

# SCHOOL PROFILE

SCHOOL YEAR 2025/26



GERMAN  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
WASHINGTON D.C.



I N D E P E N D E N T . B I L I N G U A L . W E L T O F F E N .

The German International School Washington D.C., founded in 1961, is a private, co-educational institution with 560 students in preschool through 12th grade, set on a quiet campus in Potomac, MD. Representing more than 30 different nationalities, our student body is truly international, united by a shared interest in German language and culture. The only full-time German day school in Washington, we offer rigorous academics in a warm, multicultural setting. The school has a rigorous German curriculum mixed with some American elements. Graduates receive the globally recognized German International Abitur (DIA) as well as a high-school diploma from the state of Maryland. There are two academic focus areas: world languages and science. Students gain fluency in at least two languages and achieve mastery of biology, chemistry, and physics. Our teachers prize critical inquiry, teaching students how—not what—to think. On graduation, they are prepared to enter any university worldwide.



The German International School is accredited by the German Ministry of Education and approved by the Maryland Department of Education. Our German curriculum is based on that used in the state of Thuringia, known for its high academic standards.

More information about the German International Abitur can be found at [www.germanapproach.org](http://www.germanapproach.org).

# SCHOOL PROFILE



## Student Population

The school serves over 500 students from 30 countries speaking a total of 25 languages. An increasing number of students start in the early childhood program with no German language skills. Small class sizes with 1-2 teachers. Graduating classes range from 25-35 students.



## STEM School

The GISW has been recognized for its outstanding offerings and achievements in STEM subjects and is an accredited member of the German network of excellent MINT-EC schools. This provides exciting opportunities for our students interested in the STEM field.



## Campus

The school is set in a quiet neighborhood located 20 minutes outside of Washington, DC. The facilities include a Gold LEED-certified Science building, a heated indoor pool, three libraries, three indoor gyms, two soccer fields, outdoor tennis court, cafeteria, and ample outdoor recreation areas. Bus service transports students ages four and above from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia.



## Testing & Assessment

There are very few standardized tests/multiple choice tests in the German system. The focus of assessments is essay, analysis and interpretation. SAT combined score average: 1343. ACT composite score average: 28. Students do not take the TOEFL as long as their score on the Critical Reading section of the SAT Reasoning Test is above 600.



## Faculty

Close to 80 teachers across all divisions. 12 of the teachers are assigned from Germany for a period of up to 6 years. Most teachers have advanced degrees and are German native speakers. The main instructional language is German.



## Diplomas

**High School Diploma. Graduation requirements:** English - 4, Math - 4, Science - 3.5, Social Science - 3.5, World Language - 5, Fine Arts - 1, Physical Education - 1, Health - 1  
TOTAL- 23.5 high school credits  
**German International Abitur:** Qualifies for entry in German and European universities. American institutions typically grant advance standing or extra credit for the Abitur. German courses in grades 9-12 are all taught at an advanced level.



## Activities & Athletics

After school activities offer students the chance to participate in a wide variety of clubs, programs, and teams such as Model UN, debate team, and high-level STEM courses. Upper School students participate in competitive teams in the following sports: Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Swimming, and Volleyball.



## Curriculum

The following subjects of the advanced German curriculum in Grade 11 and 12 have been approved by the College Board as AP Courses: **Biology, Calculus AB, Chemistry, English, French, German, Physics 1, Spanish and Statistics.**

## University Acceptances of Recent Grads

Each year, approximately 80% of our students attend university in Germany; 20% study elsewhere.

### GERMANY

- GISW graduates meet the criteria to study at German universities

### CANADA

- McGill University\*
- Trinity Western University

### EUROPE

- Erasmus University, Netherlands
- IE University, Spain
- SciencePo/Columbia University
- St. Andrews, Scotland
- Trinity College, Ireland
- University College London, UK
- University of Edinburgh, UK
- Utrecht University, Netherlands

### UNITED STATES

- American University\*
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Catholic University of America
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Emory University\*
- George Mason University\*
- Georgetown University\*
- Harvard University
- James Madison University\*
- New York University\*
- Oberlin College
- Occidental College
- Parsons School of Design
- Purdue University
- St. John's College
- St. Louis University
- Temple University
- Tulane University
- University of California: L.A.
- University of Southern California\*
- University of Maryland\*
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute

\*Indicates multiple students