

Langports Story

Langports: More Than an English Language College

Founded by John France in 2004, Langports was created with a clear vision to build a school that felt like a family and offered more than an English language college. **In 2019, John's daughter, Anna Bell, was appointed as a CEO** after 15 years of working for Langports.

Today, Langports is a global community where students feel supported, connected, and inspired to thrive. As a proud family-owned business, we are deeply grateful to every student, staff member, homestay family, and supporter who has helped shape our journey.

Guided by John's and Anna's philosophy Live, Love, Learn, **Langports was designed as a global learning community where students grow during and beyond their studies:**

- An **international community** where students learn from each other through cultural exchange and shared experiences
- A learning environment that extends beyond the classroom, including **homestay life, activities, and community engagement**
- A place where students **experience new cultures, build confidence, and develop life skills** alongside English
- A supportive setting that encourages students to **thrive academically, socially, and personally**
- **A holistic approach that prepares students not only for study, but for life after Langports**



Historical Timeline

A Vision is Born

2004

John France, a respected leader in TESOL with over 30 years of experience, founded Langports English Language College in Brisbane.



Growth & Recognition

2010'S

Langports expanded, welcoming thousands of students from over 75 countries.



A New Generation of Leadership

2019

Anna Bell became CEO of Langports, continuing the family legacy with deep knowledge and passion.



A Family Effort

2004-2007

Anna Bell (then France), Jake France, Connie Pinzon, and Susie France (John's family), joined the team, working in Student Services, Marketing, HR and Study Tours.



Giving Back

2011

John founded The Langports Foundation (TLF)—a charity supporting disadvantaged children through education.



The Langports Family

2004-2026

Family at Langports extends beyond the France family to include staff, homestay families, agents, and students worldwide. In its 22nd year, with Anna as CEO and Director and John continuing as Director, the Langports story carries on.



John France (Director & Founder)

John France is the founder of Langports English Language College and Chairman of The Langports Group. He has worked in the TESOL profession since 1982 and is highly regarded worldwide for the quality of his schools. John believes that the success of Langports should be used for the greater benefit of society, and in 2011 he established The Langports Foundation (TLF), a charity that supports disadvantaged children through education.

Originally from Wales in the UK, John was the first in his family to go to university beginning his lifelong passion for Education. During his youth, John was always involved in sports and he became a semi-professional football (soccer) player for Shrewsbury Town Football Club. After graduating university he began his career as a PE teacher at a high school in Bournemouth. During this time, he met many students studying at English language colleges in the area. He often asked whether they were visiting London or exploring the UK, and noticed that many students were not experiencing much beyond their studies. He felt strongly that students should gain more from their time in the UK while studying.

John approached one language school and asked if he could have a job. They said no, so he asked if he could be given a desk on campus to help students arrange activities and book trips. He proposed that if his initiative was successful, the school would offer him a formal role. His activity programs quickly became very popular with students. Although the Bournemouth campus had previously been the least popular among the school's campuses (including London, Oxford and Cambridge), it soon became the most popular due to this new and unique initiative.

At the age of 30, he moved to Australia with his family of four, including his daughter, Anna France (now Bell), who was one year old at the time and is now the CEO of Langports. Through an industry contact, John was invited to open his first English language school (SPEC) in Sydney, marking the beginning of his journey in Australia. At that time, there were only 9 other English language colleges in the country.

John then opened a second school for SPEC in Brisbane before leaving to pursue a dream of owning his own school. After 12 months driving taxis in Brisbane, writing his business plan and strategy, he opened his own school, East Coast College of English in Brisbane in 1989. This school was an IALC member and a very successful school. However, due to John's health in 2001 he sold East Coast College.



John France (Director & Founder)

Three years after selling East Coast College of English with renewed energy and health, he founded Langports in 2004, bringing together his educational philosophy and industry experience to create what would become one of Australia's leading English language schools.

John designed the innovative UFO English course drawing on his extensive experience and deep understanding of students' English learning styles, various cultures and learning needs. This student-centred approach positioned Langports as the first English language school in the world to implement this unique methodology.

John's passion for learning extends well beyond the classroom and is best captured by Langports' philosophy: Live, Love, Learn. This approach embraces the full student experience, encompassing homestay, cultural exchange, activities, community engagement, and academic study. A unique event in the Langports' calendar is The Langports Games, a bi-annual sporting event that brings together the Brisbane and Gold Coast campuses for a day of fun, connection, and shared spirit.

John believes that a high-quality school should reflect a strong mix of nationalities, creating a truly international learning environment. He has built the Langports brand globally by working closely with reputable education agents who share this commitment to quality education.

Within the classroom, students do not only develop their English language skills, but also learn from each other through the exchange of cultures and perspectives. This diversity enhances the overall learning experience, ensuring that studying English at Langports is both academically and culturally enriching.

Anna Bell, Jake France, Connie Pinzon, Rhys France and Susie France (John's family) were all part of the Langports team at one point or another, working across student services, marketing, HR, and study tours. Their shared passion for helping students laid the foundation for Langports as a family-owned school driven by genuine care and commitment.

In 2019, after careful planning and family discussions over succession, John was ready to retire and hand over the management and leadership of Langports to his daughter Anna.



Anna Bell (CEO & Director):

Anna Bell is the CEO of Langports and the daughter of the founder, John France. She was born in the UK and moved to Australia with the France family when she was one year old. Anna grew up in Australia surrounded by international homestay students who stayed with her family from the time she was a baby. As her family operated an English language college welcoming students from all over the world, she was immersed in a highly international environment from an early age.

Through her father's work, Anna had many opportunities to travel overseas to meet Langports' international partners and students. After completing high school, she worked part-time to fund independent travel, further broadening her global perspective and deepening her understanding of different cultures and education systems.

From a young age, Anna was fascinated by how studying abroad and travelling overseas could transform individuals including herself. These experiences shaped her strong passion for helping students achieve their personal and educational goals.

Anna has been part of Langports since the school opened in Brisbane in 2004. Having worked in Student Services and Marketing, she brings deep institutional knowledge and genuine passion to her role as CEO. Today, she continues to build on her father's and the whole family's vision, ensuring Langports delivers the highest-quality educational experience for its students.

Langports is a proud member of the International Association of Language Centres (IALC), a global association of independent, high-quality language schools. Reflecting her commitment to excellence in international education, Anna served as Marketing Director (Vice President) of IALC from 2020 to 2023. In this role, she played a key part in guiding the association through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting member schools worldwide and strengthening collaboration during a period of unprecedented disruption.

From growing up around international students to travelling the world and working closely with students at Langports, Anna has gathered countless funny, interesting, and unique stories. Her stories are always engaging and often spark meaningful conversations with those around her.



Anna Bell (CEO & Director):

Anna's passion for education is deeply influenced by her father, John, and is driven by a belief in positively changing the lives of everyone connected with Langports. Following John's retirement in 2019, Anna stepped confidently into the leadership role. During the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, she successfully guided the business forward while preserving the family legacy.

Today, with her husband Luke Bell working alongside her at Langports, their two children, and the wider Langports team forming part of the Langports family, Anna continues the school's long-standing tradition of warmly welcoming students from around the world.

Anna's vision for Langports is to remain a high-quality English language college dedicated to delivering distinctive, meaningful, and memorable experiences for students from around the world. In an increasingly competitive and rapidly evolving education market, Langports continues to stand for stability, innovation, and excellence in English language education. While many providers have diversified into other education sectors, Langports remains proudly focused on its specialist expertise. It is this commitment, combined with the rich learning experiences offered both inside and outside the classroom, that continues to positively shape the lives of its students.

