



 In the Innovation Lab

# **Presenting the Joint Pathway Program (JPP): A New Language-to-Postsecondary Pathway Model**

**Présentation du Programme de passerelle linguistique conjointe :  
un nouveau modèle de passerelle linguistique vers l'enseignement  
supérieur**

Dr. Jennifer MacDonald, Languages Canada

Angela Johnston, ILAC

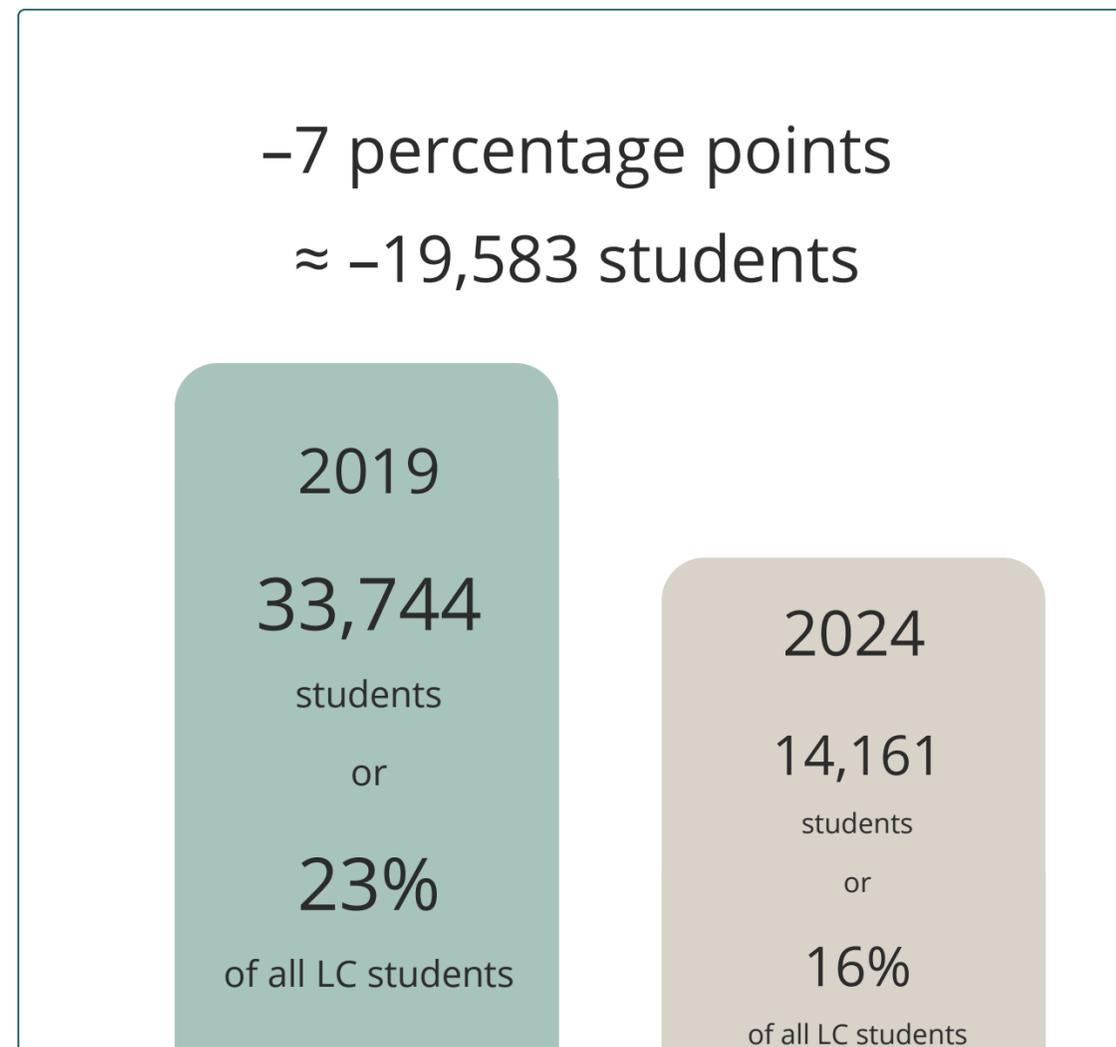
Dr. Stephanie Samboo, Sheridan College

# Our Agenda

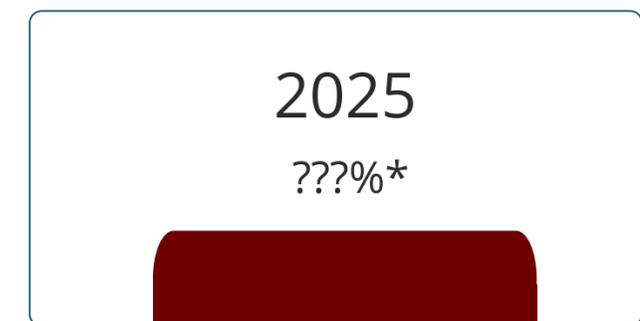
- 01 **THE DECLINE IN PATHWAYS**
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# A System-Level Decline in Pathways & EAP/FAP Enrolment

Pathways and EAP/FAP programs represented one-quarter of LC enrolment in 2019 — today, they are estimated to account for a much smaller percentage.



