

Languages Policy

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 9.

- In Years 5 and 6 the language course undertaken by all students is Spanish; and
- In Year 7 boys commence the study of one of Chinese, French, German or Japanese, in addition to the introductory Latin course undertaken by all students.

The continuing study of languages remains strong at BGS compared to other schools, 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.

For those boys who demonstrate a particular talent and interest in the study of languages, there may be available the option of the extended study of Latin. To undertake the study of Latin in Year 9, students complete an application process which will include evaluation of academic performance in the study of languages as the key determining criterion and achievement in English. The School's position is that students benefit from undertaking language courses that are educationally appropriate and rewarding for them and where they can maximize improvement in linguistic proficiency. Entry to a BGS language course is at the sole discretion of the Deputy Headmaster – Teaching and Learning.

As our language courses 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. 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 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 enroll 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 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.

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 primary school language activities typically undertaken prior to commencement at BGS.

Policy Management		Dean of Administration	
Document management		Deputy Headmaster – Teaching & Learning	
Approved by			
Date Approved	Version 1.0		01/01/2009
Updated	Version 1.1		08/02/2010
Updated	Version 1.2		04/04/2011
Revised	Version 2.1		24/08/2014
Revised	Version 2.2		16/05/2016