



Academic Language Policy

Emirates International School - Jumeirah

Approved by:	Robert Ellis/Barbara Exley/Wendy Feherty	Date: March 2022
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Last reviewed on:	September 2023
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Next review due by:	September 2024
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Emirates International School, Jumeirah recognises the importance of language as a fundamental tool for communication, learning, and cultural appreciation. Our commitment to the International Baccalaureate (IB) philosophy of languages is reflected in our Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP) to foster multilingualism, intercultural understanding, and respect for diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Vision and Mission

Vision: To empower our students to become proficient communicators, critical thinkers, and globally aware individuals who value and respect language diversity.

Mission: Emirates International School Jumeirah aims to provide a language-rich environment that nurtures linguistic competence, celebrates cultural diversity, and prepares students for success in a globalized world.

Furthermore this links to our School Vision and Mission statement which places Global Citizenship and Intercultural Learning as one of our core values.

Language of Instruction

Primary Language of Instruction: English is the primary language of instruction across all year levels, ensuring that students acquire a high level of proficiency in English, which is essential for academic success and global communication.

We also recognise the importance of our host country's language and therefore offer Arabic lessons and the possibility of achieving the IB Bilingual Qualifications.

Additional Languages: For Diploma, students can undertake self-study courses in home languages other than English and Arabic.

Language Acquisition

PYP: In the PYP, language acquisition is embedded in the curriculum, with a focus on nurturing students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in both English and other target languages.

MYP: In the MYP, language acquisition continues to be a priority, and students are encouraged to study additional languages to develop their proficiency and intercultural competence.

DP: In the DP, students have the option to pursue language acquisition through Group 1 (Language and Literature) or Group 2 (Language Acquisition) courses, providing a pathway for deepening their understanding of languages.

Mother Tongue and Cultural Identity

We recognise and value the importance of students' mother tongue languages and cultural identities. We encourage students to maintain and celebrate their mother tongue languages through mother tongue language classes or support, as well as cultural activities and events.

Intercultural Understanding

Language learning at Emirates International School, Jumeirah, extends beyond communication skills to include an understanding of the cultural contexts in which languages are used. We aim to develop globally-minded individuals who appreciate and respect cultural diversity. (See Global Citizenship and Intercultural Learning Policy)

Assessment and Feedback

Assessment in language acquisition is ongoing and includes formative and summative assessments that assess students' language skills and understanding of different cultures. Regular feedback and reflection are integral to the learning process. (Please also refer to the assessment policy)

Resources and Support

The school will provide appropriate resources, including libraries, technology, and language learning materials, to support language acquisition and development. At admission, EAL students are identified and provision is put in place for extra EAL learning. Reading is further developed for all students through scheduled reading time, guided reading and library lessons. Parents have regular opportunities to meet with staff to discuss their child's language profile, regular reports and communication systems keep parents informed. A range of online platforms allow parents to access resources for language learning. We recognise that our students have a diverse range of languages and although English is the language of Instruction, we celebrate all student languages through our curricular and extra curricular activities.

Communication with Parents and Guardians

Emirates International School, Jumeirah will maintain open and transparent communication with parents and guardians regarding language learning progress, opportunities, and resources available for their children.

This language policy reflects our commitment to the IB philosophy of languages and ensures that students at our school have the necessary tools and opportunities to develop their language skills, celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, and become informed, global citizens.

All teachers are considered to be language teachers as they need to make the language of their subject accessible to students.

LANGUAGE TEACHING

General:

1. It is preferable that language teachers are native speakers. Thus, it is preferable English is taught by teachers whose first language is English and French and Spanish is taught by teachers whose first language is French or Spanish.
2. All language teachers must have an academic qualification in that language.
3. Language is felt to be very important in an international community such as Dubai and all students from Years KG1-13 study more than one language each year.
4. The acquisition of any language involves four skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. All four areas are stressed in language programmes at all levels at EIS-J.

LANGUAGE PATHWAYS

IB MYP Years 7-11:

Students are all required to study English, Arabic and French or Spanish in Years 7-9 unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as diagnosed and documented Learning Need or if a family has elected to opt for additional English language support for EAL students. In Years 10 to 13, Arab passport holders continue to study Arabic as per Ministry directives and non-Arabic passport holders may choose between Arabic, Spanish and French depending on which language they have studied since Year 6.

MYP CERTIFICATION

As per the IB regulations, we are required to provide sustained language teaching in at least two languages for the year of the MYP. In order to gain MYP Certification, all students must study a minimum of:

- One language and literature course and language acquisition course (Lang. Acquisition is French and Spanish only), or
- Two language and literature courses, or
- Two language and literature courses and one language acquisition course.

(Languages and Learning in the IB, August 2012) .

