



DEUTSCH-SCHWEIZERISCHE INTERNATIONALE SCHULE
GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL | 德瑞國際學校

THE GERMAN APPROACH

A Bilingual Education







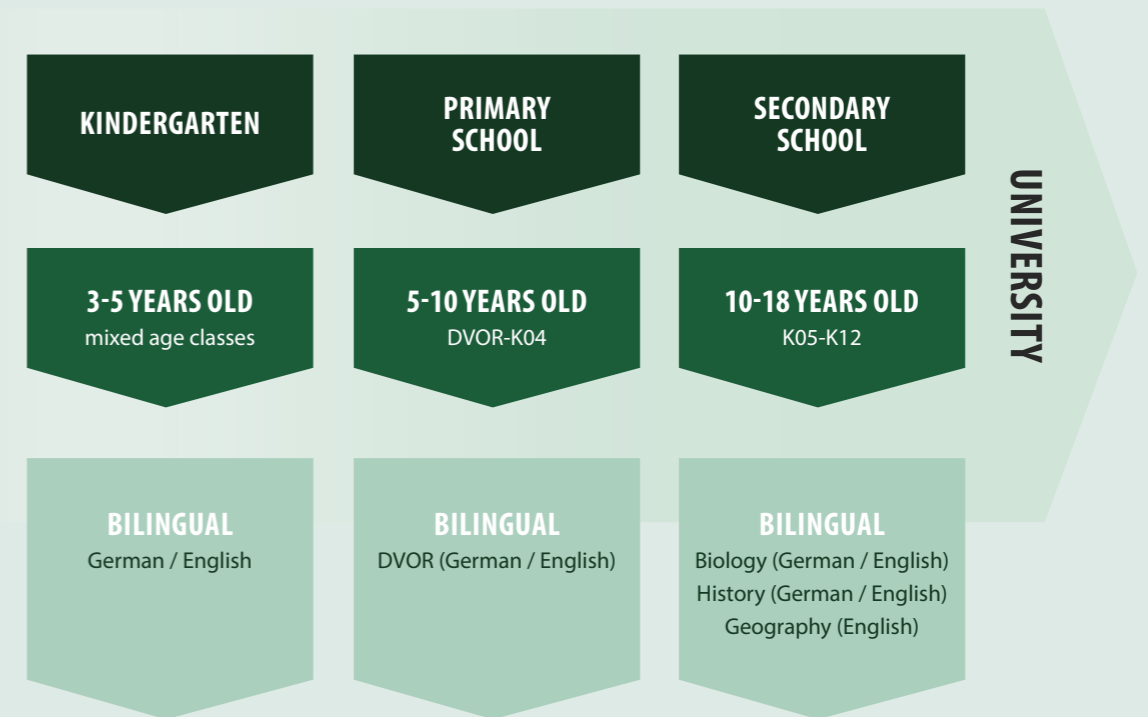
GERMAN SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (GSIS)

As part of the German Schools Abroad network, German Swiss International School (GSIS) is a leading dual-language international school in Hong Kong that has offered all-through education from Kindergarten to Secondary since 1969. Priding itself on delivering a unique multicultural education, GSIS is steadfast in pursuing its educational goals, whilst continually evolving to meet the changing needs of 21st century learners.

GERMAN INTERNATIONAL STREAM (GIS)

The GIS delivers a culturally rich bilingual education through a board and balanced curriculum of languages, sciences, mathematics, and art. From Kindergarten to Secondary school, there are three additional programmes that cater to the different age groups of children where no prior knowledge of German is required. Students will graduate with the German International Abitur diploma (DIA) which is certified by the German government, and recognised and accepted at top universities worldwide.

EDUCATION PATH IN THE GERMAN INTERNATIONAL STREAM





WHY GIS?



Bilingual education and diploma



The only international school in Hong Kong to offer the globally accepted German International Abitur diploma (DIA)



Multicultural environment where all nationalities are welcome



Intimate class sizes to provide the best learning atmosphere



No prior knowledge of German required (Kindergarten, CLIPPY and Fast Track programmes specifically)



German universities among the best in the world where an education resident visa is provided, and tuition is offered gratuitously by the German government



GERMAN INTERNATIONAL ABITUR (DIA)

Certified by the German government, DIA graduates will be bilingual in German and English which allows them attractive university options worldwide including in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and all German-speaking countries. Germany is an economic powerhouse where university education is offered gratuitously.



