



The Central Agency for Schools Abroad  
(Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen, Köln)  
and the PASCH programme

**Information on the Central Agency for Schools Abroad**

Within the Federal Office of Administration the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA) works closely with the German Länder (states) and the Foreign Office (expert supervision) to provide assistance and support to

- 117 German schools all over the world, as well as
- another 428 educational institutions and German departments at state-run schools, all of which are supported by the Federal Republic of Germany

These institutions employ approximately 1.900 fully qualified German teachers and expert advisors. During their employment abroad, they receive support in organisational, pedagogical and staff-related matters from the Central Agency for Schools Abroad.

Schools run by private organisations (such as school associations, foundations and religious orders) are an important and indispensable part of German cultural and educational policy abroad.

This policy focuses on

- encountering the culture and society of the host country
- providing schools for German children abroad
- promoting the German language
- and strengthening education and professional life in Germany

In order to achieve these objectives, the Central Agency with its approx. 100 employees advises and supports the German schools abroad and other educational institutions

- in pedagogical and staff-related issues
- in organisational and financial matters
- by recruiting and placing teachers (approx. 1,900 teachers recruited from Germany are currently working in the different educational institutions)
- by providing further education and training for headmasters, teachers and administrators
- by organising meetings and conferences with private schools and representatives of state schools
- by conducting and evaluating language examinations (German Language Certificate (DSD) of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK); German Language Final Exam)
- and by providing financial support to German schools abroad and other educational institutions

All of these measures are aimed at ensuring a high standard of performance and quality development, so that schools abroad can serve as an international showcase for Germany as a good place for education and business.

### **Pupils at supported schools abroad**

- Of a total of 264,000 pupils attending supported schools abroad, 70,000 attend German schools abroad. 194,000 pupils attend German classes at schools in other countries' school systems.
- Of the 70,000 pupils at German schools abroad, 17,000 are German and 53,000 non-German.
- 3,500 pupils sit a German final examination every year, 2,300 of which take the examinations for the general German qualification for university entrance.

- 16,000 pupils pass the German Language Certificate (DSD) of the KMK every year, 11,000 of which pass level II (proof of language competency required for admission to German universities).
- Approx. 700 pupils are taking part in bilingual, dual professional training with recognised diplomas offered at two independent German vocational schools and 13 vocational departments at German schools abroad.

## **The German Language Certificate (DSD) of the KMK**

The Deutsches Sprachdiplom (German Language Certificate) is a joint task of the Federation and the Länder.

The Central Committee for the German Language Certificate deals with all matters regarding the German Language Certificate: conduct, authorisation to conduct and quality assurance as well as any rules and regulations. The office of the Committee is located at the secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs.

The Central Agency for Schools Abroad is responsible for developing the examinations as well as for taking care of the logistics, conducting the examinations on the spot and evaluating them.

The German Language Certificate follows the levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (A2/B1 for level I and B2/C1 for level II).

## **PASCH – “Schools: Partners for the Future” Initiative**

PASCH stands for „Partnerschulinitiative“ (Partner School Initiative), which was initiated by the German government/ Foreign Office. As the definition suggests, the initiative is about school partnerships worldwide.

Partners are schools in many countries round the world which are involved in cultivating and conveying the German language.

The aim was to establish a network of at least 1,000 partner schools spanning the globe and in so doing encourage young people to take an interest in and

have an enthusiasm for modern Germany and its society. Presently (May 2009) it consists already of almost 1.200 schools.

The initiative is coordinated by the Federal Foreign Office and implemented in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA), the Goethe-Institut (Max Mueller Bhavan), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Educational Exchange Service of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (PAD).

The network of German schools abroad and schools which offer the German Language Diploma is being strengthened and expanded. In addition, the working relationship between schools is being enhanced to ensure that German continues to be firmly established as a foreign language in national education systems. We want to build up active and long-term links to Germany and encourage the schools, their teaching staff and pupils to engage in an open exchange of ideas and work together. The initiative will therefore support many schools by offering a diversified programme.

Along with additional educational measures, the initiative will help to ensure qualifications on a sustainable basis for both pupils and teachers. The initiative will therefore expand the capabilities of young people to study in Germany and in their subsequent professional careers. For alumni of German schools abroad and partner schools, the number of full scholarships to study in Germany will be doubled. The International Award Winners Programme will enable even more foreign students to spend several weeks in Germany to experience the country for themselves in person.

### **The Central Agency for Schools Abroad and PASCH in India**

So far thirteen schools all over India have shown interest to work as partners together with the ZfA in the PASCH programme. These have been acknowledged officially by the German Foreign Ministry as partners in the initiative. The ZfA has placed qualified German teachers (for German as a Foreign Language) at these schools or will do so as soon as possible. They are provided with additional allowances by the ZfA.

These teachers will be employed by the respective schools, paid the usual local salary, and are obliged to teach full time German as a Foreign Language (usually up to 24 lessons of 45 minutes per week). The school is asked to help them in finding some appropriate accommodation.

The schools' efforts in their teaching German will be supported by an expert advisor from the ZfA. The expert advisor – in a mutual understanding of partnership –

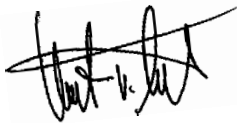
- is a representative of the ZfA in India
- provides advice concerning German as a foreign language – especially in all matters concerning the development of the diploma programme
- coordinates the assignment of the German teachers
- provides the necessary teaching material
- conducts teacher training seminars for the German and the Indian teachers of German
- is going to head the language diploma examinations as the responsible chief examiner
- ...

In a spirit of cooperation the schools are asked to provide all necessary support for the development of the diploma programme. This applies especially to the efforts to make German as a Foreign Language attractive to students and parents with the aim of increasing the number of students choosing German. The school should strive to increase the number of lessons per week for German to smooth the way to successful examinations.

The German teachers are trained in modern teaching methods especially for the teaching of languages. The schools are requested to maintain such methods. In addition the German teachers and the expert advisor are asked to assist the local teachers in their efforts to teach German. This includes team teaching, mutual visits of lessons and – especially from the expert advisor – various seminars from one to five days. The schools are requested to make this possible. Furthermore Indian teachers of German might receive a scholarship for further training in Germany (between two and four weeks, in rare exceptions longer). The schools should assist such teachers as not only the single teacher but the school as such are going to gain from these programmes.

One of the most promising means to motivate children to learn a foreign language is to find partners (single children, a class or even a school) in the country of the target language. Building such partnerships in Germany is in the centre of the PASCH initiative. The partner schools in India are requested to place emphasis on establishing such partnerships.

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