

February 5th, 2020

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

Today, I would like to provide important information for you concerning our IB diploma programme here at SISS. This is an addition to the stated requirements for entering the IB DP on our school's website: <https://schuldorf.de/admission>. Furthermore, this is supposed to help you in your decision-making for the right subjects and the according levels.

On top of that, I would be happy to see you at the IB DP presentation taking place during the Schuldorf Bergstraße / SISS Open Day in the presentation room at 12 AM on February 8th, 2020. I am sure this will help all of you in making the best decision for the future studies of you / your child.

There will be time until February 28th to return the preliminary course choices form sheet for 2020 - 2022I, which is added to this letter, however, I ask you to please read these notes here very carefully before making a selection. When making choices you should consider:

- What would you like to study at university?
- What are university prerequisites (see note below about studying in Germany)
- What are your areas of interest and what are you good at?
- Ask for your teachers' advice.
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For the IB Diploma, a student must **choose six subjects, one from each group 1 to 6. Three subjects must be chosen at Higher Level.** We highly advise students to normally have at least B grades in the subjects they intend to study at higher level. Students who do not wish to take a subject from group 6 (the Arts) must choose an additional subject from groups 1-5. However, students must not choose the same language at different levels or groups. PE is an additional subject required by German law and does not count as one of the chosen six subjects.

It is possible for an IB student at the 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.

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). This can also be applicable to students who have previously followed German B until the end of Year 10.

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



Additionally, all IB students must do **the Core of the IB**: pass a course in **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**, write successfully an **EE (extended essay)** and fulfil the requirements of **CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service)** in order to obtain the IB Diploma.

Please note: the **subjects on offer are preliminary**. While we will try to meet the interests of every student, we cannot always guarantee a course. The choice you make today is non-binding, however, it should be as realistic as possible as the administration of the SISS 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 one has to be German at least at level B HL or alternatively at level A (this will cover all requirements for groups 1 and 2). Additionally, choose History or Geography in group 3, one of the three experimental sciences from group 4 (Physics, Biology or Chemistry), and one of the three course choices for Maths. Among the 3 HL subjects, one must select either mathematics or an experimental science at higher level!

If you do not take at least German B Higher Level as a second language, an additional entrance test (TestDAF or DSH) is required before entering a German University. Unfortunately, students with German A are sometimes still required to pass such a test depending on the university.

Furthermore, we need to point out that at the SISS, we **cannot offer any online courses**, e.g. from Pamoja. Moreover, the **combination of Physics and Biology** has so far logistically been not possible. We will try to change that for the future. 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 definite choices. Of course, a student may realize after the first few weeks of Year 11 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 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 do it. Nonetheless, there could be circumstances prohibiting such a change. Usually, such a request has to be stated before fall break as to guarantee continuity in working and studying. Therefore, discuss the student's subject choices very carefully at home.

Answers to more specific university questions can always be found on the respective websites. If you need further help concerning the IB diploma programme at SISS in general, please check the download section of our website..

Finally, do return the Subject Choice Form to the secretary's office no later than February 28, 2020. Missing this deadline could result in your child not getting all their preferred subject choices!

Yours sincerely

Wolfgang Scheuerpflug
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