

Diploma Programme



Language Policy

2016 - 2017

updated September 2016
(to be reviewed by August 15th each year)



Table of Contents

[Statement of Philosophy](#)

[Language Options in ISE's Diploma Programme](#)

[Learning of the Host Country Language](#)

[Placement in Language Courses](#)

[Support for Students Who Are Not Yet Proficient in the Language of Instruction](#)

[Support for Mother Tongues](#)

Statement of Philosophy

English is the official language of the International School of Estonia. Acknowledging that language is central to thinking and to inquiry, the International School of Estonia commits to the whole-language approach to teaching where all teachers are language teachers. We aim to develop the language competence of all students in all subject groups through various activities which form interdisciplinary communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will develop the ability to read, enjoy, understand, and respond to all types of texts and terminology.

Through a process-based approach, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning of language. Students will communicate in a variety of forms for a range of purposes and be assessed utilizing the DP assessment rubrics including projects, written assignments, presentations, creative writing, literary discussions, textual analysis, critical listening and e-portfolios.

Through participation in the academic programs at the International School of Estonia, students will be able to:

- further their understanding of the studied language and to explore and enjoy a variety of literature, informational text and culture;
- communicate with clarity, accuracy and imagination;
- develop a capacity to express themselves and respond in a variety of speaking, writing and listening activities, matching style and response to audience and purpose in all MYP subject groups;
- develop skills in using technology in such a way as to enhance communication skills;

In addition to subject specific content all students will utilize IB DP Approaches to Learning skills.

Language Options in ISE's Diploma Programme

- Language A: English Language & Literature (required for all students)
- Language A: Estonian Literature (students earn the Bilingual Diploma)
- Language A: Self-Taught Mother Tongue* (students earn the Bilingual Diploma)
- Language B: French Language Acquisition SL/HL
- Language B: French Ab Initio SL (online via Pamoja Education)*
- Language B: Spanish Ab Initio SL (online via Pamoja Education)*
- Language B: Spanish SL/HL (online via Pamoja Education)*

*additional fees apply for these options

Language A: English Language and Literature

All Diploma Programme students are required to study English Language and Literature at ISE.

Language B: Language Acquisition

Diploma Programme students have several options for Language B at ISE. The school provides French B at both the standard and higher level, on site. Additionally, students with no prior background in French, or who have previously studied MYP French Language Acquisition in phases 1 or 2, may elect to study French Ab Initio online via Pamoja Education.

Students may also choose to study Spanish with Pamoja Education at either the Ab Initio level (for those who have previously studied MYP Spanish Language Acquisition in phases 1 or 2 or who have no background in Spanish at all), or at the standard or higher level, depending upon their previous learning level in Spanish. Records of previous phase level and/or Pamoja placement assessments will determine the correct level.

Learning of the Host Country Language

Students whose mother tongue is Estonian, or who have previously studied MYP Estonian Language & Literature, or Estonian Language Acquisition in phases 5 or 6, are encouraged to study Language A: Estonian Literature. Placement is determined by the current Estonian Literature teacher.

Placement in Language Courses

Student placement in DP Language courses is based upon the levels achieved in the MYP, teacher recommendation and/or placement tests, and Diploma Programme Coordinator approval.

For students new to ISE, a placement test will be given by the current language teacher to ensure the student studies his/her additional language at a level that will lead to success.

Support for Students Who Are Not Yet Proficient in the Language of Instruction

ISE Diploma Programme students are expected to be proficient communicators in English, therefore no ELL services are offered for DP students. Students need to be able to speak, read, write, and listen at a level that enables them to succeed without adaption of the curriculum, be it reading material, writing demands, and speaking rate of teachers.

Support for Mother Tongues

While ISE students speak a wide range of languages, it is not possible to offer classes in every language. However, educational research makes clear that those students who maintain their mother tongue will have better access to learning when working in a second or third language; therefore, it is important that we strive to provide the opportunity for students to access their first, or mother tongue, language.

As such, the International School of Estonia promotes mother tongue language study for all DP students.

When the school receives a request for a mother tongue course:

- the school will assist in identifying a tutor, and will provide that tutor with the necessary space to deliver a suitable course on site, if requested; if the timetable permits, lessons will be scheduled during the regular school day;

- the parent(s) will commit to paying the tutor for his/her services. This is a private arrangement between the tutor and the families for which the school has no responsibility;
- the school will continue to improve and increase mother tongue resources in the library.