

BERGEN KATEDRALSKOLE LANGUAGE POLICY

School language philosophy

Bergen katedralskole recognizes that the study of language is the foundation for all learning. Students are encouraged to view language as a tool for learning. Language study, including English, modern languages and native languages, develops international understanding, reinforces cultural identity, enhances personal growth and promotes effective communication. The school views all teachers as essential contributors to the language learning process. All students study at least two foreign languages and the school promotes Latin as a foundation for language learning.

Bergen katedralskole understands that the most conducive environment to language learning is a positive and encouraging one, wherein students have the opportunity to engage in authentic and meaningful learning experiences. Thus, teaching practices include differentiated and varied instruction, which integrates the practice of receptive, productive and interactive skills. The language instruction takes into consideration that students have multiple learning styles and that their learning progression develops individually.

Across the school we believe that immersion in local language and culture is an imperative part of language acquisition and development of international mindedness. To this end we are developing collaboration and exchanges with schools in Europe and China.

School language profile

Norwegian is the language of instruction in the General Study Program and in the integration class for minority-language students recently arrived in Norway. It is also a compulsory subject throughout all three years of the program and in the integration class.

It is important to know that there are two official varieties of written Norwegian: Nynorsk and Bokmål. Both varieties are compulsory for students following the General Study Program. Minority-language students recently arrived in Norway are expected to be familiar with both varieties, but will only be assessed on the variety of their choice. IB DP students following Norwegian A and B can choose which variety they use in writing, but they must be able to read both varieties as exam papers typically include texts written in Bokmål and Nynorsk.

English is a compulsory subject for all students in the first year of the program and in the integration class. There are two different English electives in the second and third year of the program; Engelsk 1 and Engelsk 2. French, German or Spanish are compulsory subjects for the first two years of the general studies program. Elective language options in the two last years of the programs include French, German, Spanish, Latin and a subject called Classical Languages and Culture. Students may also study Chinese or Japanese in online classes, either as a compulsory subject (instead of French, German or Spanish) or as an elective subject.

In the International Baccalaureate programme, English is the language of instruction as well as assessment. Students are required to attain no less than a grade 5 in English from middle school in order to gain admission to the school's IB Diploma Programme. Placement tests in English proficiency are run when necessary.

In group 1 the school offers *English A: Language and Literature* and *Norwegian A: Literature*. In addition, the school encourages students who have a native language other than English or Norwegian to select school supported self-taught language as an option. In group 2 students can select from *Norwegian B* or *Mandarin: Ab initio*. *Norwegian B* is only available to foreign language learners or to Norwegian students that have had the majority of their schooling in another language than Norwegian.

School language practices

Teachers are encouraged to apply a balanced programme of instruction including listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presenting. They give regular constructive and specific formative and summative feedback. Students are given the opportunity to reflect on their learning and apply techniques coached by teachers. The teachers are encouraged to teach a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, respond to and appreciate texts and media messages. All students have access to, and are taught through, a variety of technological and ICT resources and are encouraged to share and develop their work in a social context.

Students at Bergen katedralskole are not required to use a specific referencing tool, but are encouraged and taught to use one. They are also strongly advised to use either APA or Chicago referencing style. For submitted work, the preferred font is Times New Roman in size 12. Submitted work should be double-spaced.

First languages in the community

Within the student body at IBDP, about half of the students speak a different mother tongue than Norwegian. In the school as a whole, there are many different mother-tongue languages in addition to Norwegian that represent languages from across the world, with Arabic and English being the most widely spoken.

All students at Bergen katedralskole are encouraged to maintain and value their own first language and to value the native language of others. Students whose first language is not Norwegian may use native language resources and language skills to help facilitate their learning within the classroom, even if the instructional language is English or Norwegian. All students are given access to support services when needed. The Norwegian state library system includes *The Multilingual Library*. This is a resource where schools can borrow sets of collections for 6 months to support first language learning. It includes books, films and language sources in over 70 languages.