GERMAN INTERNATIONAL STREAM (GIS)

No prior knowledge of German required for specific age groups. German is the primary language of instruction where some subjects are taught in English in senior years.

German International Abitur (DIA)
Ministry of Education of the Federal Republic of Germany

Required across K11-12

Higher Level •

German, English, Mathematics

Standard Level •

8 elective subjects: History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, Mandarin, Music, Art, Ethics, Religion, Physical Education (Some subjects are taught in English, some bilingually in German and English)

Accepted by prestigious universities worldwide • Non-EU students with German Abitur receive tuition-free study at most German universities

Universities may offer credit for successful exam results & national awards

5 exams (3 written & 2 oral) • 50% must be conducted in German •

ENGLISH INTERNATIONAL STEAM (EIS)

All classes are taught in English. German is included in the curriculum as a compulsory language up to IGCSE.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)
International Baccalaureate Organisation

Required across Y12-13

• Higher Level and Standard Level

- Choice of 6 subjects, 3 Higher Level & 3 Standard Level: Language & Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals & Societies (Social Sciences), Sciences, Mathematics, The Arts

• Additional Requirement:

Theory of Knowledge Course, Extended Essay, Creativity, Activity and Service Projects

• Accepted by prestigious universities worldwide, including Germany

• Universities may offer up to a year's worth of credit for IB classes, depending on their specific policies

• 3 papers for Higher Level & 2 for each Standard Level subject • Language exams are written & oral





THE GERMAN EDUCATION PATH & LANGUAGES

We offer an all-through education path where students will start their journey in Kindergarten, followed by Primary (Grundschule) and Secondary (Sekundarstufe).

	KINDERGARTEN	PRIMARY					SECONDARY							
Age Group	3 - 5	5 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12	12 - 13	13 - 14	14 - 15	15 - 16	16 - 17	17 - 18
Year Group	DKG*	DVOR**	K01	K02	K03	K04	K05	K06	K07	K08	K09	K10	K11	K12
Language of Instruction	German & English	German & English	German			German								
1st Foreign Language***	-	English (Group by Language Levels)					English							
2nd Foreign Language***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	French / Latin / Mandarin (Choice of One)					-	-
Optional Foreign Language	-	Mandarin (ECA)		Mandarin		Mandarin	French or Mandarin					-	-	
Subject/s Taught in English	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Geography					
Subject/s Taught Bilingually in German & English	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Geography	-	History				
	-	-	-	-	-	-	Biology							
Extracurricular Activities (Optional)	-	German					German							
	-	English					English							
	-	Mandarin		-	-	Mandarin					-	-		

* Bilingual classes - one teacher, one language ** Bilingual classes - 50% German, 50% English *** Mandatory

GIS KINDERGARTEN



We encourage our children to be confident and independent learners supported by a broad and well-balanced curriculum. Each child is individual and learns at his/her own pace. We therefore emphasise on learning through play in a child-centred, strength based and holistic approach. Our core values are resilience, self-awareness, empathy, independence, and responsibility.

We offer a mix of teacher lead activities and child initiated free play which include elements of Montessori and Reggio Emilia pedagogy. Following the German Curriculum of the State of Thuringia, we emphasise 'in the moment planning' to commensurate each child's abilities, needs, and stage of development. We foster intercultural learning and German culture & traditions and we offer theme and project-based learning in order to take the children's interests into account. Students are taught bilingually in German and English.





CURRICULUM

-  Personal, social, emotional development
-  Communication, language & literacy
-  Physical Development
-  Mathematics
-  Understanding the world
-  Expressive arts and design

THE SCHOOL DAY

07:15 – 07:35
Arrival

07:40 – 09:00
Teaching Time

09:00 – 09:30
Snack Time






09:30 – 10:30
Playground / Outdoor Play

10:30 – 12:30
Teaching Time

12:30 – 12:50
Dismissal

Subject to change.

