



PHORMS BILINGUAL SECONDARY SCHOOL IN FRANKFURT – DISCOVER THE WORLD IN TWO LANGUAGES

Our profile

Our goal is for every student who leaves the Phorms secondary school in Frankfurt with the German Abitur and the optional Advanced Placement International Diploma to be fully prepared to undertake and complete challenging vocational training or tertiary studies anywhere in the world in order to pursue his or her chosen career. The Phorms bilingual secondary school in Frankfurt is conceived as a comprehensive educational institution. We provide students with optimal preparation for the style of work that we expect to see increase in the near future, when changing careers several times and surviving in international society will be regarded as a matter of course.

Our policy in all of our schools is “performance with passion”. We consistently endeavour to lead our students to become independent and to become better at solving problems by learning to think for themselves – and we want them to enjoy the learning process. At the same time, we are also aware of the interests of young people between the ages of 10 to 18, and together with their parents and teachers, we take an empathetic approach as we accompany them on their educational journey.

Bilingual learning

Our students experience a genuinely bilingual environment every day, as both German and English are used in equal proportions as languages of instruction in class. Therefore, the students feel equally comfortable in either language. Another enormous benefit is the associated cultural competency that comes with language, a skill that our students can purposefully apply to all aspects of their lives.

Lessons are conducted in a German to English language benchmark ratio of 50 to 50 by native speaking or bilingual teachers. Bilingualism improves cognitive development, language awareness, creativity and flexibility of thinking in adolescents. Students who receive a bilingual education for several years therefore perform better than average in their own language as well as in foreign languages. At the Phorms secondary school, lessons are conducted according to the immersion method, whereby one language is used exclusively for each subject – in German (in the subjects of German, Politics and Economics, History and Ethics) or in English (English, Mathematics and Natural Sciences). In the other subjects, lessons are conducted in either one of the two languages, depending on the language level and expertise of the teacher for each subject.

Ideal learning conditions

The Phorms Taunus Campus is idyllically situated in the Taunus forest, only 20 minutes from Frankfurt city centre. Therefore, the school offers an ideal environment for concentrated learning, far away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We also offer a school bus service to transport the students safely to school. The school buildings are newly built and fitted with smartboards, a laboratory and modern equipment as well as the latest teaching and learning materials. Every student has access to a computer. The school has a sports field and a gymnasium and there are tennis courts right next to the campus.

Motivated teachers

Our teachers, who come from all over the world, enrich the Phorms approach to education every single day. Our teaching community regularly exchanges opinions about methodology, pedagogy and teaching experiences, and use this knowledge for the benefit of the entire school community. Thanks to their commitment, our students genuinely enjoy going to school.

Optimal class sizes

Each year, we open two grade 5 classes. The size of the classes is generally limited to 24 students. We attach particular value to providing the best conditions for our students to learn in, and one prerequisite is a comfortable atmosphere.



Individual support

Each student has different interests and abilities. We recognise this and therefore we value individual development and give the students room to cultivate their talents. We also have a school coach who acts as a counsellor to give students advice and help them through the turbulent period of their teenage years, but can also address issues such as potential addiction or aggression.

Abitur and international certification

The structures of the lessons are based on the core curriculum for the federal state of Hesse and are augmented by the contents of the international Cambridge programmes. We therefore equip our students with additional skills in accordance with our bilingual policy. At the end of Years 10, we use the Cambridge programme test modules, among other indicators, as benchmarks for academic performance. In the Years 8, students sit the standardized evaluation tests set by the state of Hesse. In Year 10, our students sit the examinations for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), an internationally acknowledged qualification that the Ministry of Culture in Hesse regards as equivalent to an intermediate secondary leaving certificate.

At the end of the fourth qualification phase in Year 12, the students take their final examinations for the German Abitur. In accordance with the guidelines for the Abitur established by the state, our students take their examinations in German. To prepare for this, students start to practise sample questions from the first stages of the Abitur from Year 10, in particular in the natural sciences, and receive systematic instruction in supplementary intensive lessons in German. Students in Years 10 to 12 also have the opportunity to participate in the Advanced Placement Programme, which includes examinations and consists of up to six modules. This certificate is recognised around the world and allows for easier entry to international universities. Many universities actually give out credit points to students who have this certificate, which are equivalent to an undergraduate year and exempt them from entrance examinations. This saves time and reduces the costs of university fees. At Phorms Campus Berlin Mitte, Phorms Education has established one of the few examination centres for the APID in Europe. Several classes have already finished their Abitur at the school in Berlin in the past years with outstanding grades.

Considering the current discussions on education policy surrounding the issues of G8 and/or G9 (whether the final year of high school should be Year 12 or Year 13) and the future development of national standards for the Abitur examinations, changes affecting the upper secondary years are to be expected. As always, the Phorms School will continue to monitor these issues closely to ensure that our education guidelines are not just similar but equivalent to the guidelines that are applicable to state schools.

