

Modern Foreign Languages at the BST

Learning and understanding different languages and cultures has never been greater than at present in this increasingly globalised world. Our Modern Languages Department aims for students to develop their understanding and use languages effectively for practical communication in all four skill areas: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

We encourage students to develop positive attitudes to other cultures and promote their language learning.

All students at the British School of Tenerife study Spanish as a Foreign Language but additionally, starting in Year 7, they will also study either French or German.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Students will study either French or German, starting in Year 7. They will develop their vocabulary and increase their understanding of grammar using new technologies which include digital books and interactive activities as well as a bank of useful resources.

At the end of each module, students are assessed in their skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Many students choose to continue learning a foreign language and follow a two-year course in either French or German which culminates in an IGCSE examination with the prestigious Cambridge International Examination Board. Students are assessed in all four language skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

Students who wish to continue their language studies to a higher level, choose to follow a two-year course in Years 12 and 13 leading to an A Level in either French or German, Again, these exams are taken with the Cambridge International Examinations Board. These courses will provide students with a suitable foundation for the study of languages or related courses in Higher Education e.g. university.

In Year 12, students move on from topics studied at IGCSE to investigate more challenging topics such as racism, crime and punishment, politics and immigration. They will also study works of literature in French or German.

By the end of Key Stage 5, students will have a profound knowledge of grammar and vocabulary and be able to express themselves clearly and fluently in high-level conversations. Students are assessed across all four language skills; listening, reading, speaking and writing.

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

To meet the Council of Europe's criteria under CEFR, our school offers German language examinations with the **Goethe Institut** which are certified at different stages and correspond to the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) ranging from A1 for beginners to C2 for language skills at the highest level.

Collaboration with International Schools

At the British School of Tenerife, our central framework of objectives is aimed at developing our students' language abilities and multicultural sensitivities, to bring independence and personal thinking to their use of language. Our school is currently collaborating closely with other educational centres in the UK, Germany and France, Kenya and China. We are also involved in an Erasmus project with Italy, Portugal and Bulgaria.