



The Realschul- / secondary school stream at the German International School Cape Town

1. General Information

1.1. Background:

The German International School Cape Town (DSK) is fundamentally a grammar school (Gymnasium) but it also offers the possibility of a secondary school certificate (Realschulabschluss), in line with the regulations of the "Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany". German learners are generally enrolled in the educational stream that corresponds to their previous school in Germany or another country. Learners that have been at the DSK since primary school will automatically go to Grade 5 on grammar school level.

1.2. Classification as a Realschul-learner at the DSK

A possible transition of a DSK learner to the secondary school level will be done at the class conference. Whether a learner will be classified as a Realschul-learner in the German stream will be decided by the relevant conference generally after Grade 5, if necessary also in Grade 6-8.

All secondary school learners are integrated into the grammar school classes and receive differentiated tuition in all subjects. They are also subject to a corresponding performance assessment. A choice or option to change between the two schooling streams (Realschule/Gymnasium) is available until the end of Grade 8. Up to this point, it is possible for a learner – depending on the outcome of the class conference and insofar as the marks allow – to change from secondary to grammar school (Realschule to Gymnasium) level. From grade 9 onwards, the class conference can still decide on a Realschul-status for a certain learner. However, a promotion to Gymnasial-status is only possible by applying to the relevant German school authorities.

1.3. Performance assessment of secondary school learners (internal differentiation)

The learners are taught and assessed in the subjects of German, English, Afrikaans, French, Mathematics, Music, History, Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Life Orientation. The differentiation refers both to the area of "other achievements" as well as to the written exams. In grade 10, the final year of secondary school/Realschule, the exam requirements for the written exam subjects will be adjusted to the secondary school level.

1.4. Final exams

At the end of Grade 10, there will be a secondary school exam with instructions and tasks sent directly from Germany. The exam consists of two written sections (from the subjects German, Maths, English) and one oral exam (compulsory in one subject, optional in another).

In grade 9, all secondary school learners and their parents will be advised on the appropriate choice of Grammar stream. At the beginning of grade 10, they will then be informed about the applicable regulations that lead to a secondary school certificate (Realschulabschluss/ Mittlerer Bildungsabschluss).

Future prospects after obtaining a secondary school certificate (Realschulabschluss)

If the learner has obtained the secondary school certificate (grade 10) in Germany or at the DSK, he/she may enter the grammar school level (Gymnasium) of the DSK, following the decision of the respective coordinator. This option is based on a ruling of BLASchA (Bundesländer-Committee for School Work Abroad).

Learners with a secondary school certificate will be admitted to the 10th grade of the grammar school level (Gymnasium) if their final report card in Grade 10 shows an average of 3,0 in all subjects, especially in German, Mathematics and a foreign language taught from grade 6. Marks will not be rounded in this case. In this scenario, the learners will repeat Grade 10 as part of grammar school (Gymnasium).

Alternatively, learners that have obtained the secondary school certificate at the DSK or any other German School abroad, also have the option to change into the English stream of Grade 10 or 11 with the consent of the relevant coordinator. In this case, the learner must have had the subject Afrikaans or Xhosa and will continue with it.

If a transition to grammar high school (Gymnasium) Grade 10-12 is not possible, it is advisable for the learner to go to Germany and get a practical job education – this is common practice in Germany for learners with a secondary school certificate and offers a wide variety of job opportunities.

Learners with a secondary school certificate who wish to remain in South Africa, there is the possibility to attend a *Further Education and Training College* (FET) like the

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College of Cape Town, Northlink College and/or the False Bay College, to further their education.

For more information, please go to:

https://www.kmk.org/fileadmin/Dateien/veroeffentlichungen_beschluesse/2017/2017_03_16-PO-Sekl-Deutsche-Schulen-Ausland.pdf

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