Dear Passport Holder,

Welcome to the Linguistic Risk-Taking Initiative launched by the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI). This passport will help you discover new and creative ways of using the University of Ottawa’s unique bilingual campus as a resource in your language-learning journey. On behalf of our team of professors, staff members and students, I wish you happy linguistic risk-taking!

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For more information, visit our website: ccerbal.uOttawa.ca/linguistic-risk/
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AND BILINGUALISM INSTITUTE (OLBI)

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Submit this passport to enter a draw for prizes!
(For details see Rules of Engagement on p. 5)
WHY LINGUISTIC RISK-TAKING?

A linguistic risk is an authentic, every-day communication task that some language learners may shy away from and may need special encouragement to engage in. Research has shown that some learners hesitate to take risks and do not always benefit from extra opportunities to practice their second official language outside of the language classroom. Real-life communication in a second language is not stress-free. It may involve “risk factors” such as making mistakes, being misunderstood, misunderstanding others, taking on a different identity, changing language use habits, and so on. That is why some learners tend to stay within the comfort zone of their preferred language when going about their daily business on campus and thus miss out on opportunities to “live” bilingually. This passport intends to encourage you to take various linguistic risks that will boost your confidence in your second official language. The passport will guide you in turning your daily routines into linguistic risks and in using our bilingual campus as a real-life language-learning resource.
It’s simple and it’s fun:

• Take as many risks as possible from the list included in this passport.
• Give yourself a check mark for each risk taken:
  ◊ Most risks can be repeated up to three times (see number of checkboxes by each risk);
  ◊ Risks can be taken in any order you like;
  ◊ You do not need to undertake all risks listed;
  ◊ Each time you undertake a risk, indicate whether you thought the level of risk was High, Medium, or Low by adding the corresponding letter (H, M, or L) beside the checkbox.
• Feel free to use the blank passport pages provided at the back to propose additional risks.
• Tally the risks you have taken. After completing at least 20 risks (including repeated ones), submit the passport to your language teacher or to the OLBI reception desk (MHN 130) to enter a draw for prizes.
• Submissions for the draw will be accepted from March 5, 2018 until March 16, 2018.
• If you win a prize, you will receive it in your language class or you will be notified by email.
• Make sure you enter a valid uOttawa email address.
Linguistic risks

Most risks can be repeated up to three times (see number of checkboxes by each risk); no particular order is required; please rate each risk as High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L) each time you undertake it.

Example: I read the rules of engagement of the linguistic risk-taking passport.

1. I attended an event on campus (e.g. activity, lecture, etc.) in English.

2. I ordered food on campus in English.

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3. I used English at uOttawa’s Health Services.

4. I sent an email to a uOttawa professor in English.

5. I sent an email to a uOttawa staff member in English.

6. I spoke English at the Julien Couture Resource Centre (MHN 02).

7. I borrowed English material from the Julien Couture Resource Centre.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................
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8. I signed up for an English conversation group at the Julien Couture Resource Centre.

9. I prepared a resume or a cover letter in English.

10. I enrolled in OLBI’s Second Language Certification Course in English (ESL3100).

11. I had a service encounter/reception desk transaction on campus in English.

12. I listened to 5 songs by Canadian artists in English.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................................
13. I made a phone call in English.

14. I left a voicemail in English.

15. I sent a text message in English.

16. I read a book or a magazine in English.

17. I read a news article in English.

Comments: ........................................................................................................
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18. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English for one day.

19. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English for one week.

20. I switched the language of my smart phone or tablet to English permanently.

21. I switched the language on my computer to English for one day.

22. I switched the language on my computer to English for one week.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................................
23. I switched the language on my computer to English permanently.

24. I spoke to a loved one in English.

25. I used English at a campus recreation location (e.g. gym, pool, etc.).

26. I would be interested in taking an OLBI community-based language learning class in English, if available.

27. I subscribed to a podcast feed in English.

Comments: ........................................................................................................
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28. I listened to a radio station in English for an hour.

