Languages at UWCSEA

The characteristic that distinctly separates humans from all other species is our capacity for symbolic thought, which language manifests. Language is the major way in which we understand and express our experience of the world.

The UWCSEA community is drawn from around 90 countries, and although the learning programme is delivered in English, more than 50 other languages are spoken by our community as their first language.

UWCSEA’s language offerings are designed to provide our students with exposure to other cultures as well as access to acquiring skill in another language in addition to English—and to support students whose first language is not English in retaining and developing skills in their first language wherever possible. The study of language at UWCSEA has three major aims:

**Cultural**: Respect for cultural diversity lies at the very heart of the mission of UWCSEA. Language and culture are interconnected, and the learning of other languages exposes one to different cultures and ideas, and promotes mutual understanding. Because of our interconnectedness and dependency, the ability to communicate in more than one language is more important than ever in promoting international cooperation and goodwill, and in dispelling misunderstanding and mistrust.

**Functional**: Language is the essential tool of learning. The mastering of language promotes success across the curriculum, expands our capacity for conceptual thought and develops critical reading and thinking skills that are a vital part of intellectual maturity. Research shows that the development of language has a positive and beneficial effect on learning potential as a whole. In our interconnected world, the ability to speak and communicate in more than one language is an essential skill.

**Developing an appreciation for intellectual and aesthetic creativity**: Studying language builds on the experiences we have from infancy of accessing and sharing the stories of different times, cultures and places. All cultures have an oral or written literature which is revered as both an art form and a reflection of that society’s virtues and faults. The study of literature allows access to some of humanity’s finest thoughts expressed in language that can be moving and beautiful; a lifelong passion for reading is an implicit aim of all we do.

All students at UWCSEA take a second language, except in a small number of cases where students receive learning support or where students are taking English as an Additional Language (EAL).

This document contains a summary of the language offerings on each campus, by grade. A number of languages are offered as additional subjects and in some cases, additional charges are levied; please ask Admissions if you are interested in the programme prior to making an application.

**UWCSEA students received a bilingual diploma in May 2014**

**Class of 2015 bilingual IB Diploma languages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language 1</th>
<th>Language 2</th>
<th>Language 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrikaans</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Portuguese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>Russian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnian</td>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>Serbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>Siswati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatian</td>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Swahili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
<td>Swedish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>Kinyarwanda</td>
<td>Thai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Urdu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of first languages spoken across the College**: 53

**Total number of languages spoken across the College**: 69
Courses offered and placement

The language of instruction at UWCSEA is English. Please see the back page of this brochure for details on the English as an Additional Language (EAL) provision. In addition to English or EAL lessons, all students take a Language other than English (LOTE) class. The details of the languages and levels offered are set out below.

All students joining the College are assessed to ensure the nominated course is appropriate for them; in Grade 6 and above, students applying to continuation or advanced language courses are tested to ensure the course offered at UWCSEA is an appropriate fit.

East Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>K1</th>
<th>K2</th>
<th>G1</th>
<th>G2</th>
<th>G3</th>
<th>G4</th>
<th>G5</th>
<th>G6</th>
<th>G7</th>
<th>G8</th>
<th>IGCSE</th>
<th>FIB</th>
<th>IBDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>C/A</td>
<td>C/A</td>
<td>B/C/A</td>
<td>C/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>B/C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Supported Self-Taught Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer below

IB Diploma Programme (IBDP)

**Group 1 courses**
A – English Language and Literature (SL and HL)
A – English Literature (SL and HL)
A – Chinese Literature (SL and HL)
A – French Literature (SL)
A – Hindi Literature (SL and HL)
A – Japanese Literature (SL and HL)
A – Korean Literature (SL and HL)
A – Spanish Literature (SL and HL)
A – Russian Literature (SL and HL)
A – School Supported Self-Taught Language (SL)

**Group 2 courses**
B – English (HL)
B – Chinese (SL and HL)
B – French (SL and HL)
B – Spanish (SL and HL)
B – French ab initio (SL)
B – Mandarin ab initio (SL)
B – Spanish ab initio (SL)

Additional information

**School Supported Self-Taught Language A** – the (I)GCSE and FIB courses provide support for students who intend to pursue studies in their mother tongue in the IB Diploma, but for whom there is no taught course available at UWCSEA. In the IBDP, the language must come from the IB approved list. There is a small additional charge for this option.

