

GERMAN IS FOR YOU - AUSTRALIA!

Why German should play an essential role within the new Australian National Curriculum:

1. GERMANY – A LEADER OF INNOVATION AT THE HEART OF EUROPE

- Germany is Europe's most populous country with more than 82 million inhabitants
- Germany is Europe's economic and cultural powerhouse
- Germany holds a strong position as the world's number two exporter of goods and services
- Germany is a world leader in sustainable technologies and renewable energy
- Germany- due to its central location - provides incomparable access to Europe's rich cultural heritage

Access to Germany and the German language provides the best possible foundation for informed Europe literacy and economic renewal.

2. GERMANY – A WEALTH OF INTELLECTUAL AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 110 million speakers in Europe consider German their mother tongue – more than any other language in Europe
- German is the number three language on the internet after English and Chinese
- German is widely regarded as an essential component for those who want to access the world of many academic disciplines, such as philosophy, theology, archaeology, music – and engineering

Knowledge of German distinguishes students both intellectually and in their future professional choices. It opens doors to the largest market in the expanding EU.

3. GERMANY AND AUSTRALIA – A BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP

- Germans have played an integral in Australia's nation building and continue doing so today
- Germany is Australia's second largest EU trading partner
- Australian exports to Germany stand at approx AUD 3.5 billion AUD, imports from Germany account for approx AUD 11billion (2009). This is more than any ASEAN country imports from Germany
- More than 400 German companies create over 100.000 Australian jobs
- 160.000 German visitors p.a. from contribute to the Australian tourism industry

German has been an integral part of the lives and professions of many Australians and continues to do so today – on professional, economic, cultural and individual levels.

4. GERMAN IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS – INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE

- German is studied by approx 120.000 secondary school students at any given time
- German enjoys one of the highest retention rates among the foreign languages
- A support network of 20 German resource centres, German collections at state libraries, partner schools, language advisors, state and national conferences, language and cultural study grants is well established
- German can be experienced through a multitude of competitions, exchanges, scholarships, community engagement, study tours, school projects and festivals
- Teacher training is conducted continuously, inclusively and with best practice in mind, both in Australia and Germany
- German language teaching is inclusive, catering for government, independent and catholic schools in rural and metropolitan Australia

The German language is taught on a highly professional level and supported by a highly professional environment. This forms the perfect foundation for the advancement of the subject as part of the National Curriculum.

5. GERMAN IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

- Knowledge of German provides students free access to University education in Germany
- Knowledge of German is the basis for a multitude of grants and fellowships for undergraduate, postgraduate and research program at German speaking universities
- Partnership programs between almost all Australian universities and counterparts in Germany are well established
- More than 1500 Australians have received funding by the DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) and more than 500 Australian Fellows of the Humboldt-Foundation share the experience of research in Germany.

A knowledge of German accesses a wealth of opportunities to study and research in one of the world's leading academic environments. The pathway from secondary school to postgraduate studies is well established.

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