



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Languages Policy

(V4.0 2021-08)

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1. Introduction

Brisbane Grammar School (**BGS** or the **School**) maintains a long-standing commitment to engaging its students in the learning of languages. Experience and confidence in understanding and learning about other cultures through language prepares young men to live and work effectively in a contemporary global community.

It is BGS policy that all boys study a language to the end of Year 8.

- In Years 5 and 6 the language course undertaken by all students is Spanish; and
- In Year 7 all students commence the study of a modern language: one of Chinese, French, German or Japanese.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Assessment Policy.

2. Languages: Exemptions

On the provision of evidence via appropriate documentation that supports an adjustment to the student's total academic load, the Deputy Headmaster Teaching and Learning will consider the case for exemption from mandatory study of a language.

3. Languages: Principles and Pathways

The continuing study of languages remains strong at BGS, with large numbers of boys electing to extend their mastery of a language through to the completion of their senior studies. The study of a language can also be advantageous in assisting student entry to some universities and the School's languages policy aligns closely with those of major tertiary institutions.

The School's position is that students benefit from undertaking language courses that are educationally appropriate and rewarding for them and where they can maximise improvement in linguistic proficiency.

For those students who demonstrate a particular talent and interest in the study of languages, there may be available the option of the extended study of the classical language Latin. To undertake the study of Latin in Year 8, students complete an application process that will include evaluation of their academic performance.

Consideration for entry to Latin involves evaluating:

- The student's proficiency in their modern language
- The student's proficiency in English, particularly as demonstrated in extended writing and the analysis of literary texts
- The student is required to meet a set standard of achievement in both English and their modern language

Students who enter Latin in Year 8 have the opportunity to continue their study of the language through to Year 12. BGS delivers the NSW HSC Latin Continues course in Senior, as an approved QCAA syllabus option that is eligible for QCE-ATAR credit.



4. Languages: Applications of Standards

The introductory language courses offered at Year 7 are designed for students with no, or limited, experience prior to entry, BGS maintains a policy of not permitting a student to undertake a language course if, in the view of the School, the student has an existing familiarity with the language as defined below. A student's parents must inform the School if a student has significant prior experience with a language. A student will not be assigned to a language where he has significant prior experience with that language, in or across one or more skill areas (listening, speaking, reading or writing), and is adjudged to be at a point significantly beyond beginner's level. Students with developed levels of experience in a language have, on occasion, enrolled in that language. In these cases, the School will reassign such students to another language once this significant prior experience becomes evident.

The School's Languages Policy also applies to students who seek to enrol in or change to a language subject at a point beyond entry level. A change in the language studied by a student after commencement is not usual school practice but might occur, for example, at Year 11 level for entry to a Senior language course. Students seeking to enter a language subject at a year level later than Year 7 will need to sit a proficiency test set and conducted by the Languages Department. The results of the proficiency test will inform the decision of the Deputy Headmaster Teaching and Learning as to the student's eligibility for entry to the language. The proficiency test will be used to ascertain that a student meets the minimum equivalent proficiency standards for entry and that he does not demonstrate a level of significant prior experience equal to or beyond that of the course's intended levels of language mastery. These levels of mastery are aligned to QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) general syllabus standards for modern languages.

Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the Head of Languages if they have any questions or require their son's language proficiency level to be determined prior to entry.

Please note that "significant prior experience" would not normally be attained by a student via the language learning activities typically undertaken in Queensland primary schools.

5. Related Documents

- Assessment Policy

6. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact:

- Deputy Headmaster Teaching and Learning on teaching.learning@brisbanegrammar.com 07 3834 5200.
- Head of Languages on teaching.learning@brisbanegrammar.com 07 3834 5200.
- Director of Assessment and Reporting on assessment.reporting@brisbanegrammar.com on 07 3834 5200.
- Head of Middle School on middle.school@brisbanegrammar.com 07 3834 5200.



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7. Policy Management

The School may, from time to time, review and update this document to take account of new laws and technology, changes to the School's operations and practices and to make sure it remains appropriate to the changing school environment.

Document Title	Languages Policy
Author	Deputy Headmaster Teaching and Learning
Version	V4.0 2021-08
Date	10 Aug 2021

Document Control

Version	Description	Date
V1.0	New Policy, DHM – Teaching and Learning	1 Jan 2009
V1.1	Revised, DHM – Teaching and Learning	8 Feb 2010
V1.2	Revised, DHM – Teaching and Learning	4 Apr 2011
V2.1	Revised, DHM – Teaching and Learning	24 Aug 2014
V2.2	Revised, DHM – Teaching and Learning	16 May 2016
V3.0	Standardize format, L Dunstan	16 May 2019
V3.1	Revised/Approved, DHM – Teaching and Learning	24 June 2019
V3.2	Revised, DHM Teaching and Learning, Steve Uscinski	30 July 2021
V3.3	Reviewed, Head of Middle School, Rebecca Campbell	10 Aug 2021
V4.0	Approved, DHM Teaching and Learning, Steve Uscinski	10 Aug 2021

Distribution

Version	Recipient	Date
V3.1	BGS (MyGrammar) / Staff Announcement / Website	15 July 2019
V4.0	BGS (MyGrammar) / Staff Announcement / Website	16 Aug 2021