

A level German

Why study German?

- You enjoy communicating with others.
- You want to learn more about other cultures, including films, TV and literature.
- You might like to work abroad in the future.
- You wish to increase your employability: language specialists usually get preference over other candidates of identical ability who don't have a language.
- Whatever you decide to do as a career, it is highly likely that you will one day find yourself working for a multinational company or for a firm with connections abroad: in Germany or Austria.
- The demand by companies for executives, management, scientists and sales people to be multilingual is ever increasing. Employers say they want people with skills such as engineering, law, chemistry, etc, who can also speak a foreign language.



Why study German at Solihull Sixth Form College?

You will develop language skills in a wide variety of ways, making full use of our two Multi-Media Language Labs and drawing on a range of sources from course books to Internet and satellite TV. In class you will carry out a lot of pair and group work designed to build up your communicative skills. Our VLE also has a range of interactive exercises including vocabulary learning and listening work. Each week, in addition to mainstream lessons, you will have contact with a native speaker through small group conversation sessions. We 'bridge the gap' from GCSE to A level with considerable study skills support, and by Year 13 students are able, for example, to write confident summaries of off-air news items in lunchtime workshop sessions. We have a well-established link with the Albert-Einstein-Schule in Schwalbach-am-Taunus (Solihull's twin borough). We run an exchange trip with the AES in alternate years. Students can also undertake a work experience placement in Germany via Halsbury Work Experience. This is a post-GCSE course.

Case Study

Among the recent successful students to have taken this course is **Cameron Esien**.



He joined the College from Tudor Grange Academy to study A levels, achieving all A and A* grades in German, Biology, Chemistry and Economics. He is continuing his languages studies at University College London to study Law with German Law.

"I think conversation classes were a really amazing part of the course, as it was a great way to learn authentic German language and culture first hand from a German native. Lessons are always really varied too because there are so many elements to the course, and studying the set book and film were particularly interesting!"
- student Charlotte Hales



Course Outline

There are 3 components:

- **Speaking unit:** 21-23 minute discussion with examiner including 5 minute preparation time.
- **Listening, Reading and Translating:** Comprehension recordings and texts based on authentic material.
- **Writing:** 2 essays in German on a book and a film.

Assessment

No Coursework

Examination (100%)

Examining Board – Eduqas.

Special Entry Requirements

You need to have at least grade 5 in GCSE German and must have done Higher Level. The great majority of entrants have grade 6 or better. These are in addition to our standard A level entry requirements - www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses/entry-requirements.

Prohibited Options

Languages can be combined with any subject at A level. Studying two languages is a particularly good option.

What do our students go on to do?

Students progress to a wide variety of destinations. Typically at least 50% take a degree involving languages, often combining German with another subject such as a second language or Law, English, Business, Tourism, or indeed a wide range of other disciplines. Students going on to employment or training progress into areas such as retail and leisure and tourism.

Cost Implications

Approximately £12 for a good bilingual dictionary. Our exchange trip costs approximately £350 and a work experience placement starts from about £500. You will also need to buy the set text in German (approx. £10).

Complementary Subjects or Enrichment Courses

We run a beginners' language short course in Spanish. In addition, we have a close link with a company in Frankfurt (Continental-Teves): we visit the company for an afternoon during our German exchange. One of our ex-students recently completed a placement at the company during his degree course as part of his year abroad and the company has offered other students of ours the chance to complete a work placement with them.

Examination Results

In the past three years, there has been great success for students on this course, including consistent 100% pass rates. The full breakdown of results is as follows:

Year	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	A-E%
2019	15	4	4	3	3	1	0	0	100.0%
2020	10	2	2	1	5	0	0	0	100.0%
2021	8	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	100.0%

Contact

Address: Solihull Sixth Form College
Widney Manor Road, Solihull
West Midlands B91 3WR

Tel: 0121 704 2581
Email: admissions@solihullsf.ac.uk
Web: www.solihullsf.ac.uk