

## FAQ - FIDE TEST

### How can I get a Language Passport?

To obtain a Language Passport, you must take the fide language test or present a recognized language certificate or submit an application with the B1 validation file to the fide Secretariat. These three possibilities are described on the fide web portal under "[Les voies pour le passeport des langues](#)".

### How long is a diploma or language passport valid?

In principle, all recognized language certificates, as well as the Language Passport, are valid for life. If a certificate is several years old and authorities have doubts about a person's current language level, they may be asked to undergo a fide test.

### What is the fide test?

It is a language test that assesses daily language skills in Switzerland. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) recommends this assessment as part of the naturalization procedure and the obtaining of a residence or settlement permit, because, unlike foreign language tests, it considers the Swiss reality and assesses the way in which the person cope linguistically in everyday situations.

### If I have a recognized language certificate and wish to obtain a language passport, do I have to undergo a special examination with the fide Secretariat?

If you have a [recognized language certificate](#), it is possible to apply for the Language Passport from the fide Secretariat for the amount of 20 francs. The [application form](#) can be downloaded from the fide website.

### I received a letter from the Contrôle des Habitants, in my case, I have to prove that I have a B1 oral and A2 written level. I have obtained a DELF A2, do I have to register with you to take the full assessment: oral and written?

The DELF being part of the list of recognized certificates, you will just have to register for the oral part since you have a DELF which proves your level A2 in writing.

### I want to obtain the C permit or naturalization, I speak French every day as part of my work am I required to take a fide test to prove my level which is very good according to my employer and my friends?

You must be in possession of a Language Passport for these procedures, this is obtained by proving your level of French (as a reminder, the level it is always stated in the letter from Contrôle des Habitants). We advise you to contact the fide Secretariat, specifying that VOXEA has advised you to take the steps for channel 3. You must present a [validation file](#).

### I live in Valais, can I register with VOXEA for the fide test?

Yes, it is quite possible. If you live in a French-speaking area, you can take the assessment in any French-speaking canton.

**How can I participate in the fide test if, for example, I have problems with sight, reading or writing?**

The accredited fide examination centres offer participants with, for example, visual, hearing, reading or writing impairments, individual examination requirements. Communicate your disability at the time of registration and specify the necessary aids or special conditions with the accredited fide assessment centre. Present a medical certificate: the certificate must not be more than two years old and must describe the disability in one of the following languages: French, German, Italian or English.

**Is it possible to register for only part of the fide test?**

It is possible to register for the full fide test, or only for the oral exam, or only for the written exam.

**How soon after my assessment will I receive my Language Passport?**

The fide Secretariat will send you your Language Passport directly approximately 4 weeks after your assessment.

**During the written assessment, can I use aids, such as my mobile phone?**

No. Aids such as dictionaries or electronic devices are not allowed.

**What happens if I don't pass my fide test?**

This is not an exam, it is an assessment. You will receive your Language Passport if you have achieved at least level A1 at least in part of the fide language assessment. On the Language Passport, demonstrated oral and written language skills are attested by A1, A2 or B1.

**Can I repeat the fide test?**

Yes, it is possible to repeat the complete fide test, or separately the oral part or the written part, as often as desired. As you have to pay the participation tax each time, it is advisable to take an upgrade course if you are struggling to reach the required level.

**I have provided the personal data necessary for drawing up my Language Passport. Who has access to it?**

The Language Passports issued with an individual number and the aforementioned personal data are registered in a database at the fide Secretariat. The database is not public, only the SEM, as the owner of the Language Passport, and the staff in charge of its establishment can access personal data.

**Is an appeal against the level decision possible?**

Yes, you have up to 40 days after receiving the results to lodge an appeal with the fide Secretariat. The appeal must be motivated and contain a request. It's free.