

German High School Education in Malaysia

Lifelong Enrichment and a German International Baccalaureate (DIAP)

Report on the student-exchange program at the German School of Kuala Lumpur (DSKL)



Yet another year has passed since the first batch of seniors had the opportunity to enroll for the “Deutsche Internationale Abiturprüfung (DIAP)” at the German School of Kuala Lumpur. This year and the previous one we welcomed seven exchange students who had completed their 10th Grade in Germany to their final two years of high school in Malaysia. Besides the opportunity to achieve their university-entry qualification at a certified “Excellent German School Abroad”, the students improve their English language skills and develop intercultural competence.

Another aim of the program is the sustainability of the senior grades (11th and 12th) at the German School Kuala Lumpur. The school needs at least 10 upper secondary students, otherwise risks to lose financial support through the German federal budget for the qualifying phase. The “available slots” in upper secondary would be taken up by students from Germany, partaking in a kind of globalisation project. Thus, the student-exchange programme was initiated.

In order to kick start the project and gain popularity from students in Germany, the most qualified candidates will be granted scholarship. Many thanks to local and international German companies who provided start-up funding to cover school fees and accommodation.

With their engagement the German companies recognise the importance of a German school education abroad. Foreign trade and investments by German business generate around third of the German national income. Vital contributions to this economic output come from a large number of employees delegated by their headquarters in Germany to foreign countries. To ensure the continuation of the schooling and the smooth re-integration into the school education upon return to Germany for the children of these employees, German business continue to provide significant financial assistance for establishing and maintaining German schools abroad as this support also serves their long-term interests in attracting highly-qualified personnel for a posting abroad. The student-exchange program, a win-win situation for students and school:



Not only does the student-exchange programme aid our guests educationally, it also helps to boost their self-confidence. The students receive excellent trainings that prepare them for a globalised job market. This is a wonderful opportunity and experience not to be missed. Friederike, Dennis and Sarah, who have been enrolled since August 2011, report the following:

“The student-exchange programme at DSKL is an eternal enrichment! Student life is definitely more multicultural at DSKL than in Germany and without doubt, the English lessons are better. Some subjects are taught fully in English. We are able to expand our horizon when residing here. The whole atmosphere is clearly more relax since the classes are very small, and the students have a close relationship to the teachers. In Germany, the teacher-pupil relationship is less personal.

The students become more liberal-minded and mature. For example, I have already decided to live and work overseas, due to my experiences here. Now I know what it’s like living abroad, which I would have never been able to discover in Germany. For me, this is the most important factor and biggest enrichment. I think I am truly matured. Here, I experience situations which I would never have experienced in Germany. The students should simply endure and pull through without any help from their parents. I am constantly growing through the challenges.”

The larger number of students in the senior level will ensure that fewer pupils would leave DSKL by the end of Grade 10, since a larger group of students awaits them. Thus, DSKL will be in the position to offer Chemistry as an elective subject during upper secondary level. Furthermore, the relationship to Germany will significantly be strengthened through the student exchange program.

The conditions to receive financial support during the qualifying period have met and the “Deutsche Internationale Abiturprüfung (DIAP)” is a guaranteed option at DSKL – this strengthens the basic infrastructural conditions for German businesses.



row above from l. to r.: Sarah Kamil, Jan Agnethler, Marc Knoth, Dennis Palsa; row below from l. to r.: Sofie Kling, Miriam Handschuh, Friederike Sottek

PS. Would you be interested to provide accommodation and a home to one of our guest-students for a monthly compensation of RM 1,000?