FACTS

-  No entrance assessment needed
-  Bilingual classes - dual-immersion (50/50) in German / English
-  One teacher per language - native speaking teaching staff
-  Classes of mixed age groups (2.8 to 5 years)
-  Maximum class size of 20 students



PARENT QUOTE

“
I particularly appreciated that the teachers provided guidance to the children and encouraged them to use different methods to come to a solution in order to build on their critical thinking and creativity.”







Olive, mother of Isabel and Sofia
(DVOR and GKG)

GIS PRIMARY



We are a diverse and accepting learning community that offers an education focused on developing self-management, empathy, and independence. Children are encouraged and challenged to find their own path and interests.

CURRICULUM

-  Individual support and attention with a favourable teacher to student ratio
-  Exclusively educated in German with exposure to a rich and comprehensive English and Mandarin language curriculum
-  Students are taught life skills including responsibility, independence, and be inquisitive through regular activities, duties, and self-management
-  Tailor-made peer learning plans where students grow at their own pace
-  Open and inclusive class community to share opinions freely
-  Celebrating an exchange of cultural traditions from Europe and Asia through festivals, events and learning best practices







PRE-PRIMARY (DVOR)

The GIS understands the importance of transitioning from Kindergarten to Primary (K01) where students are carefully prepared with a programme called DVOR. This dedicated year helps DVOR students lay the foundation of a natural continuation of their personal, social, and competence development to the next chapter in their lives to primary school. Pre-primary lessons are designed in such a way that the children are gradually brought closer to the learning and living environment of the school where positive self-image is taught to help expand their commitment and motivation. Considering the level of development and personal characteristics, children are made familiar with the many differences between kindergarten and school. They learn to understand the changes in space and time, didactic-methodical arrangement, and social relationships.



CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE INTEGRATION PROGRAMME IN PRIMARY YEARS (CLIPPY)






As a German language immersion programme, children with no prior knowledge of German are offered a chance to be supported by foreign language lessons of Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF). It delivers an outstanding education that transforms lives, as well as minds, and develops critical thinking. Students are fully integrated in a multicultural environment and become part of a nurturing community.

-  Suitable for children 6-8 years old (K01- K03 in the German International Stream)
-  No prior knowledge of German required
-  Optimal language learning support with intimate class size
-  Solid entry point into multilingualism, an advantageous life skill

THE SCHOOL DAY | K01-K04

07:35 - 08:15 Lesson 1	11:15 - 11:55 Lesson 5
08:15 - 08:55 Lesson 2	11:55 - 12:35 Lesson 6
08:55 - 09:25 First Break and Snack	12:35 - 13:15 Lesson 7 or Afternoon Activity (ECA or AA)
09:25 - 10:05 Lesson 3	13:15 - 14:00 Lunch Break
10:05 - 10:45 Lesson 4	14:00 - 15:20 Afternoon Activities (ECA or AA)
10:45 - 11:15 Second Break and Snack	<i>Subject to change.</i>

FACTS

-  Based on the German curriculum of the federal state of Thuringia and approved by the KMK (Conference of Ministers of Education)
-  The primary education encompasses pre-primary (DVOR) and grades 1-4 (K01-K04)
-  In K01-K04 all subjects are taught in German (German, Maths, General Studies, Social Learning, Art, Physical Education, Religious Studies or Ethics, ICT, and Music). English and Mandarin are taught by native-speaking teachers
-  Pre-primary programme (DVOR) is bilingual - German and English
-  Development areas: Language and Speaking Abilities, Cognitive Perception, Social, Emotional and Learning Skills, Motor Skills, and Movement



PARENT QUOTE

“
We noticed in particular how her independence and self-esteem improved a lot, and she has made friends very quickly.
”






Emmy, mother of K01 CLIPPY student Allison

GIS SECONDARY



We focus on academic success as well as developing global citizens who would become confident and successful leaders of tomorrow. Students take responsibility for their own learning and actions, respect others and celebrate differences and diversity. We are also the only school in Hong Kong to offer the German International Abitur diploma (DIA), which is recognised worldwide as an excellent pre-university qualification. Our bilingual approach teaches students to learn half of the subjects in German and half in English.