1. English:

All students are required to take **at least 4** lessons of English language instruction each week.

An EAL programme exists for students who are weak in English language skills. They follow the same course of study as other MYP students with modified use of language.

English competency is a requirement for entry into EIS – Jumeirah. For students entering the school with little English language background, the following courses of action are taken:

- Students are entered into the EAL programme until they are able to move to a Language and Literature English course. They are evaluated yearly.

Parents are requested at the time of acceptance to EIS-J to provide private intensive tuition in English during holidays and outside school hours.

It is the expectation that all EIS – Jumeirah students move into Language and Literature English very quickly as the EAL programme is considered at most a one-year support program in most cases.

2. Language A (Language and Literature) and Language Acquisition Arabic:

All students are required to study Arabic as an Additional Language up until the end of Year 10 and Arabic as a First Language until Year 13, as per the Ministry of Education guidelines

The Arabic language and literature programme is for all students who are registered at the school with an Arab passport. Students are taught Modern Standard Arabic according to the Ministry of Education curriculum and requirements.

Students receive a minimum of 4 periods of instruction per week. In addition, to meet the requirements of the MYP Curriculum, students also study Arabic Literature.

Arabic language acquisition students follow a course in Arabic as a foreign language (language acquisition) which aims to enable them to communicate effectively. The programme meets the needs of both students who have had little or no previous experience learning the Arabic language as well as those who have studied the subject in primary school.

Students receive 3 - 4 periods of Arabic classes per week (depending on age group). IB MYP Assessment Criteria for Language Acquisition are used. Arabic Language Acquisition is only open to students registered at the school with a non-Arab passport.

3. Language Acquisition French and Spanish:

- All students are required to take 2 periods of French or Spanish each week in Years 7-9, unless an EAL option is taken.
- All students are required to take 2 periods of French 4- 6, unless an EAL option is taken.
- Non-Arabic passport holders may opt to continue with French or Spanish in Years 10 and 11 for 3 periods a week.
- French and Spanish are taught in two phases; Emergent and Capable. Students are placed into levels by the LAD Department after students are observed and assessed.

Other:

- *DELF Examination:* The French teachers prepare the students for the external DELF examination. The DELF examination is organized by the French Ministry of Education. It is the official French proficiency exam.
- *DELE Examination:* We offer all of our Spanish students the opportunity to sit for the Spanish Language proficiency examination sponsored by Instituto Cervantes.

Diploma Programme: Years 12 and 13

All students in Years 12-13 follow the IBDP or CP and those taking DP are thus required to take two languages, (Studies in Language and Literature or Literature and Language Acquisition). IB DP language courses are taught over a minimum of 4 periods per week at all levels.

- Group 1: Studies in English Language and Literature or Literature (HL or SL).
- Group 2 subjects: French B, Arabic A and B, French *Ab initio*, Spanish *Ab initio*. *Note that subjects offered are based on student demand.*
- *Ab Initio courses at the DP level will be for students with "little or no experience of the target language".* No student may enter *ab Initio* courses if there is less than a three-year gap in their language studies.
- Self-taught languages: these can be studied by students wishing to pursue a bi-lingual diploma. The student does not take a Group 2 language but instead has private tuition in his/her mother tongue, usually after school. A Self-taught Language Supervisor is responsible for overseeing any students who opt for a self-taught language.

Arabic at EIS-J

As per Ministry of Education directives, all students who are enrolled at the school with an Arab passport are required by law to study Arabic Language and Literature until the end of Year 13. Fluency in the language is developed in the key areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening over the multi-year, progressive course of study. Arabic Language and Literature courses will also lead to the Ministry of Education examinations and qualifications. All Arabic Language and Literature/Ministry of Education courses will be streamed by ability. All students registered at the school with an Arabic passport are required to follow the Ministry of Education Arabic course of study. Exemptions from the Ministry of Education Arabic can only be gained by parental requests to the KHDA.

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) sets the Arabic programme of study required for all years groups. This includes the topics to be covered, syllabus details and textbooks to use. All students required to study Arabic Language and Literature are expected to meet the MoE standards.
- Results of End-of-Year “Ministry” exams are sent to the MoE. They are expressed as a % rather than on a 1-7 scale.
- Ministry exams are no longer prepared by the MoE. Schools have been instructed to prepare the exams according to the MoE guidelines. Exams are kept in the event of a Ministry inspection.
- For Years 12-13, students additionally take examinations in the IBDP curriculum.
 - Year 13 does the Ministry exam after the IB DP exams are finished.
 - Year 12 does the Ministry exam in-class time before the start of the end-of-year examination period.
- Responsibility for preparation of both exams is overseen by the Head of Arabic.
- Software is provided by Al Dana for the generation of reports for the MoE and data is entered into the system by the MoE liaison officer.