

February 8th, 2021

Schuldorf-Bergstraße signs special agreement with IBO to allow German Abitur equivalency recognition of its IB Mathematics SL Courses

Dear SISS Secondary parent or guardian,
Dear students,

The Schuldorf-Bergstraße State International School Seeheim has signed a special agreement with the IBO to allow all our IB graduates to gain German Abitur equivalency recognition of their IB Diploma without being enrolled in the Mathematics Analysis and Approaches Higher Level course. The German Education Ministers' Conference (KMK) has provided confirmation that IB diplomas which include a DP mathematics course at standard level (SL) can be recognized as the "allgemeine Hochschulzugangsberechtigung" (general university entrance qualification) equivalent to the German Abitur. There is a stipulation that all requirements as outlined in the Recognition agreement between the KMK and the IB are met and SL mathematics students are now required to complete a 16-hour module on vectors. This allows standard level DP mathematics students to access all areas of higher education in Germany. The vectors module requirement has to be fulfilled by all SL mathematics students, regardless of the number of students planning to apply to universities in Germany. However, the content will not be externally assessed by the IB. SL mathematics students will not be expected to be familiar with this content for the external examinations administered by the IB.

The revised Recognition agreement (Vereinbarung über die Anerkennung des "International Baccalaureate Diploma" i.d.F. vom 26.11.2020) between the KMK and the IB was modified end of November 2020. On 11 January 2021, the KMK provided their confirmed recognition of the proposal from the IBO for IB graduates who study DP mathematics courses at SL level

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Office hours: Monday to Friday: 7.30am – 11.00am and 12.30pm – 2.00pm



enabling them to access all subject areas of higher education in Germany. The IBO informed us on January 28th, 2021, by sending out the school agreement for German university recognition. The leadership team together with our principal, Mrs Martini-Appel, took action immediately as it is always our goal to provide our students with the highest possible qualification for their future. Signing the agreement now allows our IB students to also study mathematical, scientific and technical subjects at university level in Germany with access assured by the Mathematics SL course. Last Thursday, February 4th, the IB coordinator Mr Scheuerpflug met with parent representatives from Year 11 and Year 12 to inform and discuss signing this agreement. They were highly supportive, pointing out the tremendous advantages for our students, especially since the signed agreement will result in our current Year 12 students already benefiting from the change!

We believe that this change will offer more of our students the opportunity to have broader access to German universities than the original, more restrictive general recognition agreement, which was announced March 2019. The next step is for the mathematics department to develop a concept of integrating the vector module into the mathematics SL courses. As the content of the module will not be externally examined by the IBO, we are going to teach it once the last written exams have been completed towards the end of May for the IB students Year 12. From the coming academic year on, the vector module will become a fully integrated part of our IB Mathematics SL curriculum.

Starting next school year, selecting IB courses in grade 10 will not be dependent on choosing the “right” maths course, which should be a great advantage for our students. They now have more options available since they may want to look at German universities as another option.

The leadership team and Mrs Martini-Appel are confident that this new development will have a positive impact for all stakeholders of SISS Secondary.

Yours sincerely

Wolfgang Scheuerpflug

on behalf of the Leadership Team and the principal
Schuldorf-Bergstraße / State International School Seeheim
Germany

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