



FELIX-KLEIN-GYMNASIUM

# Felix-Klein-Gymnasium

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

### Admissions Policy

Admission to the IBDP at FKG is based on academic performance, motivation, and language skills. Individual counselling lies at the heart of the FKG admissions policy. Candidates and their families will receive comprehensive guidance in the admissions process, supporting them in obtaining and presenting the necessary admissions documentation and selecting the right academic profile, based on a best-fit approach.

#### 1. General requirements

Admission to the IBDP at FKG depends on a formal certification of previous schooling up to a level that is equivalent to the IB Middle Years Programme or the German Middle School Diploma (*Erweiterter Sekundarabschluss I*, as issued in the federal state of Lower Saxony) as a minimum requirement. Students who have attended German schools in federal states where secondary schools have 9 years are admitted into the IBDP on the basis of their Year 11 certificate as the IB DP is equivalent to the last two years of secondary education.

In an increasingly unstable world, families or individuals sometimes have to make rushed life decisions or are forced to relocate. In case no certification or proof of previous schooling can be presented, students can be allowed into the programme based on other evidence at the discretion of the Coordinator after taking placement tests. They must be informed that in case of non-completion of the Diploma, admission into a German state school following the *Abitur* programme is highly unlikely.

#### 2. Academic performance

Applicants must provide proof of engagement in academically challenging learning. Excellent grades are not strictly required. In case academic performance has not been the applicant's strength in the years leading up to the IBDP, they will take placement tests in Mathematics, Sciences, History, German (if applicable) and English and will confirm that they will work on any academic areas that were identified as insufficient to establish a solid basis for success in the IBDP.

In the case that a student applies to the IBDP at FKG on the basis of a GCSE, IGCSE or other Middle School Certificate from a country other than Germany, their results and motivation will be considered. After careful counselling the applicant will either be advised to attend Year 11 in the German system at FKG or will be allowed directly into the IBDP. If their German language proficiency allows them to profit from the non-CLIL classes in Year 11, this time can be an excellent academic preparation for the IBDP.

In the case that students aim to be admitted into the IBDP at FKG after only 10 years of schooling in the German system in a federal state that has a 13-year school system, the grades on the last Year 10 report card must be sufficient for the student to be able to apply for moving directly into Year 12 (“skipping” Year 11).

### **3. Motivation**

The IB DP requires students to take on responsibility for their own learning. During the admissions interview and/or through supporting documentation, students will demonstrate:

- a) Enthusiasm for learning
- b) Open-mindedness and international orientation
- c) Keen interest in all selected subject groups
- d) Social commitment

The application will also be informed by references from past teachers or counsellors.

### **4. Languages**

#### **a. German**

All students of FKG should be able to speak, write and read German on a level that allows them to take an active part in the community inside and beyond the school; the language of communication in the school community is mostly German (cf. language policy). Many applicants to the IBDP at FKG plan to come to Germany with the explicit goal of enrolling at the local university or other German universities. For this reason, the German B course is compulsory for any student who is not a native German speaker, as it gives students the language skills necessary to take up studies or pursue a professional career in Germany. Students must provide proof of at least basic German skills before enrolment at FKG, with the minimum requirement being level A2 according to the Common European Framework of Languages. Individual counselling is offered for those who do not meet this requirement when applying (cf. language policy).

FKG offers a special support system for students who are native speakers of languages other than German; here, they are taught German as a Second Language and are prepared for their participation in the subject classes taught in German via CLIL classes (Maths and Biology for German learners). A considerable percentage of applicants to the IBDP at FKG have attended these classes in Years 5-10. They can provide proof of German language proficiency through passing *Deutsches Sprachdiplom I*, but

will be allowed into the programme if teachers can make positive predictions about their German language skills based on motivation and performance in the preceding year(s).

## **b. English**

English is an important lingua franca in an increasingly globalized world. Therefore, learning English is obligatory for all students of FKG, starting from Year 5. FKG offers CLIL classes in English, such as History, PE, and Geography, and thus strongly fosters English language learning.

As the IBDP is entirely taught in English, applicants must provide proof of advanced English language skills before enrolment if they are not native speakers of English. FKG accepts as proof:

- Very good results in English classes at FKG and CLIL classes (if applicable)
- Report cards from previous schools that list grades for English as a first or second language
- English language test results such as Cambridge C1 Advanced
- Very good performance in the school's English language placement test

The English language placement test examines the applicants' reading and academic writing skills in the areas of the experimental sciences and the humanities. Admission interviews are conducted in English, which gives the Coordinator an additional basis for assessing the applicants' listening and interactive speaking skills.

Individual counselling is offered for those who do not meet these requirements at the time of enrolment.

## **5. Inclusion**

Students with special needs are welcome to FKG and their challenges will not form any basis for non-admission. It must be assessed whether the school building can cater for physically handicapped students (cf. Inclusion Policy).

## **6. Communicating and Reviewing the Policy**

The policy is regularly reviewed as required. Possible changes are discussed in department meetings, staff meetings and communicated in staff meetings, parent-teacher meetings, and information sessions for students.

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