

DANISH LANGUAGE LEARNING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

As a part of the Middle Years Programme (MYP) at ISB, Danish is taught in two ways:

- **Danish Language & Literature** (primary for students who have Danish as a home or family language), and
- **Danish Acquisition**
(for students who are learning Danish as an additional language).

Danish Language & Literature classes are for students who have a near-native level of fluency in Danish, and as such is concentrated less on learning the actual language and more on the interplay between learning through language and learning about language and literature.

Danish Acquisition focuses on learning to communicate in Danish in written and spoken form. The MYP requires the acquisition of an additional language from the age of 7 to support the development of international-mindedness. Our aim is that they develop a respect for, and understanding of, the Danish language and culture, and likewise, that they develop a skills base to facilitate further language learning.

Determining courses

While it is rare that a student would move from one Danish language class to the other (e.g. from Danish Acquisition to Danish Language & Literature or vice versa), it can occur. To determine the right placement for a student in all Danish courses, the teachers' professional judgement along with observations and evaluations are taken into consideration.

Given the two Danish subjects have quite specific and different objectives, they are not two 'levels', but instead two individual courses. In determining class placement, special consideration will be given in cases where:

- Students who do not primarily speak Danish at home but demonstrate advanced proficiency in both spoken and written Danish in addition to a strong commitment to learning and using Danish outside of school. In these cases, parent support is paramount, as, without the authentic, everyday use of Danish, it is unlikely that the student's level of proficiency will naturally evolve to the level that is required in Danish Language and Literature classes.

Danish Language and Literature learning goals are based on the Dansk Fælles Mål – *Læsning, Fremstilling, Fortolkning and Kommunikation* (see table below). These also align with the four IB Language and Literature Objectives – *Analysing, Organising, Producing text and Using language*, though not entirely organized the same way.

| Læsning (Reading) | Fremstilling (Writing) | Fortolkning (Interpretation) | Kommunikation (Communication) |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Finde tekst (finding text) | Håndskrift og layout (handwriting and grammar) | Oplevelse og indlevelse (comprehension) | Dialog (dialogue) |
| Forberedelse (pre-reading) | Forberedelse (pre-writing) | Undersøgelse (investigation) | It og kommunikation (IT and communication) |
| Afkodning (decoding) | Fremstilling (conveying meaning through writing) | Fortolkning (interpretation) | Sprog og kultur (language and culture) |
| Sprogforståelse (word awareness) | Respons (responding) | Vurdering (text analysis) | Sproglig bevidsthed (linguistic awareness) |
| Tekstforståelse (comprehension) | Korrektur (proofreading) | Perspektivering (developing perspectives) | |
| Sammenhæng (text connections) | Præsentation og evaluering (presenting and responding) | | |

Danish Acquisition follows the Language Acquisition Subject Guide and uses the four IB Language Acquisition Objectives - *Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing*.

The curriculum content in our subject guides can be found on our website.

Danish exams

Danish Certification at ISB

At ISB, all students in M5 (Grade 9) participate in an internal Danish exam. Students enrolled in Danish Language and Literature courses take an exam partly aligned with the Danish FP9 (Folkeskolens afgangsprøve i Dansk), while those in the Danish Language Acquisition courses take an exam aligned with the IB Language Acquisition exam framework.

All students receive a certificate detailing their results and the exam and course conditions.

For students seeking admission to the Danish upper secondary education system (STX, HTX, EUX, EUD, etc.), regardless of whether they studied Danish Language and Literature or Danish Acquisition, an entrance test is typically required - this because we are an IB school.

For students continuing their education in the IB Diploma Program, both Danish Language and Literature and Danish Acquisition courses offer the opportunity to further study Danish at their respective levels. Notably, students aiming for direct admission to Danish colleges or universities must complete either Danish A (Language and Literature) or Danish B (Danish Acquisition) at the Higher Level (HL) in the DP.

Regarding residency requirements, the Danish certificates earned at ISB, from both Danish Language and Literature and Danish Language Acquisition courses, fulfil the criteria for students who have studied Danish at a middle school level.