CURRICULUM

-  German Languages (English, French, Mandarin)
-  Mathematics & Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
-  Social Studies (Geography, History, Ethics, Religious Studies)
-  Music & Art
-  Physical Education



FAST TRACK PROGRAMME

This is an accelerated German learning experience designed for Secondary international students, who have little to no prior knowledge of German. It features German language courses that are integrated into the interdisciplinary curriculum, alongside German speaking students to cultivate a language-rich learning environment.



Suitable for children 11-12 years old (K06 in the German International Stream)



Bilingual education where no prior knowledge of the German language is required



Intimate class sizes where the student to teacher ratio provides the best learning environment



Solid opportunity to gain access to excellent universities in Germany and worldwide

THE SCHOOL DAY

07:40 – 08:20

Lesson

08:25 – 09:05

Lesson

09:05 – 09:20

First Break

09:20 – 10:00

Lesson

10:05 – 10:45

Lesson

10:45 – 11:05

Second Break

11:05 – 11:45

Lesson

11:50 – 12:30

Lesson

12:35 – 13:15

Lesson

13:15 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:40

Lesson

14:40 – 15:20

Lesson

Subject to change.

UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE & ACCEPTANCE

Students enjoy the full support of our University Guidance Team and we celebrate the breadth of destinations that our students take. We provide a structured programme to enable students to make the right choices beyond GSIS. Our team's extensive professional networks and the close relationships fostered with universities around the world help students in the right direction while achieving their objectives.



STUDENT QUOTE

“

I had zero knowledge of German before entering GSIS two years ago, and now I have mastered all the course content taught in German.

”

Noemi, Fast Track student



HOUSE SYSTEM

Designed to foster team and community spirit as well as promote positive social behaviour. All students and staff are allocated to one of four houses - Lion, Dragon, Tiger and Phoenix - where a series of House competitions are organised throughout the year.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECAs)

Having a wide selection of extra-curricular activities is important because it helps students to be more connected and develop skills beyond the curriculum, creating higher enjoyment and engagement. ECAs include basketball, drama club, orchestra, choir and more. Universities also consider them during their admission process.





FACILITIES

The Peak campus consists of three buildings, including the Upper Building, Middle Building and Lower Building. The Pok Fu Lam Campus is the permanent home of Kindergarten & DVOR/Y01. Our comprehensive facilities include sports halls, indoor swimming pool, auditorium, libraries, outdoor playgrounds and a cafeteria. Students can also freely use laptops and computers, teachers are able to utilise a variety of multimedia technologies to support their teaching, and classrooms are fitted with interactive smartboards.

PARENTS' ORGANISATION FOR COMMUNITY (POC)

By upholding and enhancing the GSIS community spirit, the Parents' Organisation for Community (POC) plays an important role in uniting the school and raising funds. This group of parent volunteers work closely with the school management and Board of Governors to collaborate and foster a strong sense of community throughout school life. The incredible team of volunteers organise events such as our annual Christmas Bazaar, staff appreciation party, and much more.

KLASSENPFLEGSCHAFT (KPR)

Klassenpflegschaften (KPRs) are elected class representatives by parents and their role is to facilitate open communication through meetings where parents work closely with the faculty in order to promote a deeper understanding of policies and procedures, voice concerns, and encourage proactive feedback. This collaborative approach strengthens the relationship between parents and teachers, fostering a supportive learning environment and enriching the educational experience for all GSIS students.



ALUMNI

The GSIS Community continues far beyond the end of our students' time and we have an active alumni programme. We are committed to supporting former GSIS students and staff with lifelong friendships and opportunities through information, professional networks, events and reunions while nurturing a spirit of unity and community.

ADMISSIONS



At GIS we are an inclusive community where we welcome all nationalities and applications are not restricted to certain passport holders.

- Applications are accepted throughout the year, however we suggest applying at least 10 months prior to the anticipated commencement date
- All-through school from Kindergarten to Secondary
- Children with no prior knowledge of German may enroll in specialised programmes: Bilingual (German/English) Kindergarten, CLIPPY for Primary, and Fast Track for Secondary
- Applicants will be invited to meet with the Head of Department
- Minimum age of entry into Kindergarten is 2 years 8 months, provide places are available
- Primary children must have turned 5 years of age by 31 August of the year of entry
- School tours are organised upon request on an individual basis

CONTACT

Admissions Department

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