29. I watched a movie or a show at home in English with French subtitles.

30. I watched a movie or a show at home in English without subtitles.

31. I stopped someone on campus and asked for the time in English.

32. I stopped someone on campus and asked for directions to a building in English.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................................
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33. I went to see a play in English.

34. I watched a YouTube video in English.

35. I made a social media post in English.

36. I told a friend about the Linguistic Risk-Taking Passport in English.

37. I saw a movie at a movie theatre in English.

Comments: .........................................................................................................................................................................................
38. I used English at a uOttawa library circulation desk.

39. I used English at a uOttawa library help desk.

40. I borrowed English material from a uOttawa library.

41. I used English at the uOttawa parking office.

42. I used English when I requested support from uOttawa’s IT Service Desk.

Comments: ......................................................................................................................
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43. I spoke English to a uOttawa professor outside of class.

44. I spoke English to a uOttawa staff member.

45. I used uoZone, Google Apps or Virtual Campus in English.

46. I used English at the OLBI reception desk (MHN 130).

47. I watched my favourite sport on TV in English.

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48. I used English at my residence hall.

49. I used English at the docUcentre.

50. I received a bilingual email and read the English part.

51. I read a newsletter in English.

52. I used English at the uOttawa bookstore.

Comments: ...........................................................................................................
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53. I applied for a job on uOttawa campus where I will need to use English.

54. I checked out apt613.ca/ to find an event or activity in English.

55. I used English to speak to a high-ranking uOttawa official (e.g. at a Dean’s office or at a high manager’s office).

56. I spoke English to a friend with whom I normally speak French.

57. I used a dictionary, an online corpus, or another source to look up 10 new words in English.

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58. I submitted a class assignment or a paper in English.

59. I went to a party and spoke English there.

60. I met a new person and spoke to her/him in English.

61. I found a volunteering opportunity in English through the Michaëlle-Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement (TBT 304).

62. I went to karaoke and sang a song in English.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................
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63. I prepared food following a recipe in English.

64. I contributed to an online forum/discussion board in English (e.g. reddit)

65. I used English at work.

66. I helped someone who does not speak English by translating for her/him.

67. I downloaded and used a smartphone app in English.

Comments: ..........................................................................................................................
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68. I filled out a form in English.

69. I enrolled in a hybrid language course at uOttawa.

70. I asked for service in English at a museum, a government building, or a community centre.

71. I called a toll-free number (1-800) and chose to be served in English.

72. I bought a bus ticket or made other travel arrangements in English.

Comments: ........................................................................................................................................................................
73. I had a job interview in English.

74. I used English when traveling in Canada or abroad.

Comments: ..................................................................................................
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Propose your own risks

Use these blank pages to describe additional risks that you may have undertaken (optional). Please rate each risk as High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L).

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If you want to share your risks with others, send them to us by e-mail at lingrisk@uOttawa.ca and we can post them on our website and on our Twitter and Facebook pages.
Linguistic risk-taker profile

I am eager to use my second official language everywhere on campus and beyond!

I am not a native speaker of this language and I am okay with that!

Yes, I may have an accent but that’s what makes me unique!

I am not afraid of making errors; they are natural and normal in language use!

I consider myself bilingual in French and English (even if one of my two official languages may be stronger than the other one).
**SELF-ASSESSMENT**

*After having completed the passport…*

1. I am more comfortable speaking English with strangers.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

2. I am more comfortable speaking English with people I know.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

3. Overall, I am more comfortable taking risks in English.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

4. I am more likely to communicate in English outside of the classroom.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

5. I am inspired to use English more often.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

6. My confidence in English has improved.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

7. This passport has helped me discover new opportunities for practising English.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree

8. Overall, this experience had a positive impact on my English skills.
   Strongly Disagree - Disagree - Neutral - Agree - Strongly Agree
The Linguistic Risk-Taking Initiative has received support from the Destination 2020 Academic Initiatives Fund of the Vice-President Academic and Provost’s Office. The initiative’s goal is to promote bilingualism in Canada’s two official languages as a competitive advantage, central to the University of Ottawa’s mission.