

Better adapt in a globalized world with the German Section of TES

Supported by the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad, the German Section of Taipei European School not only receives financial support from Germany, but also takes in well-trained German teachers to work as part of the educational team

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Nelson Mandela, the revered statesman who served as president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999, once said that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In this globalized society, however, experts agree that formal education seems inadequate in terms of cultivating foreign languages and building a comprehensive worldview. Nevertheless, Taipei European School (TES, 台北歐洲學校) offers unique and powerful tools for kids to better adapt in a global community.

The pan-European international school with campuses in Shilin and Tianmu districts, Taipei, has attracted both expatriate families living in Taipei and local families intent on providing their children with an international education. The school is an internationally recognized institution, receiving accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) based in Europe and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) based in the western United States.

The German Section of TES provides education to children aged 3 to 18 years with full-scale German standards. Supported and certified by the German government and its Central Agency for German Schools Abroad, the German Section of TES not only receives financial support from German authorities, but also takes in well-trained German teachers to work as part of its team.

As a result, TES is the only school in Taiwan offering a curriculum in which German is learned at a really high proficiency level. "This is an opportunity for students to eventually go to a German university and join the German labor market," Emmanuel Fritzen, Head of the German Section, told The China Post.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Starting from kindergarten until Klasse (class) 4 in primary school, kids are taught in German with various lessons and activities. No matter if the kids come from German-speaking families or not, they are able to understand German and benefit

from class 5, when physical education, art and music lessons are taught in English.

By taking intensive English courses and cross-sectional lessons with the High School Section using the UK National Curriculum, students will be prepared for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It is an assessed program for students aged 16-19 as a path to the world's leading universities. By obtaining an IB diploma, students can go to universities anywhere in the world.

If you want to study in Germany, you have to learn German as a foreign language in local Taiwanese schools or in TES's other sections. Still, you will have to either pass the "German Language Test for Admission to University for International Applicants" (DSH, Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang ausländischer Studienbewerber) or the "German as a Foreign Language Test" (TestDaF) before you can enroll into tertiary education. The former is offered by a large number of universities in Germany, while the latter can be completed in Taiwan as well as in over 90 countries around the world.

"Students who attend the German Section don't need to take the tests because they will have a bilingual diploma," stressed Fritzen. "Our diploma is bilingual because the languages taught are basically English and German, but in the last two years of instruction, they study German literature at the native-speaker level."

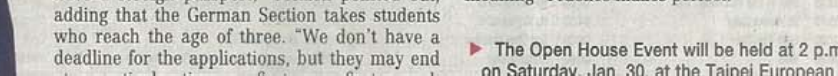
International Learning Environment

In close cooperation with the British and French schools in TES, students in the German Section are not only able to acquire German and English as nearly native tongues, but also learn Chinese and French as second foreign languages, both also taught by native speakers. Students registered in TES are from over 50 countries, though largely from Europe and North America. But a great number of them are from Latin America,

and economic capitals of Asia such as Singapore, Japan and South Korea.

By exposing children to different cultures and languages from an early age, they will grow up with a comprehensive worldview and a tolerance of difference. The language skills also enable them to work as global citizens in a competitive international environment. Organized into small classes, the German School provides personal and intensive support for the students, filling them with confidence in their abilities to go out into the world.

"The only requirement to join TES is to have a foreign passport," Fritzen pointed out, adding that the German Section takes students who reach the age of three. "We don't have a deadline for the applications, but they may end



- Courtesy of TES
1. By exposing children to different cultures and languages from an early age, students will grow up with a comprehensive worldview and a tolerance of difference.
 2. Students are encouraged to get involved in diverse interests, learn how to play a role in various teams and build solid relationships with other students.
 3. The extra-curricular activities in TES cover all aspects of life including culinary, sports, arts, dance, technology, gardening and many others.

can contact us at any time."

When asked about the highlights of the German educational system, he explained that the main expectation is that "all learning can be done by the children without any external assistance." In other words, German teachers are considered "facilitators" in the educational system that values the continuous efforts of children. This is a value that should be remembered by those who embark on a journey to learn German language and culture. A principle that is rightly expressed in an old German adage that states "Übung macht den Meister!" meaning "Practice makes perfect."

► The Open House Event will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Taipei European

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