



Academic Language Policy

Emirates International School - Jumeirah

EIS – JUMEIRAH LANGUAGE POLICY

LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHY

All EIS – Jumeirah students are expected to become effective **communicators**, who are able to understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language. The language of instruction for Emirates International School-Jumeirah (EIS-J) is English and it is the aim of the school that all students are able to work successfully in this language. English is the language of communication used in the school and outside the classroom, on documentation with external examination boards and in letters to parents. British conventions are used in school documents and correspondence.

As Arabic is the official language of the UAE, all students study Arabic language from KG 1 through to Year 9 as per the Ministry of Education regulations. Students registered at the school with an Arab passport are required to follow the Ministry of Education Arabic curriculum and are required to pass the Ministry of Education assessments up until the end of Year 12. Legal requirements of the UAE government require some, but not all, documentation to the Ministry of Education to be completed in Arabic. This job is done by a Ministry Liaison Officer. Documentation for immigration and Year residency purposes must often be done in Arabic and is completed by the HR Department.

As an international school, the knowledge of different languages other than English or one's mother tongue is considered imperative and students are required to study at least one language other than English during each year they study at EIS-J. In addition to English and Arabic, French and Spanish are also offered in the High School and French is offered from Year 5 onwards. This implies aiming not only at linguistic competence but also at an understanding of the target culture. Learning about other cultures helps the students to understand the world better but also to develop a strong sense of their own identity and culture. They learn self-confidence and to have an open, critical and creative view which develops the ability to communicate, understand, live and work with people from other countries and cultures.

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 6-10:

Students are all required to study English, Arabic and French or Spanish in Years 6-8 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 Year 9 and 10, Arab passport holders continue to study Arabic as per Ministry directives and non-Arabic passport holders may choose between 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 periods of English language instruction each week.
- A Language Acquisition English 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. Please note that all students are expected to be phased out of Language Acquisition English into a Language and Literature course after a year of support. Language Acquisition English is a support program, not the long-term pathway to English proficiency.
- English competency is a requirement for entry in EIS – Jumeirah. For students entering the school with little English language background, the following courses of action are taken:
 1. Students are entered into the Language acquisition programme until they are able to move to a Language and Literature English course. They are evaluated yearly. Students may also be asked to follow English language development on Linguascope, under the supervision of a qualified staff member.
 2. Parents are requested at the time of acceptance to EIS-J to provide private intensive tuition in English during holidays and outside school hours.
 3. It is the expectation that all EIS – Jumeirah students move into Language and Literature English very quickly as Language Acquisition English 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 per the Ministry of Education guidelines up until the end of Year 9.

- The Arabic language and literature programme is for all students who are registered at the school with an Arab passport. Students are taught classical Arabic according to the Ministry of Education curriculum and requirements.
- Students receive a minimum of 3 periods of instruction per week. In addition, and 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 of learning the Arabic language as well as those who have studied the subject in primary school. Students receive 3 periods of Arabic classes per week. 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 6-8.
- Non-Arabic passport holders may opt to continue with French or Spanish in Years 9 and 10 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:

- DEL F 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 11-12:

All students in Years 11-12 follow the IBDP and are thus required to take two languages, (Studies in Language and Literature or Literature and Language Acquisition). IB DP language courses are taught over 4 periods per week at all levels.

1. Group 1: Studies in English Language and Literature or Literature (HL or SL).
2. Group 2 subjects: French B, Arabic A and B, French *Ab initio*, Arabic *Ab initio*, Spanish *Ab initio*. *Note that subjects offered are based on student demand.*
3. *Ab Initio courses at the DP level will be for students with "little or no experience of the target*

language". No student may enter an *Initio* course if there is less than a three-year gap in their language studies.

4. 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. (See Appendix 3 for job description of Self-taught Language Supervisor.)

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 12. 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 Arab 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.

1. The Ministry of Education (MoE) sets the Arabic programme of study required for all Years. 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.
2. Results of End-of-Year "Ministry" exams are sent to the MoE. They are expressed as a % rather than on a 7-1 scale.
3. 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.
4. For Years 12-13, they also do examinations for the IBDP syllabus.
 - 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.
5. Responsibility for preparation of both exams is overseen by the Head of Arabic. 6. 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.