

Case Study

Frankfurt International School | Grade 6–12 | Modern Foreign Languages

Expanding Global Language Competencies of Learners

Challenge

Frankfurt International School (FIS) sought a language-learning solution that would provide students language study beyond the current classroom offerings. Continuous requests from students and parents to offer further languages, together with the school's mission to ensure a dynamic 21st-century, dynamic inquiry-driven education of the highest standard, created the demand for an intelligent and comprehensive language-learning solution. FIS needed a flexible and scalable solution that would allow students, parents, and staff to study language with an anytime, anywhere structure. They wanted a language programme that could support students with credit study, International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma efforts, career preparation, and summer programmes supporting English as a second language (ESL) study. In addition, FIS sought a solution that could support language study by parents as well as professional development for faculty and staff.

Implementation

Utilising the Rosetta Stone Classroom online solution, FIS has activated 2,400 licences for students and 170 licences for parents. The school has implemented the Rosetta Stone solution in a variety of ways through independent study. Students can earn language credit in Grades 9–12 based on a mapping of credit hours to Rosetta Stone progress created by the language faculty. Beginning in Grade 6, the Rosetta Stone solution is used towards meeting the credit requirements for creativity in the IB programme. Some students study with the solution to improve language skills to help them with their future career paths. FIS also offers licences during their summer programme to local children to strengthen English language skills. The faculty has access to study language with the Rosetta Stone solution for professional development, and also uses Rosetta Stone in the language classroom to enhance skills of learners. In addition, FIS has provided access to the Rosetta Stone solution to parents, and over 170 parents are actively learning languages. Learner progress was monitored by Rosetta Stone Manager, the administrative tool, to ensure effective usage of the programme.

Benefits

The following benefits were realised since implementation in 2010:

- Increased ability to meet credit requirements of International Baccalaureate (IB) CAS programme
- Students can earn up to 8 credits of foreign language study which can significantly enhance academic records and career preparation
- For beginning learners, 76.5% of Grade 6–7 and 84.2% of Grade 9–10 learners scored greater than the department expectation of Novice High on the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview.



FIS Frankfurt International School

At a Glance:

Frankfurt International School's mission is to be the leading, culturally diverse, and family-oriented international school with English as the principal language of instruction.

FIS inspires individuals to develop their intellect, creativity, and character to become independent, adaptable, socially responsible, and internationally minded citizens, by ensuring a dynamic, inquiry-driven education of the highest standard.

"Rosetta Stone enables shy students to learn with confidence. Equipped with headset and microphone, they benefit individually from speech recognition, they get feedback and quickly build confidence in their new language."

— Ian Gulliford

**Language Coordinator,
Frankfurt International School**

Offering academic credit

Frankfurt International School implemented Rosetta Stone through independent study to help learners achieve academic credit. Students in Grades 6–12 could use Rosetta Stone to meet credit requirements for the International Baccalaureate (IB) CAS programme. The IB programme requires activities related to creativity and the Rosetta Stone solution satisfies this requirement. Students are also provided the opportunity to earn credit for study. A committee of faculty at FIS mapped Rosetta Stone progress to high school language requirements to determine how many credits to award. Students can earn up to eight credits for five levels of study in a given language. Both of these programmes have significantly enhanced the academic records of students. As Ian Gulliford, Language Coordinator, stated, "Anything you can do to promote languages among young people is valuable. You cannot be productive nowadays without language skills."

Growing through technology

Rosetta Stone was implemented to grow language-study choices beyond the 12 languages available for classroom instruction at the school. It also is a great introductory tool for new students to learn German. The programme allows more active participation in language learning, and it has students employ their IT skills at the same time. Due to limited room for expanding the school curriculum, the scope for independent learning with Rosetta Stone allows students to learn additional languages on their own, through anytime, anywhere online access. Ian Gulliford states: "Our users

love being able to access Rosetta Stone anywhere in the world. We offer Rosetta Stone to all our new students as a welcoming gift before they arrive in Germany, giving them a chance to build up confidence in their new language."

Managing for success

Utilising the Rosetta Stone Classroom online solution, FIS has activated 2,400 licences for students and faculty and 170 licences for parents. The key to success when implementing the Rosetta Stone solution at FIS was to have a dedicated faculty member to manage and administer the solution. Having a single point of contact provided the faculty with a quick response to questions related to classroom integration and managing learner progress. The administrator also ensures that licences are being allocated according to the implementation plan of FIS and monitors usage of the programme. In addition, FIS designated a lead teacher who provides technical support related to the school's implementation for faculty.

Expanding the language offerings

FIS has extended its language-learning solution beyond students enrolled at the school. FIS offers a summer programme to local children to help them acquire English language-learning skills. The four-week programme offers the opportunity for children in the community to build vital language skills for success. The school has also opened up language learning to parents of children in the school. To date, there are over 170 actively registered parents in the programme. FIS plans to expand licences offered to parents in 2012.

Realising benefits

FIS faculty has used Rosetta Stone in the classroom to enhance language skills of students. Sometimes teachers used the programme as a remedial tool for review of language and language structure. Others have used the solution independently from classroom instruction to build proficiency and enhance scores.

German beginning students studied a minimum of one level of Rosetta Stone as a supplement to classroom instruction. The foreign-language department expects a minimum score for all beginners of Novice High on the 'American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview. For the 2011–12

academic school year, FIS found that 76.4% of students who used Rosetta Stone as a supplement scored above this minimum requirement on the scale, with the majority ranking Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid after one level of study with the Rosetta Stone solution. In addition, for Grades 9–10, 84.2% of German beginning students ranked above the minimum, with the majority rated Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High.

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone Inc. is the global leader in language-learning software. With 20 years of experience behind us, we're continuing to develop award-winning innovations that improve the lives of people and the operations of organisations every day.

Our proprietary, proven method leverages interactive technologies to replicate the immersion environment in which people learn their first language, and it activates each learner's natural aptitude for acquiring a new language regardless of language background.

We offer our clients scalable solutions for a variety of needs, from individual learners to single classrooms to entire organisations. Our solutions have been implemented in over 20,000 schools and in more than 17,000 private and public sector organisations, and they are used by millions of learners in over 150 countries throughout the world.



0800 005 1332
+44 (0)207 492 9095
RosettaStone.co.uk/schools

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