Bergen katedralskole offers a special version of the Norwegian general study program that caters to minority-language students. However, those minority-language students that attend the ordinary Norwegian general study program are screened to establish whether they have sufficient competence in Norwegian or qualify for additional teaching. It is possible to apply for extra funding from the local government to support additional teaching. The students in the integrated class take placement tests to place them in appropriate groups. The school aims at supporting and adapting teaching to meet with the students' needs.

It is a requirement of the Norwegian general studies program that students learn a second foreign language in addition to English. However, students are offered the option of taking exams in mother-tongue languages that can replace the second foreign language requirement.

Legal language requirements for IBDP students

In order to be able to study at Norwegian University students must have met one of the following requirements:

- Completed *Norwegian A* at Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL)
- Completed *Norwegian B* at HL (from 2020 then Norwegian B at SL is no longer accepted)
- Completed *Swedish A* or *Danish A* at either SL or HL
- Approved Norwegian language test at higher level (Bergenstesten) both written and oral.

https://www.samordnaopptak.no/info/utenlandsk_utdanning/sprakkrav/krav-til-norsk-og-engelsk-for_hoyere_utdannning/index.html

General guidance for transfer students

The *English A: Language and Literature* programme at Bergen katedralskole looks roughly as follows:

Area of Exploration #1: Readers, writers, texts

Book 1, body of work 1, language project 1

Book 2, body of work 2, language project 2 >> Just for HL students

Area of Exploration #2: Time and Space

Book 3, body of work 3, language project 3

Book 4, body of work 4, language project 4

Area of Exploration #3: Intertextuality

Book 5, body of work 5, language project 5 >> Just for HL students

Book 6, body of work 6, language project 6

Please, contact the school for the exact overview of works and projects that are being studied for the current academic year.

 End of year one

Students transferring from another school to Bergen katedralskole for the final year of the IBDP have the following alternatives for *English A*:

Alternative 1: *English A: Literature* Standard Level (SL) self-taught

- Follow *English A: Literature* SL classes at current school.
- Follow *English A: Language and Literature* SL classes at Bergen katedralskole in the final year of IB.
- Bergen katedralskole will provide necessary guidance for self-taught students.

Requirements

Students provide Bergen katedralskole with a list of works read.

Alternative 2: *English A: Language and Literature* Higher Level (SL or HL)

The first part of the *English A: Language and Literature* course should be studied independently at the student's current school. NB: Following the *English A: Literature* HL course will not be very beneficial, because the students will have to read the same literary works as their classmates at Bergen katedralskole. This is an IB requirement.

- For SL students: While in the current school the student **must** study: two works of literature, two non-literary bodies of work¹ and two language projects. Please, contact the school for the exact overview of works and projects that need to be studied for the current academic year.
- For HL students: While in the current school the student **must** study: three works of literature, three non-literary bodies of work and three language projects. Please, contact the school for the exact overview of works and projects that need to be studied for the current academic year.
- Both SL and HL students need to have made a good start on their language portfolios. The portfolio should reflect what they have done and studied in connection to the Language and Literature course so far. It can be a paper and/or a digital portfolio.
- Both SL and HL students should be familiar with the assessments for English A: Language and Literature. Please read chapters 5, 6 (7 > HL) and 8 of the *English A* book by Brad Philpot² that we work with or read the Language A subject guide.
- HL students must have a good draft of an HL essay before they start the final year at Bergen katedralskole.
- A transfer student will follow normal classes at Bergen katedralskole for the second half of the *English A: Language and Literature* course. During their final DP year at Bergen katedralskole, SL students will study another two works of literature, another two non-literary bodies of work and do another two language projects. HL students will study another three works of literature, another three non-literary bodies of work and do another three language projects.

¹ According to page 22 of the *Language A: Language and Literature* subject guide the definition of a body of work is "[An] extended, full-length non-literary text or a group of shorter non-literary texts that are of one same text type and that share the same authorship[.]"

² Philpot, Brad. *English A: Language and Literature for the IB Diploma*, Cambridge UP, 2019.
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