

## International Fellowship Classes (IFC) - General Information -

### 1.) Information about our school - “Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium” in Marbach

With more than 2,500 students, our school is one of the largest schools in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg. This is one of the reasons why we are able to offer a wide range of subjects and activities to our students, including the project “International Fellowship Class”. Every year we aim at inviting about 16 international students to come to our school, who will learn with about 32 German students in two International Classes.

#### Where is Marbach?

Germany consists of 16 federal states. Our town is situated in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, i.e. in Southern Germany, and it lies within the conurbation of the city of Stuttgart, which is the capital of Baden-Württemberg. Stuttgart Airport, national motorways and major railway lines are easily accessible. Marbach, which has about 15,000 inhabitants, is a well-known destination for tourists within our region.

#### Who attends our school?

At the age of six, children in Germany start attending primary schools and after four years they continue their education, according to their abilities, at different kinds of secondary schools. Attending a “Gymnasium” requires the recommendation of primary school teachers and allows students, after 8 or 9 years, to achieve the qualification of studying at a university. In Germany we call this qualification “Abitur”.

### 2.) What is our *International Fellowship Class*?

#### Aims

Our International Fellowship Classes are two classes for students in our **year 10 / year 11**, i.e. for students who have been at our school for 5 years and are between 15 and 17 years old. In each class there are about 26 students, with up to eight students coming from abroad. In general, all lessons in the IFC are given in English. The main ideas of this project are to promote cultural exchange between young people from different countries of

the world, to give international students both the opportunity to get to know our way of living and learning and to contribute with their ideas to the development of our students and our school. To achieve these aims it is compulsory for international students to attend the full school year, beginning in September and finishing at the end of July. Exceptions can only be made for the last four weeks of the school year if there is a clearly defined reason for an early return.

International students are given the chance to learn German as a Foreign Language for 8 lessons a week in a small group of students. We explicitly want to encourage students who have not yet begun to learn German to apply. Furthermore, we offer the possibility to study for one year in a mainly English-speaking environment. This requires that students joining the International Classes must have an advanced command of the English language. German students entering year 10 have studied English for 5 years at an average of 4 lessons a week.

Our homepage [www.ifc-marbach.de](http://www.ifc-marbach.de), which has been designed by students of our classes, gives further impressions of our school and the International Classes. For questions concerning this project you are welcome to contact the project coordinators **Ms Natalia Sipos, Mr Roman Büttner and Mr Theodoros Petritzikis** by email: [IFC@fsg-marbach.de](mailto:IFC@fsg-marbach.de). You can also visit our school's website at: [www.fsg-marbach.de](http://www.fsg-marbach.de) in order to get an impression of the school you might be attending for one year.

### **Costs**

The fee for one year in the International Classes is € 950. This amount includes a symbolic contribution to the costs for accommodation and food, which are covered by a German host family. Our host families agree to integrate their guest into their family lives. The fee also contributes to the costs for health, liability and accident insurances, and a public transportation ticket for our region. These insurances as well as the public transportation ticket are provided by our school. Textbooks for all subjects are provided by the school, too. In case of a successful application this fee has to be paid before the beginning of the school year, i.e. by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Banking information will be included in the letter of invitation.

The journey to Germany and back to the respective home country is organised and paid for individually by each international student. International students need pocket money to pay for free-time activities, to buy school materials, etc. We consider an amount of about € 75 per month as being sufficient.

### 3.) Lessons in the *International Fellowship Classes*

The school year for the International Classes starts in the second week of September and ends, in general, at the end of July. The exact dates of the respective school year will be given in the letter of invitation. We expect our international students to stay at our school for the whole school year. Exceptions can only be made within the last four weeks of the school year if it is necessary for a student to return earlier in order to continue his or her education in the respective home country.

German students of the IFC attend, from Monday to Friday, 36 compulsory lessons a week. Foreign students have 34 compulsory lessons and must attend at least one extra-curricular activity that is offered by our school.

