LANGUAGE POLICY

The IB Programme at Joensuun Lyseon Lukio promotes all aspects of language learning, as language is the basis of thinking and learning. IB candidates realize that curiosity in the study of languages is vital to accessing other cultures and to becoming internationally minded. Language teaching aims at fostering life-long learners who are capable of clear oral and written expression to diverse audiences. The goal is to raise effective communicators who can express themselves and collaborate creatively and competently in more than one language.

The study of languages is fundamental to all subjects, so all teachers are language teachers. Students can be language teachers in peer learning when considering their different linguistic backgrounds. It is important to note that the house rule of the school requires students to use English when communicating, in particular during lessons. This assures a more level playing field for students where no one is left out due to a lack of skills in a certain language.

The IB Programme values the study of the mother tongue to the same extent as the study of English and other modern languages. For the majority of Lyseo students, this language is Finnish. However, every year there are students who study their mother tongues as self-taught candidates. All the material provided by the IB to self-taught candidates is provided to the students. The parents or guardians of self-taught candidates are informed of the self-taught process via a letter from the DP Coordinator. In the letter, the responsibilities of the student, parents, supervisor provided by the school, personal tutor, and the school are clearly laid down. The personal tutor must consent to taking care of the supervision of the language in question. The self-taught candidates must regularly meet with the supervising teacher for developmental discussions and evidence of progress in writing.

Civil servants need to pass a language proficiency test in Swedish, the second national language. Students who are not able to include Swedish in their Diploma Programme often study the language in the national programme during the preparatory or Pre-DP year and take the national Finnish matriculation examination at the beginning of the Diploma Programme.

Languages offered

Group 1, Languages A: Finnish A Literature, English A Language and Literature, School-supported self-taught Literature A

Group 2, language acquisition: Swedish B, Finnish B, German B