



SCHLOSS-SCHULE KIRCHBERG

Leben. Lernen. Arbeiten.

Semester to Full Year Stays

Each year we warmly welcome students from around the world for an academic semester or full school year to enjoy the full academic and cultural experience at a German boarding school. This is possible for either the first semester (from September to February), the second semester (from February to July), or for the full academic year.

With these types of stays, the academic revalidation back home plays a much more important role in comparison to our “shorter stays”, which can also last up to a semester but without any revalidation requirements. While the programs are essentially the same, this small difference does have an impact on the admissions requirements.

Requirements

- 1. Approval from sending school** at home for desired period of stay abroad.
Tip: it's helpful to ask upfront if the sending school would generally support the stay abroad and what requirements must be met in order to ensure the revalidation upon return.
- 2. German language level** must be a level of B1-B2
The exact level required can vary depending on the level of requirements from the sending school. In general, stricter requirements result in a higher German language requirements to ensure the best chances for success. Since the requirements can vary greatly from school to school and in different countries, we encourage interested students and parents to talk with us individually about this topic to discuss what language level would be necessary.
- 3. Age / grade level** of 10 – 17 years old, or grades 5 to 11. Semester or full-year stays are generally not possible or advised in the 12th grade.

Goals

The goals of a semester or full-year stay are similar to those of shorter stays, i.e.

- Learn and improve German language skills
- Experience the German culture amongst both German and other international students
- Gain valuable experience abroad to grow personally, make new friends abroad, improve intercultural skills and become more independent

However, these types of stays also offer the added benefit of the academic support and completing coursework to be revalidated by the sending school. This way, students can ideally enjoy the longer period abroad without losing any time towards their planned graduated date back home.

Semester or full-year stays can be particularly beneficial to students attending a German school back home that teaches according to one of the German curricula in the German language. The linguistic immersion and academic support in small classes can be extremely enriching and valuable in such cases for the continued education back home.

Program Info

Students are placed into the appropriate grade level. This is generally equivalent to the schools abroad and would entail the next higher grade level to the grade last completed at home. Exceptions to this rule do however occur – particularly when the sending school system has 13 years of primary and secondary education, instead of our 12 year system (German '*G8*' *Gymnasium*). An overview of the subjects and number of hours per week for each grade level can be found here (overview is in German) [LINK ZUM STUDENTAFEL PDF](#) / [LINK ZU MUSTERSTUNDENPLÄNEN](#)

In addition, students also benefit from our program of German as a Second Language support classes. These classes are available on language levels from B1 to C1 and are generally four hours per week. Students in grades 9 and 10 also have three to four hours per week of academic support for international students in each grade level, called *DfA*, that takes place during the hours of the second foreign language, so long French or Latin aren't required by the sending school.

Lastly, as a boarding student living on campus, our full range of extra-curricular activities is available during the stay, as well as all group activities and exciting events.

Activities & Free Time

Students enjoy a large variety of extra-curricular activities each year, including various clubs for sports, music, arts, academic interests and more. [LINK ZU AG ÜBERSICHT](#)

Weekends and optional stays during the school breaks also offer ample opportunities for additional activities, both on campus and local or regional excursions.

Application Process

The steps for learning more and ultimately enrolling for a semester or full-year stay are as follows:

1. Get in touch with us to learn more about our school and boarding community in a personal meeting either online or in person. We're happy to answer all questions and also advise on the possibilities available when academic revalidation is necessary.
2. Discuss the idea of study abroad with the sending school at home to ensure the school's support of the plans and find out what sort of conditions or requirements the school may have.
3. Submit the [application form](#) and supporting documents:
 - a. Academic transcripts from last three school years
 - b. Proof of German language abilities, e.g. results of certified language tests, or proof of proficiency through enrollment and academic success in a German curriculum abroad.
 - c. Copy of student's passport
4. Lastly, we interview applicants individually to gain a personal impression of each student, discuss contents of the application materials and any remaining open questions from the school or family.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you to plan the perfect school stay in Germany at the Schloss-Schule Kirchberg!