<b>All IFC students</b>	<b>International students</b>	<b>German students</b>
Mathematics (4 lessons a week)	German as a Foreign Language (9)	While the international students study German as a Foreign Language, German students have lessons in German (4), in their second foreign language (3), or in Science and their third foreign language respectively (4).
English (4)		
History (2)		
Geography (1)		
Politics (2)		
Religious Education (2)		
Physics (2)		
Chemistry (2)		
Biology (2)		
Music (1)		
Arts (1)		
Physical Education (2)		

#### 4.) Syllabus of the *International Fellowship Class*

##### **Mathematics**

Revision on functions, e.g. trigonometric functions; counting methods and binomial distribution; continuity and differentiability of functions, differentiation formulae; introduction to vectors; exponential and limited growth

##### **Physics**

Linear motion (uniform and accelerated motion), dynamics (forces, Newton's law of motion, momentum and momentum conservation), circular motion, mechanical energy, projections (horizontal and vertical projection)

##### **Chemistry**

Introduction to Organic Chemistry (alkanes, alkenes, alkanols, alkanals, alkanolic acids, esters)

##### **Biology**

Photosynthesis, respiration, fermentation, abiotic factors in ecosystems (plants and water, animals and temperature, organisms and light) biotic factors (population dynamics, reproductive strategies, predator-prey relationships, parasitism, competition and ecological niches etc.), energy and matter in ecosystems (food chains, carbon and nitrogen cycle etc.), humans and their environment (eutrophication of lakes and rivers, sewage treatment, air pollution etc.)

##### **English**

Short stories, a contemporary novel, film analysis, essay writing, students are expected to be able to understand and to contribute to discussions, important grammatical features are only revised

##### **Geography**

Plate tectonics: structure of the earth, theory of continental drift, plate boundaries, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, Wilson cycle

Climate: the atmosphere, the global wind and pressure belts, global warming, ENSO

## **Social Studies**

The welfare state; The European Union: past, present, future; Economic history / basics of modern economy; Democracy / limited government - the German example; various contemporary topics (e.g. migration, terrorism etc.)

## **History**

Overall topic: "European Unity and European Diversity"

What makes us European / a European identity?

History of Europe from Ancient Greece to the eve of the French Revolution. Categories to explore: mythology, religion, art, law, science, technology and economy and their impact on the EUROPEAN IDENTITY

## **German as a Foreign Language**

Depending on the student's level; the students are tested and take part either in a beginner's course or in an advanced course. The full term covers about 250 lessons.

## **Religious Education**

Introduction to ethics, philosophical and religious ethics

introduction to the Bible: the historic-critical method; searching for the meaning of life; human rights; inter-religious dialogue

introduction to Buddhism: the life of Siddharta Gautama; Pillars of Buddhist belief and faith practice; comparison of Buddhism and i.e. Christianity

## **Music**

Theory of music: chords and scales

History of music: Programmatic music in the Romantic era; Modest Mussorgsky, a Russian composer

projects: world of music – music of the world

practical lessons: rhythm and chants

## **Arts**

Introduction to film making, social art practise, drawing techniques, product design

### **5.) Who can join the *International Fellowship Class*?**

International students who

1. ...will turn 16 before the beginning of the IFC year. (For exceptions, please contact us directly.)
2. ...have studied English at least for five years and have achieved good results in this subject.
3. ...have an interest in Germany and in learning the German language.
4. ...are willing to respect the guidelines of this programme as outlined in this paper.
5. ...feel that they want to integrate into the family life of their hosts.

### **6.) Our expectations of international students' behaviour in their host families**

Our international students are guests of their host families during the time of their stay in Germany and we expect them to behave accordingly, i.e.

- They respect the daily routines of their host families and arrange private activities according to these routines.
- They ask for permission if they want to go out, especially in the evenings.
- They assist in the household if asked, e.g. tidy up their room, clear the table etc.
- They don't regard their home as a hotel and don't expect to be served, but accept that living in a family includes rights and duties.
- These guidelines apply to any student.

### **7.) Our expectations of international students' behaviour at school**

- Students are expected to take part actively in lessons after a short warm-up period (mere presence in class is not sufficient), since oral performance is graded.
- Students must complete all assignments and homework punctually and orderly.
- They have to take all tests in all subjects.
- Students have to stay at our school for the whole school year. In special cases an earlier departure is permitted, but no earlier than July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Students are expected to plan their visits (i.e. home, other cities etc) within the holidays of our school.
- At the end of the school year they will receive a written school report with grades for all subjects. A copy of this school report will be sent to the student's parents.
- They have to obey our house rules and follow the instructions of those in charge (e.g. headmaster, teachers, caretaker etc.).

## 8.) APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- All applicants have to fill in our application form **online**. To do so, click on the button "Online Application" on: [www.ifc-marbach.de/en/become-a-student](http://www.ifc-marbach.de/en/become-a-student)
- Every applicant and their parents have to sign and send us the document "Parental and Applicants' Consent".
- Applications must be submitted by March 1<sup>st</sup> the year the IFC school starts.
- By sending an application the applicant agrees to transfer the annual fee of € 950,