

International Fellowship Classes (IFC) – General Information –

1.) Information about our school: *Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium (FSG)* in Marbach

With more than 2,500 students, our school is one of the largest schools in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. This is one of the reasons why we are able to offer a wide range of subjects and activities to our students, including the “International Fellowship Class” project. Every year we aim at inviting about 16 international students to come to our school, who will learn with about 32 German students in two International Classes.

Where is Marbach?

Germany consists of 16 federal states. Our town is situated in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, i.e. in Southern Germany, and it lies within the conurbation of the city of Stuttgart, which is the capital of Baden-Württemberg and known for international companies like *Bosch*, *Mercedes / Daimler*, and *Porsche*. Stuttgart Airport, national motorways and major railway lines are easily accessible. Marbach, which has about 15,000 inhabitants, is a well-known destination for tourists in our region and birthplace of one of Germany’s national authors, Friedrich Schiller.

Who attends our school?

At the age of six, children in Germany start primary school and after four years they continue their education at different types of secondary schools. Attending an advanced high school, the “Gymnasium” (the German equivalent of a grammar school and therefore not to be confused with the English word *gymnasium*), allows students to achieve the qualification to study at a college or university after 8 or 9 years (thus resulting in 12-13 years of school altogether). In Germany we call this qualification “Abitur”.

2.) What are the *International Fellowship Classes*?

Aims

Our *International Fellowship Classes* are two classes for students in grade 10 (or 11, respectively), i.e. for students who have been at our school for 5 years and are between 15 and 17 years old. In each class there are about 26 students, with up to eight students from abroad. In general, all lessons in the IFC are given in English. The main ideas of this project are to promote cultural exchange between young people from different countries of the world, to give international students both the opportunity to get to know our way of living and learning and to contribute with their ideas to the development of our students and our school. To achieve these aims it is compulsory for international students to attend the full school year, beginning in September and ending in late July. Exceptions can only be made for the last four weeks of the school year if there is a clearly defined reason for an early return.

International students are given the chance to learn German as a Foreign Language in a small group of students, based on their prior knowledge of the language. We explicitly want to encourage students who have not yet begun to learn German to apply. Furthermore, we offer the possibility to study for one year in a mainly English-speaking environment. This requires that students joining the International Classes must have an advanced command of the English language. German students entering year 10 have studied English for 5 years at an average of 4 lessons a week.

Our website www.ifc-marbach.de gives you further impressions of our school and the International Classes. For questions concerning this project you are welcome to contact the project coordinators **Ms. Natalia Sipos, Mr. Roman Büttner and Mr. Theodoros Petritzikis** by email: IFC@fsg-marbach.de.

You can also visit our school's website at: www.fsg-marbach.de in order to get an impression of the school you might be attending for one year.

Costs

The fee for one year in the IFC is € 1200. This amount includes a symbolic contribution to the costs for accommodation and food, which are covered by a German host family. Our host families agree to integrate their guest into their family lives. The fee also contributes to the costs for health, liability and accident insurances, and a public transportation ticket for our region. These insurances as well as the public transportation ticket are provided by our

school. Textbooks for all subjects are provided by the school, too. In case of a successful application this fee has to be paid before the beginning of the school year, i.e. by July 31st. Banking information will be included in the letter of invitation.

The journey to Germany and back to the respective home country is organised and paid for individually by each international student. International students need pocket money to pay for free-time activities, to buy school materials, etc. We consider an amount of about € 75 to 100 per month as sufficient.

3.) Lessons in the *International Fellowship Classes*

The school year for the International Classes starts around the second week of September and generally ends in late July. The exact dates of the respective school year will be communicated in the letter of invitation. For a successful completion of the project, we expect our international students to stay for the entire school year with exceptions only possible in urgent cases within the last four weeks of the school year.

German students of the IFC attend about 36 compulsory lessons a week, from Monday to Friday. Foreign students have roughly 34 compulsory lessons and must attend at least one weekly extra-curricular activity (afternoon club) that is offered by our school.

All IFC students	International students	German students
Mathematics (4 lessons a week)	German as a Foreign Language (9)*	While the international students study " <i>German as a Foreign Language</i> " (GFL, or German <i>DaF</i>), German students have lessons in German (4), in their second foreign language (3), or in Science and their third foreign language respectively (4).
English (4)		
History (2)		
Geography (1)		
Politics / Economics (2)		
Religious Education (2)		
Physics (2)		
Chemistry (2)		
Biology (2)		
Music (1)	* The number of German lessons may be slightly higher or lower, depending on one's individual language level and the German conversation classes offered.	
Arts (1)		
Physical Education (2)		

4.) Curriculum of the *International Fellowship Class*

The curriculum is based on the official and obligatory curriculum developed by the Baden-Württemberg Department of Education. Teachers may, however, put a greater focus on certain topics or add additional topics which is why this list may be subject to change.

Mathematics

Revision on functions, e.g. trigonometric functions; counting methods and binomial distribution; continuity and differentiability of functions, differentiation formulae; introduction to vectors; exponential and limited growth.

Physics

Linear motion (uniform and accelerated motion), dynamics (forces, Newton's law of motion, momentum and momentum conservation), circular motion, mechanical energy, projections (horizontal and vertical projection).