*Based on LC annual survey data*



*\*2025 data collection still in progress*

# Disruption to 'Private-to-Post Secondary' Pathways

<b>System/Policy Drivers</b>	<b>Student Impacts</b>
Immigration Policy Instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harder to plan multi-stage study pathways</li> <li>● Increased uncertainty when committing to language programs</li> </ul>
Visa Refusals, Delays, & Processing Bottlenecks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Missed start dates &amp; forced deferrals</li> <li>● Potential loss of status if applications are delayed/refused</li> </ul>
Study Permit Caps & PAL Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Limited PAL availability for private sector institutions</li> <li>● Reduction in available spaces in post-secondary programs</li> </ul>
Study Permit Requirements for DLI Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Higher risk of SP refusal during transitions</li> <li>● Potential misalignment with academic semesters</li> </ul>
Increased Administrative Complexity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additional documents required for transitions (LOA, PAL, 2nd SP)</li> <li>● Unknown processing timelines</li> </ul>
Elevated Risk of Losing Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential sudden academic disruption</li> <li>● Greater financial risk and uncertainty</li> </ul>
Unpredictability in Previously Established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● More complex &amp; uncertain environment</li> <li>● Reduced confidence in Canada as a stable study destination</li> </ul>

# Impact on Public Colleges and Universities

<b>Federal Cap Effects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden drop in international enrolments</li> <li>• Resulting budget shocks across Ontario colleges- massive layoffs</li> </ul>
<b>Factors Limiting PAL Utilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced student demand due to reputational issues and IRCC policy changes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– PGWP rule changes</li> <li>– Restrictions on spousal work rights</li> <li>– Increased proof-of-funds requirements</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Significant declines in key source markets (especially India)</li> <li>• Budget pressures limiting recruitment capacity</li> <li>• Low study permit approval rates (22% in first half of 2025), lowering ROI per PAL</li> </ul>
<b>In-Canada Pathway Constraints</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited PALs for private institutions</li> <li>• Regulatory restrictions preventing students from transferring between DLIs</li> </ul>
<b>Impact on English Language Training programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget cuts creating vulnerability in college-run ELT programs</li> <li>• Nationwide increase in ELT closures—unprecedented levels</li> </ul>

# Economic Consequences of Declining Language Pathways

A weakened language education sector risks shrinking Canada's supply of internationally trained learners—reducing future talent inflows, slowing economic growth, and diminishing the diversity of students who have historically entered the economy through language-to-postsecondary pathway programs.



# From Decline to Solution: Meet the JPP



## What it is

A **fully IRCC-compliant** joint language pathway delivered by an accredited private language school and a public college or university language program, resulting in a single language credential.



## How it works

Lower-level language training is delivered by the private partner, followed by upper-level language training at the public partner. Students remain within a single joint program **under one study permit.**



