

GREENHEART TRAVEL High School Abroad

Germany



Curriculum Guidelines



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travel



OVERVIEW OF THE GERMAN SCHOOL SYSTEM

After primary school (when they are 10 years old), German students have to choose between four types of schools. The choice they make will determine which type of school they can next enter for the upper secondary education and finally whether they will go to a university or enter a technical field or trade.

Berufsschule – Training at companies and part-time vocational schools

Berufsfachschule – Full-time vocational school

Fachoberschule Gymnasium or Gesamtschule – Vocational upper secondary school

Most exchange students study in public schools. The German high school consists of Grades 10-12 and is divided into two semesters, the first beginning in August and the second ending in June.

Getting involved in extra-curricular activities is a great way to gain deeper insight into German culture. Every town offers a variety of clubs and activities. So do a little investigative work when you arrive to determine the best option for you!

Schedule

You will go to school from Monday to Friday, typically from 7:50 am to around 1:00 pm with a 5 to 15 minute break between each class. Sometimes it is longer depending on

the day and the subjects chosen. Each session is normally about 45 minutes. The rest of the day is reserved for extra-curricular activities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A few afternoon activities are offered at German schools - mainly choir or orchestra, sometimes sports or drama. Many of these are offered as semi-scholar AG's (*Arbeitsgemeinschaften* - literally "working groups"). Other common extracurricular activities are organized as private clubs, which are very popular in Germany.

Subjects

Exchange students will attend a *Realschule* (grade 10th) a Gymnasium or a *Gesamtschule* (grade 10th to 12th). At the end of grade 12, German students prepare for the "Abitur" which will enable them to enter university. Generally exchange students are placed in a public school.

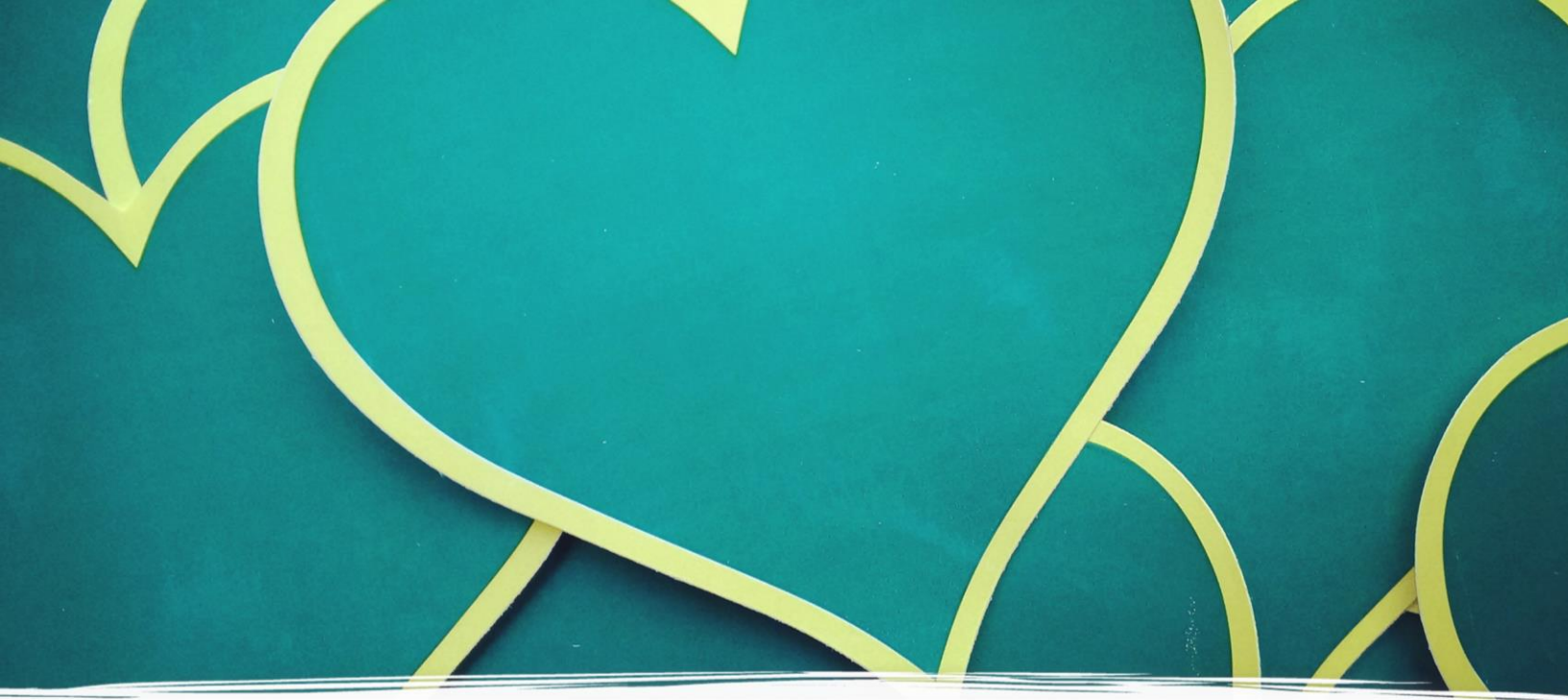
- Students in 10th and 11th grade will study the following subjects: Math, German, English, a second language (French or Spanish), Biology, Chemistry, Physics, PA, History, Geography, and/or Social Sciences.
- Students in 12th grade study subjects from three different groups: Languages, Literature and Arts; Social Sciences; Mathematics and Sciences.
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Languages, Literature, Arts group will choose classes from the following curriculum: German, English, French, Latin, Ancient Greek, Hebrew, Turkish, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, arts, music, and literature.

Social Sciences group will choose classes from the following curriculum: history, geography, philosophy, social sciences, business and economy, pedagogics, psychology, religion.

Math and Sciences group will choose classes from the following curriculum: math, physics, chemistry, biology, computer sciences, technology, nutritional sciences, and sports.

Until the second term of grade 11, all the subjects are compulsory. Then, the system is different: it combines required subjects and electives. The subjects to choose from are different with the "Länder". Students choose 2 main subjects that are taught 5-6 lessons per week, and at least 6 elective subjects that are taught 3 lessons per week from the 3 groups above. In their choice, students will however have to include German, math, one foreign language, one social science, and physical education.



Transcripts

You will be able to get a transcript for this program, but the student is in charge of talking to the local school about the transcript before leaving the program.

Exams and Results

Students are graded at the same standards expected of their German peers and are expected to pass all courses. Students have to achieve a minimum of 5 points in order to pass a course. Students have to achieve a minimum of 5 points in order to pass a course.

German grading system and meaning:

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|---|--------------|-----------|
| A | 13-15 points | Excellent |
| B | 10-12 points | Good |
| C | 7-9 points | Average |
| D | 4-6 points | Fair |
| F | 1-3 points | Poor |
| - | 0 points | Very Poor |

Tutoring

Extra tutoring is available and is highly encouraged; however these fees are not included in the program. The price varies with the city and the intensity of the class; it goes from € 250 (\$314) to € 600 (\$753). Finding a tutor and negotiating cost will be left to the discretion of the student.

What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.