

Language Policy

Academic language / Language A

At LISA, students, who have German as their academic language, are prepared for the Matura (österreichische Reifeprüfung) **and** the IB Diploma. Students who have English or a different academic language other than German (e.g. Chinese) will be prepared exclusively for the IB Diploma. Therefore, all LISA students are required to have an academic language upon joining the school. The academic language is the language, which is the strongest language spoken and written by the student. Often, this is the language of instruction of the primary school.

The Matura and IB Diploma Program make a clear distinction between the academic language (Language A) and the foreign language (Language B). The academic language must therefore be **either** German, English, or one of the recognized IB Mother-Tongue languages.

Students who have been assessed at primary school or former school e.g., German **and** English (both Language A – Muttersprache Deutsch **und** Muttersprache Englisch or both Language B – Fremdsprache on the report card) will have to declare **either** German or English as their academic language. In these exceptional situations, options will be reviewed individually with the family at admission. We strive to provide the best language support and most suitable language lessons.

Students who neither have German nor English as their academic language will follow the mother tongue program at the school to maintain their mother tongue abilities on an academic level.

Example: A student whose academic language is Chinese will receive:

- a. Tutoring support to maintain the Chinese ability
- b. English as foreign language lessons in school
- c. German as a foreign language lessons in school

Alternative mother-tongue courses offered at LISA (IB languages): e.g. Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, Hungarian, Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish.

English as the academic language / Language A

The difference between the academic language lessons and the foreign language lessons is that Language A lessons are literature focused, and target the **development of knowledge and understanding of prose, poetry and drama texts**. Foreign language lessons however, focus on language acquisition, **and focuses more on developing students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills**.

Those students whose first academic language is English will attend the English A lessons. The content of these lessons is literature focused and prerequisite that these students no longer need intensive grammar instruction and have a broad and varied use of vocabulary.

Students that have been assessed as native language learners English (Erstsprache Englisch) during primary school, **and have registered with English as their academic language**, will attend the Language A lessons.

Students who have English as their academic language will be prepared for the IB Diploma.

German as the academic language / Language A

Students who have German as their academic language are prepared for the Matura (österreichische Reifeprüfung) **and** the IB Diploma.

German in the Lower Classes (Grade 5 – Grade 8)

German academic language learners have an excellent command of the language in speaking, reading and writing. They are able to understand original German texts e.g., from newspapers and children's novels. These learners make very few grammar mistakes and have a broad vocabulary. They will be asked to write e.g., long and complex texts for their exams (Schularbeiten).

German in the Upper Classes (Grade 9 – 12)

Students in the upper classes are being prepared for both the Matura and the IB Diploma. The written Matura exam consists of writing a variety of complex texts e.g., argumentative essays, literary analysis and newspaper editorials. For the oral Matura exam students are required to have knowledge of German literary history and various literary works.

The curriculum of German A Literature is based on the thorough study of at least thirteen literary works of different genres e.g., poetry, prose non-fiction, drama, and prose fiction. For this exam the students are required to write e.g., a literary analysis of two unseen texts.

Alternative Mother-Tongue Language A courses

Students who neither have German nor English as their academic language will follow the mother tongue program, which is a separate subject, at the school to maintain their mother tongue abilities. These students are prepared exclusively for the IB Diploma. Please note that the IBO provide all final examinations, except for the languages, in English.

Example 1: For example, a student who has Mandarin Chinese as the academic language and English as a foreign language:

- will need to arrange and pay for external tutoring support to maintain the Chinese ability
- will receive English as foreign language lessons in school
- will attend a German as a foreign language in school

Alternative Mother-Tongue Language A courses offered at LISA (IB languages):

Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, Hungarian, Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish.

Mother Tongue Program Language Fees

- Examiner Fee 200 Euros per year** payable to school directly by the end of November. This fee is **payable by all students/languages**, except Academy years 7 and 8 where the examiner fee is included in the annual tuition.
- Tutor Hourly Rate on average 25 Euros per hour (e.g. 25 Euros per hour X 60 hours per year = 1500 Euros per year)** Important to note that this may be ***significantly higher*** for some languages (e.g. Japanese, Portuguese), and it is most commonly linked to the rates charged by the tutors in the mother tongue country. The tutor hourly rate is negotiated by parents/family and payable directly to tutors. The school is not responsible for providing the tutors but can assist when possible. The school recommends minimum 1-2 hour per week of mother tongue tuition for all students. This naturally will vary depending on student's age and ability.

- It is Important to note that some countries (e.g. Netherlands) offer official mother tongue courses for their students living abroad. The fees for such courses are payable directly to course providers. The grades by official course providers can then be transferred to the Austrian report cards, providing that this has been agreed with school at the start of the school year.

Foreign language / Language B

English as a foreign language / Language B

English Language B (Englisch als Erste Fremdsprache) in the Lower Classes (Grade 5 – 8)

The English groups at LISA are differentiated by ability. We offer standard classes and advanced classes for learners of English as a foreign language.

Beginners to Standard English Language B lessons

At LISA, in the lower classes, we offer differentiated learning of English. For students without prior or limited English instructions we offer the Beginners to Standard English lessons.

Bilingual English Language B lessons

For students with prior learning (four years of primary school), we offer the bilingual English course, which is designed for learners of a higher language ability in English. We strive to ensure these lessons are taught by native speakers, or native language assistants are supporting the non-native teacher.

English Language B in the Upper Classes

Upper classes (Grade 9 – Grade 12)

Starting in grade 9 preparation for the Matura and the IB Diploma begins. Current policy is that students preparing for the Matura and the IB Diploma will attend the English B (foreign language) lessons.

In the upper classes, all students who have German as their academic language are prepared for the Matura and IB **English B Higher Level**. At LISA we do not offer IB English B Standard Level, therefore we do not offer differentiated groups in the upper classes.

Students who attend an alternative Mother-Tongue language A course are prepared for the IB and English B Higher Level.

Additional Foreign Languages / Language B

In addition to English and German, LISA-Language students are required to take French as a foreign language starting in year 3 and Spanish, Latin, or Italian as a foreign language starting in year 5.

LISA-Economics students are required to take a total of three languages. The third language can be French, Italian, Spanish or Latin as a foreign language starting in year 5.

Students, with an academic language other than German and English – attending an alternative Mother-Tongue Language A (e.g., Chinese) do not attend French, Spanish, Latin or Italian, because they fulfil the requirement of studying two foreign languages.