## Why it matters

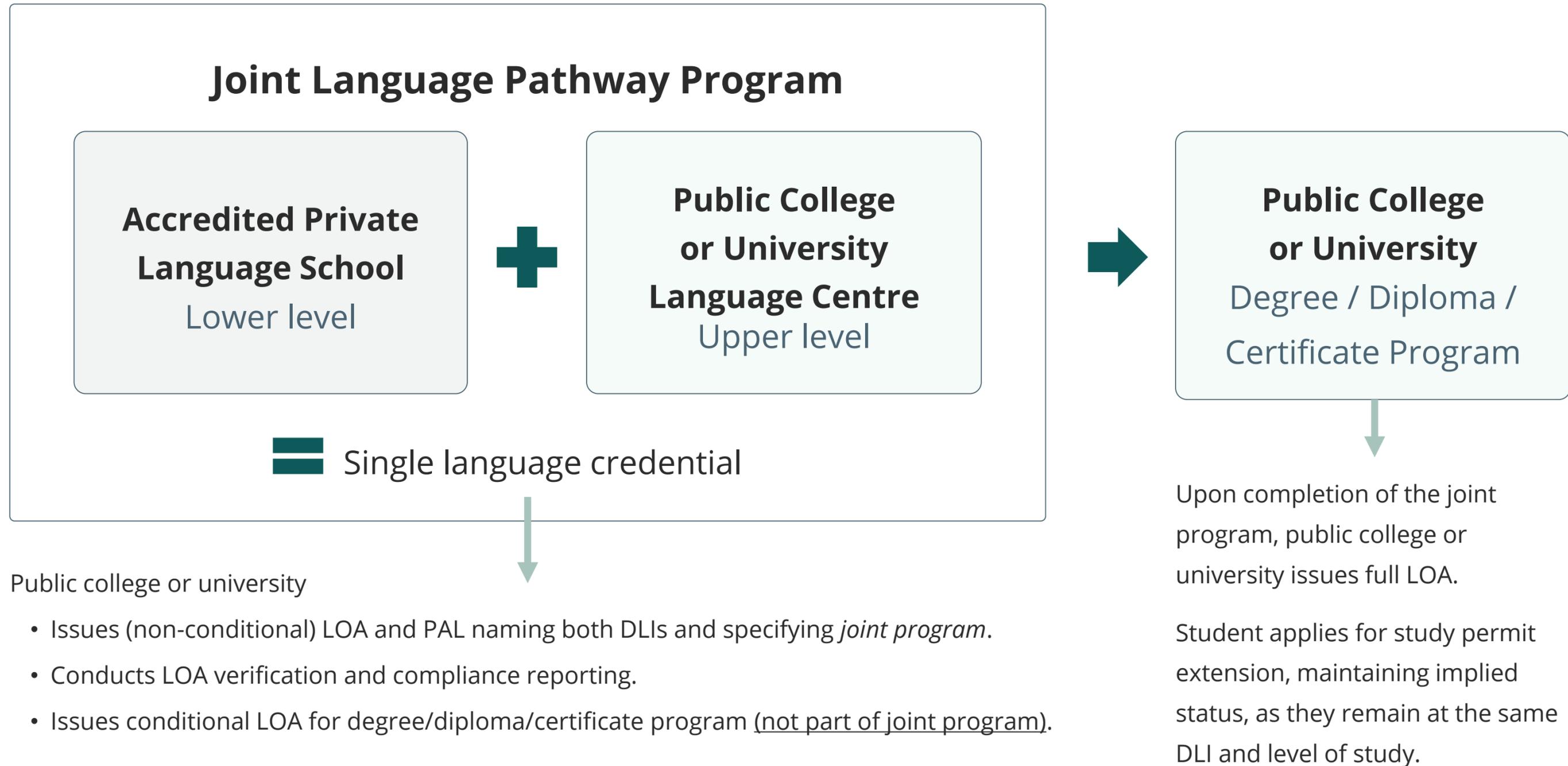
### Private language schools

The JPP creates a compliant pathway for study permit students which helps language schools navigate PAL scarcity.

### Public institutions

The JPP offers a way to increase student intake by partnering with trusted private partners and leveraging established recruitment pipelines in diverse markets.

# How it Works



# What the JPP Achieves

A single, IRCC-compliant pathway model that delivers measurable institutional results



## **IMPROVED PAL USAGE**

Decreases PAL disparity;  
Higher study permit approval rates per PAL used



## **STABILIZED ACADEMIC ENROLMENT**

Predictable downstream pipelines



## **DIVERSIFIED RECRUITMENT**

Access to new and emerging markets



## **IMPROVED STUDENT SUCCESS**

Better preparedness, retention in academic programs



## **STRONGER LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Sustainable enrolment and revenue for both DLIs

# Compliance Assurance

A fully  
IRCC-compliant  
model

- Approved by IRCC & MCURES
- Compliant with IRCC's newly created joint program category
- Lowers the risk of study permit delays
- Reduces student confusion and friction
- Limits risk of students changing institutions



This model has been reviewed by legal counsel and approved by IRCC.

# The Role of Languages Canada

Coordination, guardrails, and  
sector-level alignment



## **PROGRAM FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE**

Joint Pathway model design, oversight, and guardrails



## **PARTNER COORDINATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Alignment across accredited private and public partners



## **POLICY ALIGNMENT & GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT**

Ongoing engagement with IRCC and provincial partners



## **IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT**

Reference MOU language, and institutional onboarding



## **MARKETING, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**

Trade missions and other activities focused on the JPP



## **OPERATION OF THE JPP ON A COST-RECOVERY BASIS**

Small, no-risk fee per student covers costs and allows investment

# The JPP Working Group

Building the Foundations of the Joint Pathway Program

**November  
2025**

Working Group formed following a series of workshops held for public institutions in Ontario.

