsequent phases of the program (e.g. institution-to-institution partnership agreement development) with regular progress reports to Languages Canada;

Join the JPP Working Group;

Participate in data reporting related to the JPP, according to mechanisms and timelines established by Languages Canada;

Contribute to external communications about the JPP led by Languages Canada;

Be invited to participate in JPP trade missions and business development activities.



### 3. Sign umbrella MOU with Languages Canada

- ✓ **MOU Provides a Framework for  
Participation in the JPP**

# JPP Fee Model

- The JPP will function as a cost-recovery program and Languages Canada will charge a fee per student from participating institutions.
- Languages Canada has already invested startup costs into the JPP: advocacy, design and coordination, promotion, HR and other resources.
- The fee will cover administrative and operational costs and ensure that LC can continue to invest in the program and support its growth in target markets and in activities that will benefit members such as research.
- Fee is collected once a student has enrolled and paid tuition; no-risk
- Amount and breakdown:
  - \$170/student is the total fee
  - split 10/90% between the private and public sector partners proportional to revenue brought in per student, therefore
  - \$17/student from DLI1; \$153/student from DLI2

3. Sign the umbrella MOU with Languages Canada.

# Partnership Agreements

The Working Group has produced a Partnership Agreement Reference Guide.

Table of Contents:

- Description and Purpose
- Objectives and Targets
- Student Journey
- Marketing, Branding and Recruitment
- Admissions
- Academic Policies and Processes
- IRCC Compliance
- Data Sharing Privacy and Records
- Terms and Conditions



Points for consideration and sample agreement language.

4. Sign  
institution-to-  
institution  
partnership  
agreements

# 5. Launch the JPP at your Institution !

First students as early as Fall 2026



Clearly defined processes and open lines of communication are key.



Program implementation aligned with institutional timelines and readiness.

# 03 IRCC



**LEVERAGING THE 'JOINT PROGRAM'  
DEFINITION**



**New process for post-secondary study permit holders changing DLIs**

Starting November 8, 2024, **students must be enrolled in the DLI named on their study permit. To change DLIs, student must apply for a new study permit (using a new PAL) and wait for approval of the new permit before changing DLIs.**

... UNLESS enrolled in a **“joint program that results in a single credential”**, a new category of program established by IRCC in July 2025. **Students may change DLIs with one study permit when the joint program is a single integrated program among multiple DLIs that results in a single credential.**

**The credential-granting DLI listed on the study permit in a joint program needs to be responsible for:**

- Issuing the LOA for the single integrated program. The LOA cannot include any academic or progression conditions;
- Completing the verification for the LOA; and
- Reporting on the student via the compliance regime requirements throughout the duration of the joint program.

# Compliance Assurance

The JPP model was reviewed and verified by IRCC (Nov 25, 2025) to fall within the scope of the “joint program” so long as:

A fully  
IRCC-compliant  
model

- One non-conditional LOA is issued by the credential-granting DLI (college or university) for the full joint language program;
- The credential-granting DLI (college or university) conducts LOA verification and compliance reporting.

-  One study permit (naming the credential-granting DLI) covers the full language credential.
-  When the student applies for their study permit extension for the degree / diploma / certificate program at the same DLI, they do not require a new PAL, and they benefit from maintained status and may begin their academic program while waiting for their study permit extension to be approved.

# Official Reference Notice

## Purpose

To provide formal, authoritative confirmation supporting compliant implementation and national scale-up of the JPP.

- Issued by Languages Canada (February 3, 2026)
- Confirms the JPP qualifies under IRCC's joint program policy
- Based on written confirmation from IRCC's International Student Program team
- May be cited with institutions, registrars, agents, provinces, and students



LANGUAGES CANADA  
The national association representing accredited  
Official Languages education programs

## OFFICIAL REFERENCE NOTICE

Reference Title: Eligibility of the Joint Pathway Program (JPP) Under IRCC's Joint Program Policy  
Reference Type: Sector Guidance / Policy Confirmation  
Issued by: Languages Canada  
Authorized Signatory: Executive Director  
Publication Date: February 3, 2026  
Status: Current

### Purpose

This document constitutes an Official Reference Notice issued by Languages Canada. It is intended to provide authoritative clarification regarding the eligibility of the Joint Pathway Program (JPP) under Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) joint program policy framework.

This notice may be cited or shared with institutional leadership, registrars, compliance offices, education agents, provincial authorities, students, families, and other relevant stakeholders as formal confirmation issued by Languages Canada.

