

March 1st, 2021

IB Diploma Programme 2021-2023 at SISS

Dear year 10 student and parent(s) or guardian,

Unfortunately, contrary to previous years, we are not allowed to hold an IB information meeting with parents due to the ongoing pandemic. However, since Year 10 students are in school, I will inform them personally this Thursday about the IB diploma programme 2021-2023 here at SISS Secondary.

In addition, please read the information provided here carefully, together, to help you in your decision-making for the right subjects and the corresponding levels. Furthermore, you may want to go to our website <https://schuldorf.de/siss2> to find more information; also for downloads in <https://schuldorf.de/downloads/category/15-ib>.

When making choices you should consider:

- What would you like to study at university?
- What are university entrance requirements?
- What are your areas of interest and what are you good at?
- Ask for your teachers' advice.

For the IB Diploma, a student must **choose six subjects, one from each group 1 to 5**. Students who do not wish to take Visual Arts as their sixth subject must choose an additional subject from groups 1-4. However, a student must not choose German A and German B together. **PE is an additional subject** required by German law and does not count as one of the chosen six subjects. **Three subjects** must be chosen **at Higher Level, three at Standard Level**. We highly advise students to have at least a grade 2 in the subjects they intend to study at higher level.

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Office hours: 7.30am – 11.00am and 12.30pm – 2.00pm



It is possible for an IB student at SISS to take both languages, English and German, as a group 1 subject, i.e. as Language A Language & Literature courses, in order to receive **the IB bilingual diploma**. Such a student need not take another group 2 subject. If they wish to take a 3rd language, this must be in place of a group 6 subject, Visual Arts.

If a student is mastering most of the objectives of the Language B German syllabus of the IB DP, this student must opt for **Language A German** (if German is chosen). The final decision of a student choosing **Language B German** will be made by the subject teacher and administration: a student that is “overqualified” for German as a foreign language (Language B German) must either take German A Language & Literature or choose **Spanish B**. French B cannot be offered.

Additionally, all IB students must do the **Core of the IB**: two lessons per week in Theory of Knowledge (TOK), write an EE (extended essay) and fulfil the requirements for CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service).

Please note: the subjects on offer are provisional. While we will try to meet the interests of every student, **we cannot always guarantee a course**. The choice you make is non-binding, however, it should be as realistic as possible as the Schuldorf-Bergstraße administration needs the respective numbers of students per subject to plan the next school year as precisely as possible.

For students wishing to study in Germany: In order to enroll at a German university, you must have two languages of which, here at SISS, one has to be English A Language and Literature. Additionally, choose History or Global Politics in group 3, one of the three experimental sciences from group 4 (Physics, Biology or Chemistry), and one of the three course choices for Mathematics. Among the 3 HL subjects, you must select either mathematics or an experimental science at higher level!

The general German recognition agreement of the IB diploma from the German Education Ministers' Conference (KMK), called the “Vereinbarung über die Anerkennung des International Baccalaureate Diploma”: (Beschluss der Kultusministerkonferenz vom 10.03.1986 i. d. F. vom 26.11.2020), does not explicitly state the need to take German as a second language. A student can choose Spanish B instead here at SISS. However, it is advisable to take at least German B Higher Level as a second language in order to be better prepared for university and the possibility of having to write an additional entrance test (TestDAF or DSH) for German universities. We need to point out that even students with German A are sometimes still required to pass such a test depending on the university.

Another important step towards the **German recognition of IB diploma** was taken just a few weeks ago when SBS SISS Secondary signed a special agreement with the IBO to allow German Abitur equivalency recognition of our IB Mathematics SL Courses. As a result, 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**. This means that **students choosing any of the two maths SL courses will have to**

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study one extra module (vectors) in addition to the IB syllabus. This allows all (!) students to study also mathematical-scientific-technical subjects without further testing at university!

Furthermore, we need to point out that **we cannot accept or offer any online courses**, e.g. from Pamoja. Moreover, the **combination of Physics and Biology** has so far logistically not been possible. We will try to change this for the future. If a student wants to choose this combination, they should clearly indicate what their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice would be in case we cannot offer it; e.g. Phy (1), Bio (2), Che (3) or any other subject as a sixth one.

Last year, we were not able to offer **Geography** as an IB group 3 subject. Instead, we have successfully introduced **Global Politics**, both as an SL and HL course, which can be studied without any pre-knowledge. This year looks the same. If this situation changes before the summer holidays, we will inform you immediately.

Finally, a student may choose a subject from the list that they have not had as an IGCSE subject. E.g. a student who is not taking the History IGCSE exams can still take History for the IB DP.

Obviously, there are many thoughts to consider before finally making subject choices. **After the Easter holidays, we will ask you to make your final choices.** Of course, a student may realize after the first weeks of Year 11 learning that one of the subject choices or the level of a subject was not the right one. In such a case, the student and parent will have to contact the IB Coordinator and **“request a change of subject/level”** in writing (an e-mail or letter) a change of subject(s) or change of level within subjects. If such a change is possible, we will make it. Nonetheless, there could be circumstances prohibiting such a change. Such a **request has to be stated before autumn break 2021** in order to guarantee continuity in teaching, learning and studying. In exceptional cases, we might make such a change possible even after autumn break but not later than November 15th, 2021. Therefore, discuss the student’s subject choices very carefully at home.

Finally, do **return the signed provisional Subject Choice Form to the secretary’s office no later than March 10th, 2021.** Missing this deadline could result in the student not getting all their preferred subject choices! In case that you already know that you will not continue next year with the IB DP, please still return the sheet noting it down.

Please, dear students year 10a and 10b, come prepared with questions that you or your parent(s) have to **Thursday’s meeting in the auditorium** sitting min. 1.5m apart and wearing your masks (**10a lesson 4; 10b in lesson 5**). Be on time!

Yours sincerely

Wolfgang Scheuerpflug
IB DP Coordinator
State International School Seeheim-Jugenheim
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