Foreign languages and elective subjects

Our students learn Spanish as a second foreign language starting from Year 5. In later years we add French. For students who would like to choose a subject other than a language, we also offer the subject ICT as elective subject. Exchange programmes, e.g. with the Sunny Canadian School in Prague as of spring 2016 and possibly a partner school near Barcelona, also in the framework of summer camps, offer excellent opportunities for students to experience benefits with regard to their cultural, linguistic and social skills.





Exemplary timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
9:00-9:45	Math	Humanities	Spanish	English	German
9:45-10:30	Math	Humanities	Politics	English	German
10:30-11:00	Break/Snack	Break/Snack	Break/Snack	Break/Snack	Break/Snack
11:00-11:45	ICT	Art	Spanish	Spanish	ICT
11:45-12:30	German	Art	Math	Spanish	English
12:30-13:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
13:00-13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30-14:15	Biology	Math	German	Sport	English
14:15-15:00	Physics	History	German	Sport	Chemistry
15:00-15:45	Politics	History	Chemistry	Sport	Biology
15:45-16:00	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

Excursions

We place great value on encouraging the students to learn independently and on enhancing the lessons by means of tangible experiences. However, teacher-centred lessons are also effective, particularly for introducing a new subject. Besides teaching key skills, we also attach great importance to conveying knowledge that can be recalled and applied in practice. Students can only be regarded as truly competent when they can actually demonstrate extensive knowledge in a subject, for example by holding a speech, for which good presentation skills are also necessary.

Our students participate in multi-disciplinary projects that involve a variety of activities such as learning excursions, visits to a theatre or museum, interviews with experts, model making, experiments or presentations. Students often work in pairs or small groups to research a topic independently and then present it. Therefore, in addition to the application of cognitive learning processes, they also acquire social skills and assume responsibilities while learning from each other.

Special measures to prepare students for their careers or studies begin in Year 9. Scheduled activities include work experience, company visits or listening to specialist guest speakers at school.



Structure of the school day

Lessons begin at 9 am and end at 4 pm. Students arrive at school at about 8:45 am so that they can be ready for lessons to start punctually. There may be variations in lesson times due to changes to the timetable starting from Year 8 at the latest.

After the regular school day, the students can complete their homework, work on projects together or do other school tasks. Study and practice periods are scheduled as well as sessions with the class teacher in which students and teachers discuss general class and school matters. Throughout the day there are structured breaks and a lunch break with sufficient time for eating and resting.

After-school activities and holiday programmes

We have the same holiday calendar as state schools in Frankfurt. In our afternoon and holiday programme we currently offer clubs covering the fields of movement, music, society, science, writing and creating. In addition to silent self-study periods that students can use for independent learning, we plan to offer a wide range of workshops for students to choose from. Some examples that are under consideration include a debating club and a summer camp that involves building a bridge or a tree house or is related to other topics that high school students are interested in. The contents of these workshops are in accordance with the general orientation of our school, which is to provide an education that stimulates both sides of the brain.

Admission procedure

For students who have already attended primary school at Phorms Frankfurt, the prerequisite for entrance to our selective high school is a recommendation from the primary school teachers, which is decided at a meeting chaired by the school principal, usually in the last week before the Christmas holidays. The basis for the decision is the student's academic performance and more importantly, the teachers' assessment of the student's suitability for successful participation at a selective high school. Students who wish to transfer from another school to the Phorms Frankfurt secondary school, are asked to take an entrance test in the form of an examination along with trial days in addition to presenting a recommendation and the last report cards. The test may consist of different components from the subjects of English, German and Mathematics, along with one or more trial days of attendance at the school.

School fees

As with all of our schools, we would like to offer as many students as possible the opportunity to participate in educational programmes at our high school. Therefore, we have decided to apply the model of income-based school fees. Parents may therefore submit their income statement for the year before last, or voluntarily contribute the standard fee. The school fees are payable in twelve monthly instalments.

In addition to the income-adjusted fee there will be additional costs for meals and school materials as well as excursions where applicable, and if required and on registration, fees for supervision before and after school, the school bus or holiday clubs. Parents may calculate their individual monthly costs at any time using the Phorms fee calculator. The assessment of the amount payable will be based on your gross annual income in the year before last.





Our qualified team

Our principal, Michael Gehrig, currently manages the school. Mr. Bernd Koch, Head of Secondary School, is responsible for addressing the typical everyday issues that arise at a high school. On principle we require our high school teachers to be qualified with either the first and second civil service examinations or an equivalent certificate and to be authorised to teach by the state board of education in Frankfurt.

Contact

If you have any questions concerning our secondary school, please contact Gabi Sistig, Annette Ritter-Hendlinger, Bernd Koch or Michael Gehrig.



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