**December  
2025**

Development started on Partnership Agreement Reference Guide, JPP Pitch Decks

**January  
2026**

Validation of markets and timelines, internal approval pathways

**February  
2026**

Validation of Terms of Participation, payment process and mapping of student journeys

**Working  
Group  
Participants**



CCEL  
Centennial College  
Dalhousie University  
Seneca Polytechnic  
Humber Polytechnic  
ILAC  
ILSC  
KPU  
Niagara College  
Oxford International  
Sheridan College

# 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

# JPP Ontario Launch, February 5



Representatives of  
Sheridan College,  
Humber Polytechnic,  
Niagara College,  
ILAC, ILSC, and  
Oxford International

# First BC Public Institution, February 25



Representative of  
Kwantlen Polytechnic  
University

# What's Next for the JPP

## Expressions of Interest across Canada



Provincial engagement  
Discussions with BC, Atlantic and other provinces, including engagement with BCCIE, EduNova, provincial ministries, etc.



Next cohort intake on-going.  
Expressions of open, with application form coming later this month.



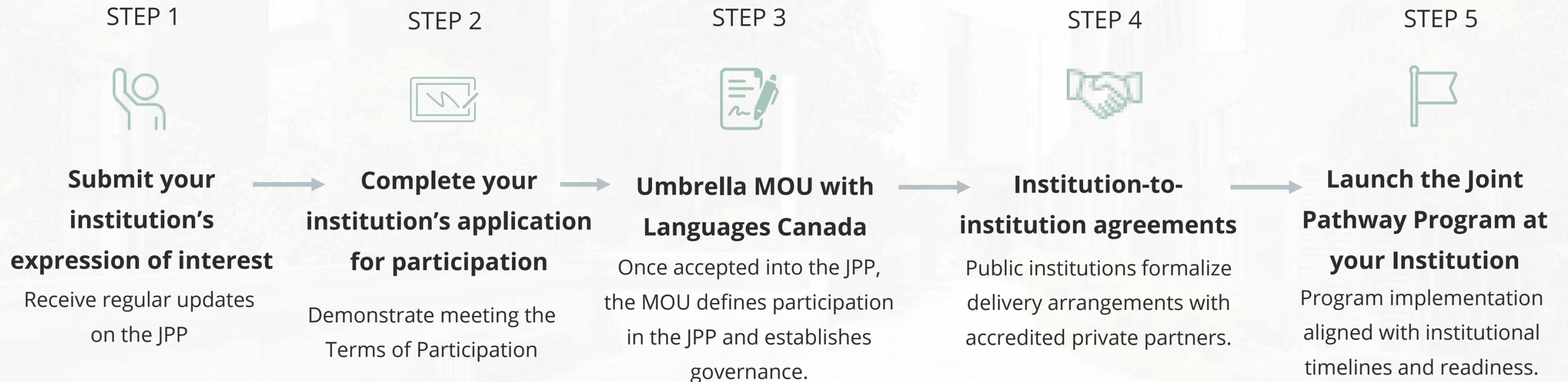
Enabling broader participation  
in the JPP across the membership.



Scaling with evidence  
Leveraging data-driven insights from the pilot to inform implementation and expansion nationwide.

# Next Steps for your Institution

Can we build pathways back to 10% of LC students by 2028?



Languages Canada supports members throughout each stage of the process.



# JPP at the Languages Canada Annual Conference

## JPP National Launch

**Friday, March 13, 9:05-10:00, Imperial 3**

In the Innovation Lab | The Nuts & Bolts of the Joint Pathway Program

**Friday, March 13, 10:05-11:15, Imperial 3**

In the Innovation Lab | Joint Pathway Programs — One-on-one  
Partnership Meetings

*Hands-on, designed to  
move beyond ideas and  
into action.*

[conference.languagescanada.ca](https://conference.languagescanada.ca)

# Q & A

**The Joint Pathway Program (JPP)  
/ Programme de passerelle  
conjointe (PPC)**





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



**Stephanie Samboo**

Associate Dean  
Sheridan College

[Stephanie.samboo@sheridancollege.ca](mailto:Stephanie.samboo@sheridancollege.ca)



**Angela Johnston**

Vice President, Academic  
ILAC

[angela@ilac.com](mailto:angela@ilac.com)



**Dr. Jennifer MacDonald**

Director, Academic Partnerships  
Languages Canada

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