

## COMPANY PROFILE

Zabaan Language Institute is an independent language institute, with branches in New Delhi and Mumbai, that offers training of Indic languages, European languages, and Semitic languages. Regular group classes are offered in Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Dari, Pashto, and English. Based on demand, other classes of Dari, Persian, Arabic, Braj Bhasha, French, Italian, German, Russian, Tamil, Punjabi, and Chinese are also available.

## HISTORY

Zabaan was established in August 2009 by Ali Taqi and his former student Christoph Dusenbery, both United States citizens who had been teaching Hindi in Seattle, Washington. They saw a need for a quality language institute in New Delhi to cater to expatriates living in India. The initial business goal was to provide Hindi language instruction only and at the school's opening it had 3 instructors and 25 students.

Zabaan acquired a new co-owner and co-director Neha Tiwari in 2013, who is fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu and also knows Sanskrit, and Farsi. Gradually, the institute began offering classes in Urdu, Sanskrit, and Pashto, and by 2017 had taught more than 15 languages to nearly 2000 students.

In December 2018, an enthusiastic Urdu student, Rakesh Saraf, invested in Zabaan. Rakesh was born in Srinagar, grew up in Odisha and worked as a CA in both England and Canada before returning to India to become a serial entrepreneur. Currently, in addition to investing in Zabaan, he has promoted and is running Windsor and Netaquila: a medical transcription company.

## STUDENT BODY

Most students at the school are expatriates who wish to learn local languages of India. The institute also started offering classes on Nastaliq, the Urdu alphabet, to meet a demand for the language due to a rising interest in Urdu culture, use of Urdu in Bollywood films, Urdu poetry. Native professionals also attend grammar classes often to prepare for the entrance exam for the Civil Services of India or to complement studies at the Indian Institutes of Technology.