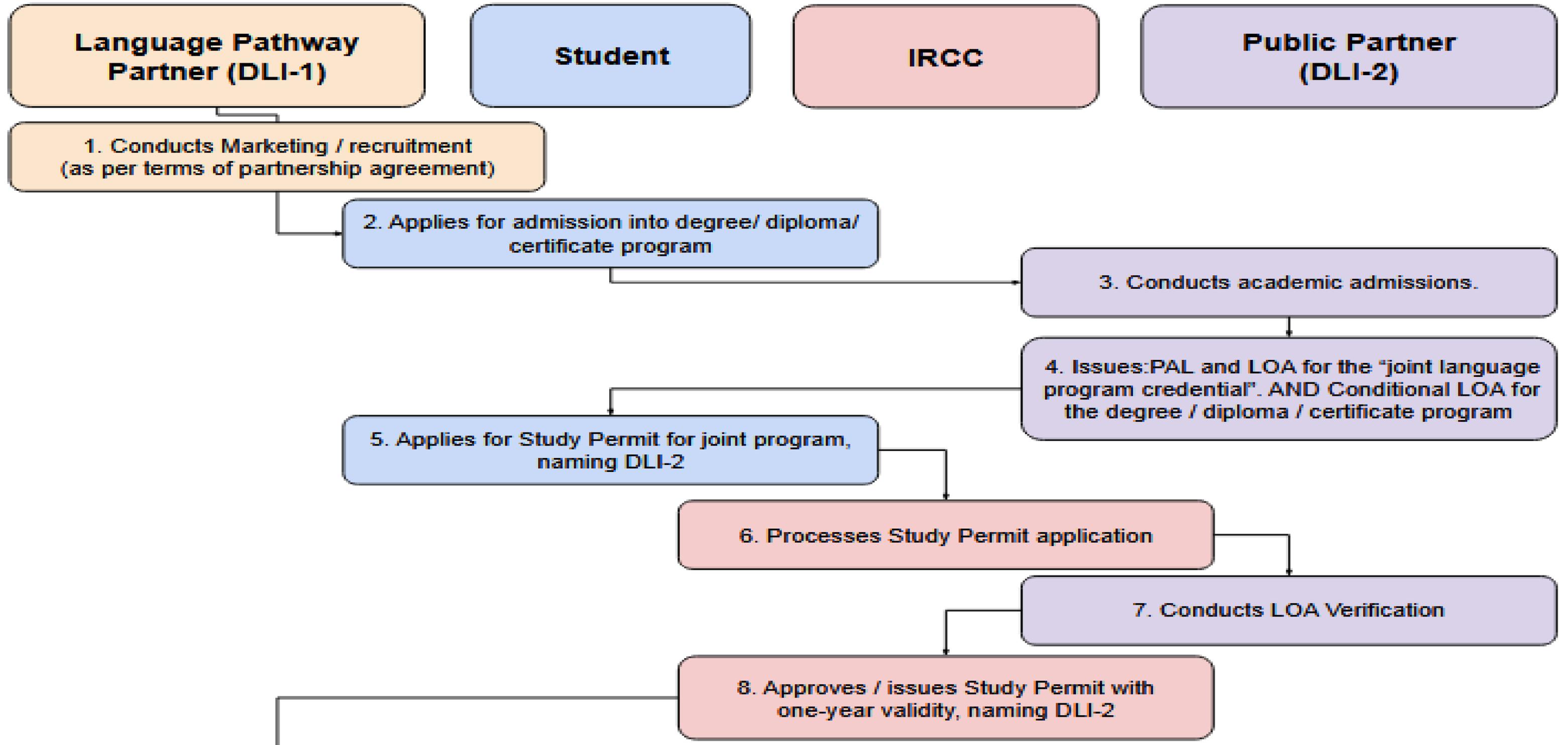
### Issue Summary

In July 2025, IRCC introduced a defined policy category for joint programs resulting in a single credential, accompanied by subsequent client-facing guidance and updated Operational Instructions. These policy changes raised questions within the language education sector regarding the eligibility of language pathway models operating in partnership with public post-secondary institutions.

### Official Clarification

1. Languages Canada sought formal clarification from IRCC regarding the Joint Pathway Program (JPP) model. On November 25, 2025, Languages Canada received written confirmation (excerpted below) from IRCC's International Student Program team (A/Director level) confirming that the JPP model falls within the scope of IRCC's joint program policy, specifically with respect to the language pathway portion of a joint program leading to a single credential.

# Joint Language Pathway Program Model - Student Journey





04 Partnership  
Agreement  
Reference Guide



**PRODUCED BY THE WORKING GROUP**

# The JPP Working Group

Since December 5, 2025, representatives of public colleges, universities, and accredited private language schools have been laying the foundations for the JPP.

- **Key documentation**
  - Partnership agreement reference guide
  - Pitch decks and core communications
- **Market validation**
  - Recruitment runways and source markets
  - Branding and marketing standards
- **Strategy and operations**
  - Process refinement and implementation readiness

Languages Canada provides coordination and guardrails.



Building strong  
foundations for  
the JPP

# Partnership Agreement Reference Guide

The Working Group has produced a Partnership Agreement Reference Guide.

Table of Contents:

- Description and Purpose
- Objectives and Targets
- Student Journey
- Marketing, Branding and Recruitment
- Admissions
- Academic Policies and Processes
- IRCC Compliance
- Data Sharing Privacy and Records
- Terms and Conditions



Points for consideration and sample agreement language.

Available to  
JPP  
Participants

# Partnership Agreement Reference Guide, cont.

The Reference Guide reflects the collective knowledge and expertise of the JPP Working Group members, representing both public and private sector institutions. We are confident that it addresses the vast majority of potential scenarios across various operational areas. It should be noted, however, that the Guide serves solely as a sample agreement. Both DLI1 and DLI2 retain full autonomy to adapt and revise its contents to align with the specific circumstances and requirements of their respective institutions.

This built-in flexibility enables institutions to tailor solutions that address considerations related to key processes in the following areas, among others:

1. Recruitment
2. Admission
3. Academic Monitoring
4. Compliance
5. Agency Relationships/Commissions

Available to  
JPP  
Participants

05 Q & A



**WHAT REMAINING POINTS CAN BE  
CLARIFIED?**



**Thank you!**  
**Merci!**



**Ali Noori**

National Director, Language & Pathways  
ILSC Education Group

[Noori.ali@ilsc.com](mailto:Noori.ali@ilsc.com)



**Rachel Lindsey**

Director, Public Affairs  
Languages Canada

[rlindsey@languagescanada.ca](mailto:rlindsey@languagescanada.ca)



**Dr. Jennifer MacDonald**

Director, Academic Partnerships  
Languages Canada

[jmacdonald@languagescanada.ca](mailto:jmacdonald@languagescanada.ca)



# **The Joint Pathway Program (JPP)**

**Building compliant, sustainable pathways**

Partnership Building Sessions

# **Programme de passerelle conjointe (PPC)**

**Établir des passerelles conformes et durables**

Sessions de partenariat