

WHY LEARN A LANGUAGE?

As our world becomes increasingly connected and interdependent, it has become necessary for students to learn the skills to effectively communicate with others around the world.

Learning a language benefits students in the following ways:

Academic and Intellectual Achievement

- Students have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics
- Students score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence
- Students are better in divergent thinking tasks and in memory ability and attention span

Post-Secondary Admission

- Language courses may be used to meet the Alberta High School Diploma requirements. Up to 25 credits of the 100 credits required for a high school diploma can be earned in one or more second language
- A 30-level second language course is accepted for university entrance and is a requirement for some faculties and programs. It may also help students meet the requirements for the Rutherford scholarship
- Students can continue to study German in many post-secondary institutions

Enhanced First Language Skills

- Students' first language skills are strengthened in areas of reading, vocabulary development, grammar and communication skills

Cultural Understanding

- Students display enhanced cultural sensitivity and gain cross-cultural skills, and are better able to adapt to varying cultural contexts

Greater Career Opportunities

- There is a growing need for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce

EDUCATOR SUPPORT

Alberta school authorities benefit from the expertise and assistance of a Special Language Advisor for German Language and Culture through an agreement between **Alberta Education** and the **Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA)** in Germany.

The German Language Advisor:

- Promotes German language and culture in Western Canada
- Provides resources to German programs in Western Canada
- Supports and provides professional development for German language teachers in Western Canada
- Oversees the German language proficiency exams (Deutsches Sprachdiplom) in Western Canada

For more information, please contact the German Language Advisor at: www.education.alberta.ca/german



For more information about International Education in Alberta Education, please visit: www.intled.alberta.ca

Phone: 780-427-2035

Learn German



2016

DID YOU KNOW?

- German is the most widely spoken native language in Europe¹
- German ranks as the second most commonly used scientific language and therefore is very important in the academic community²
- Approximately 21% of Albertans report German ethnic origin³
- In 2002, Alberta signed a twinning agreement with Saxony⁴
- German radio programming is available on WORLD-FM 101.7
- The Albertaner is a provincial German newspaper that is published monthly

Source:

- 1: Europeans and Their Languages, European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_386_en.pdf, 2012
- 2: Ten Reasons to Learn German, Goethe Institut, <http://www.goethe.de/Im/prj/zgd/en867247.htm>, 2015
- 3: Population by selected ethnic origins, by province and territory (2006 Census) (Alberta), Statistics Canada, <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/101/cst01/demo26j-eng.htm>

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

In Alberta, German language programming includes:

- Bilingual programs, where in addition to Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 12), German is used for instruction in other subjects up to a total of 50% of the school day, and
- Language and Culture courses, where German is studied to develop communication skills, intercultural and strategic competence and an appreciation of German culture.

For more information on programs of study for international languages, visit www.education.alberta.ca/programs-of-study.

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN GERMAN?

A number of school authorities offer German language and culture programming. Contact your local school authority for more information, at www.education.alberta.ca/alberta-education/school-authority-index.

STUDENT, EDUCATOR, AND SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Exchanges & Funding

- Over the past 20 years, more than 2,000 high school students have participated in Alberta Education's Alberta/Germany reciprocal student exchange program www.ieep.ca
- Alberta Education offers short-term (1-2 weeks) and long-term (1 year) educator exchange programs to Germany www.ieep.ca
- Various scholarships and bursaries are available www.studentaid.alberta.ca

School Partnerships

- School twinnings or partnerships between Alberta schools and schools abroad bring an international experience into the classroom and enable students to interact with others from around the world. For more information on forming a partnership with a school in a German speaking country, visit www.education.alberta.ca/international-education/school-partnerships.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAMS

Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD)

- Is an internationally recognized examination of German language proficiency
- Consist of two levels – DSD I & DSD II
- Available to Alberta students in certain schools offering German language programming
- No registration fee required; exam is free of charge

Successful completion of:

- DSD I provides advantages when applying to study in Germany
- DSD II provides proof of German language proficiency required for admission to many post-secondary institutions in Germany

Visit www.bva.bund.de/EN/ for more information.

PROGRAM RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

The **Goethe-Institut Toronto** provides resources and language learning and professional development opportunities for teachers. www.goethe.de/toronto

A 3 year German Language and Culture program is offered through the **Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)**. www.adlc.ca/second_languages/german

The **Association for English-German Bilingual Education of Edmonton (AEGBEE)** supports, promotes and guides the German bilingual program at Edmonton Public Schools. www.german-bilingual-edmonton.net

The **Association of German Education in Calgary (AGEC)** supports, promotes, and integrates quality German language programs and cultural activities in Calgary. www.germaneducationcalgary.ca

The **German-Canadian Association of Alberta (GCAA)** promotes German language and culture in Alberta. www.gcaa.ca

So German! is an online resource of a variety of German and German-Canadian organizations that promote “all things German” among Canadians. www.sogerman.ca