Additional after-school language classes may be available for native speakers of some languages, subject to demand and at an additional cost. Please check with Admissions prior to making an application.
Please refer below

### IB Diploma Programme (IBDP)

**Group 1 courses**
- A – English Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – English Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Chinese Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Chinese Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Dutch Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – French Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – German Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Hindi Literature (SL)
- A – Japanese Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Korean Literature (SL and HL)
- A – Spanish Language and Literature (SL and HL)
- A – School Supported Self-Taught Language (SL)

**Group 2 courses**
- B – English (HL)
- B – Chinese (SL and HL)
- B – French (SL and HL)
- B – Spanish (SL and HL)
- B – German (SL and HL)
- B – French ab initio (SL)
- B – Mandarin ab initio (SL)
- B – Spanish ab initio (SL)

### Additional information

**Dutch** – lessons are available from Grade 7 to Grade 12 for native speakers of Dutch. For students in Grade 7 and 8, these lessons take place after school, twice a week, while in Grades 9–12 they are scheduled within the timetable (download the Dutch language guide Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur guide from the College website). There is an extra charge for Dutch tuition; the cost depends on the number of students taking Dutch lessons.

**French** – tuition of written French for fluent French speakers is available after school for students in Grades 5–10. A qualified teacher employed by UWCSEA teaches students in small, language ability groups. An additional fee is payable. In the IGCSE, this can lead to the AS examination.

**German** – in Grade 7 and 8, German is taught as a first language for native speakers according to the Swiss curriculum, accommodating Swiss students joining us in Grade 7 from the Swiss School. Other German native speakers may join this class, but are tested to assess if their level of German is sufficient to keep up with the specific curriculum requirements. In Grade 9, students have an option to take additional German tuition after school to prepare for the IGCSE second-language paper as an additional LOTE.

**Spanish** – classes are available after school for native speakers in Grades 2–10. Classes are paid, small group tuition and run subject to demand.

**School Supported Self-Taught Language A** – the (I)GCSE and FIB courses provide support for students who intend to pursue studies in their mother tongue in the IB Diploma, but for whom there is no taught course available at UWCSEA. In the IBDP, the language must come from the IB approved list. There is a small additional charge for this option.
English as an Additional Language (EAL)

While respect for cultural diversity lies at the very heart of the mission of UWCSEA, our main working language is English, and each student needs to become a proficient user of English in order to access much of the curriculum. Teachers across the curriculum work to support acquisition of English. The EAL programme supports learners who have had less exposure to English, or who speak English as a second, third or even fourth language.

Dover Campus
The current, formal EAL courses from Grade 2 to Grade 12 are outlined below.

Grades 2 to 5
EAL learners follow Extra English lessons in place of Language other than English (LOTE) lessons. These small group lessons are provided at an additional charge, and students accepted on this basis are assessed to ascertain their current level of English.

Grade 6
EAL learners follow Extra English lessons in place of LOTE lessons.

Grades 7 and 8
EAL learners follow EAL lessons in place of English lessons, and, in some cases, may also follow Extra English lessons in place of LOTE lessons.

Grades 9 and 10
EAL learners follow EAL lessons in place of English lessons. This course (which we call English B) prepares students for an IGCSE examination in English as a Second Language at the end of Grade 10, and also includes preparation for both of the IB Diploma English courses (English A or B, depending on the student’s level of attainment) from Grade 11.

Provision is also made for Foundation IB (FIB) students who join the College in Grade 10, supporting students to join either English A or English B courses in the IB Diploma.

Grades 11 and 12
EAL learners follow the IB Diploma English B course—and can thereby gain a bilingual diploma.

In addition to these courses, there is some provision, based on needs, for extra, individual EAL support and for EAL teachers to work in classes with EAL learners in other areas of the curriculum.

East Campus
At present, the formal EAL courses run from Grade 6 to Grade 12. Below Grade 6, very limited support is available for EAL learners; if places are available, students are accommodated within normal classes or given extra help on an individual-needs basis.

Boarding students may take advantage of EAL tutoring and support in the library during evening study time.

The current, formal EAL courses from Grade 6 to Grade 12 are outlined below.

Grades 6, 7 and 8
EAL learners follow EAL lessons in place of LOTE, and, in some cases, may have support in mainstream English lessons. As part of the EAL programme, support may be provided for humanities and sciences.

Grades 9 and 10
Grade 9 EAL learners follow ‘English B’ in place of ‘English A’ lessons. This two-year course prepares students for IGCSE in English as a Second Language (ESL), examined at the end of Grade 10, and for the IB Diploma English courses (English A or B, depending on the student’s level of attainment) from Grade 11.

EAL learners who join the College for the FIB course in Grade 10 follow the one-year FIB English B course in preparation for the IB Diploma English courses from Grade 11.

Grades 11 and 12
EAL learners follow the IB Diploma English B course—and can thereby gain a bilingual diploma.

For more information, please contact Admissions

Dover Campus
admissionsdover@uwceasea.edu.sg
+65 6775 5344

East Campus
admissionseast@uwceasea.edu.sg
+65 6305 5344