Chemistry

Introduction to Organic Chemistry (alkanes, alkenes, alkanols, alkanals, alkanolic acids, esters).

Biology

Photosynthesis, respiration, fermentation, abiotic factors in ecosystems (plants and water, animals and temperature, organisms and light) biotic factors (population dynamics, reproductive strategies, predator-prey relationships, parasitism, competition and ecological niches etc.), energy and matter in ecosystems (food chains, carbon and nitrogen cycle etc.), humans and their environment (eutrophication of lakes and rivers, sewage treatment, air pollution etc.).

English

Literary analysis, film analysis, argumentative and creative writing, writing different text types. Improving one's listening and viewing skills. Discussions and debates. Revision and refinement of grammar (as needed). Current topics of the English-speaking world. Intercultural studies: In our English class we talk about aspects of interculturalism and reflect our own IFC experience.

Geography

Plate tectonics: structure of the earth, theory of continental drift, plate boundaries, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, Wilson cycle; Climate: the atmosphere, the global wind and pressure belts, global warming, ENSO, globalization.

Politics / Economics

The welfare state; the European Union: past, present, future; economic history / basics of modern economy; democracy / limited government – the German example; political decision-making processes; current topics (e.g. migration, terrorism, wars etc.).

History

Empires in history; empires vs. nation states; history of Russia and the Soviet Union; history of China; history of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey.

Additional project: academic skills unit (researching, finding, using, and presenting information using traditional and modern means of information; citing sources).

German as a Foreign Language (GFL / DaF)

Depending on the student's level; the students are tested and take part either in a beginner's course or in an advanced course. The full term covers about 250 lessons.

Religious Education

Introduction to ethics, philosophical and religious ethics; introduction to the Bible: the historic-critical method; searching for the meaning of life; human rights; inter-religious dialogue; introduction to Buddhism: the life of Siddhartha Gautama; Pillars of Buddhist belief and faith practice; comparison of Buddhism and i.e. Christianity.

Music

e.g. theory of music: chords and scales; History of music: Programmatic music in the Romantic era; Modest Mussorgsky, a Russian composer; projects: world of music – music of the world; practical lessons: rhythm and chants.

Arts

e.g. Introduction to film making, social art practise, drawing techniques, product design.

5.) Who can join the International Fellowship Class?

International students who...

1. will be at least 16 when the IFC year begins and not yet 18 when it ends.
(contact us for exceptions if your birthday is close to the beginning or end date)
2. have studied English for a minimum of five years and have achieved good results.
3. have a genuine interest in Germany and in learning the German language.
4. are willing to respect the guidelines of this programme as outlined in this paper.
5. are willing to integrate into the family life of their hosts.

6.) What we expect from you in your host families

Our international students are guests of their host families during the time of their stay in Germany but will be treated like family members. Thus, we expect them to behave accordingly:

- by respecting the daily routines of their German host families and arranging private activities according to these routines.
- by asking for permission if they want to go out, especially in the evenings.
- by not thinking of their home as a hotel or expecting to be served but by understanding that living in a family includes rights and duties.
- by helping in the household, e.g. by tidying up their room, clearing the table etc.
- by showing the willingness to communicate openly with their host families, especially when problems arise.
- by acknowledging that these guidelines apply to all students and that we will not make exceptions.

7.) What we expect from you at school

- You are expected to actively take part in lessons (mere physical presence in class is not sufficient). In Germany, active oral participation is part of the grading.
- You must complete all assignments and homework punctually and orderly.
- You have to take all tests in all subjects.

- You have to stay at our school for the entire school year in order to successfully complete the IFC project. In urgent cases an earlier departure is permitted, but not earlier than 4 weeks before the end of the school year.
- If you decide to quit the project of your own free will or if the IFC project coordinators need to send you home before the end of the school year, you will not be entitled to receive report cards or any certificates related to your stay abroad. Likewise, you will not be granted a refund for the IFC fee you paid.
- You are expected to plan your visits and travels (i.e. going home, traveling to other cities etc) within the holidays of our federal state and school.
- At the end of the school year and the successful completion of the IFC project, you will receive an official school report with your grades for all subjects. A copy of this school report will be sent to your parents or legal guardians. In January/February there will also be mid-term reports with an overview of your achievements so far.
- You have to obey our school rules and follow the instructions of everybody in charge (e.g. headmaster, teachers, caretaker etc.).

8.) How can you apply?

- All applicants have to fill in our application form **online**. To do so, click on the button “Online Application” on: <https://www.ifc-marbach.de/en/become-a-ifc-student/>
- Every applicant and their parents / legal guardians have to sign and send us the document “Parental and Applicants’ Consent”.
- Applications must be submitted by the deadline given on the website.
- By applying for the IFC you...
 - agree to transfer the annual fee mentioned under section two of this document,
 - confirm that you understand the rules laid out in this document and that you are willing to comply with these rules,
 - confirm that you have the financial means for transportation to Germany and back home, as well as a monthly pocket money which is meant to make you financially independent (see section two),
 - confirm that you have submitted your application of your own free will and that nobody has talked you into applying or even forced you to do so. This includes your parents / legal guardians¹.

¹ For the success of the IFC project it is necessary that you are genuinely interested and motivated to actively do anything you can on your part, even when problems arise. If you feel your heart is not 100% convinced of this project now, please do not apply and thus make room for others who really want it.