



## A UNIQUE LANGUAGES PROGRAM

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at International Grammar School





# Welcome

## INTRODUCTION FROM PRINCIPAL SHAUNA COLNAN

Bienvenue, herzlich willkommen, ようこそ, benvenuto, bienvenido, 你好! Welcome to International Grammar School.

International Grammar School leads the way in the teaching and learning of languages. We are a secular, coeducational Preschool to Year 12 independent school located across five sites in Ultimo and Glebe. The school was founded in Randwick in 1984 with 44 students and today has an enrolment of 1,280 students with 250 staff.

The School's mission is to equip students to be ready for the world. We offer a broad liberal education and a unique languages program, with bilingual immersion in five languages from Preschool, six languages from Year 7, and study abroad programs across a global network of schools in Europe, Asia and the South Pacific.

Immersive learning in languages takes place in the Global Learning Centre for the Teaching and Learning of Languages, an inspiring, flexible space, home to students and teachers from across the School.

Our languages program is unique. Each day from Kindergarten onwards, our students are taught NSW curriculum content by native-speaking teachers for an extended period of time, entirely in the target language. Language learning is at the heart of our School, as we aim to provide views of the world from every classroom. The outcome is that IGS students complete Primary School fluent in at least one other language. They then move into the study of their third language – Spanish or Mandarin – in Year 7. Many of our students accelerate in at least one language.

Please read on to learn more about the learning entitlement that we pledge to all of our students, and our vision for our students to be bilingual, appreciative and curious about the world around them.



## UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

Bilingual education enriches every child's life, has significant cognitive benefits, and celebrates the International Grammar School motto, *Concordia per Diversitatem, Unity Through Diversity*, every day.





#### INTRODUCTION FROM DIRECTOR OF LANGUAGES ROSALBA GENUA-PETROVIC

IGS was founded with the specific mandate to provide a bilingual education for students from Preschool to Year 12. This goal endures and comes from a belief that the learning of language is not only a vehicle for exchange and interaction but is part of our cultural identity and what makes us human.

Today, the world is truly interconnected and the ability to speak multiple languages and communicate across cultures is more than ever a critical skill. IGS recognises that the ability to be proficient in many languages will equip our students with global competencies that will allow them to become actors on the global stage and interact at a much deeper level with the people with whom they will live and work.

At IGS we believe every child should have access to the study of a second, third or more languages and to have opportunities to develop intercultural understanding through partial bilingual immersion.







## THE GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE FOR THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF LANGUAGES

This new space inspires the next generation of global thinkers. Each level of the Centre has three classrooms opening to exciting break out spaces. They are named Rome, Berlin, Tokyo, Beijing, Madrid and Paris. Walls can be opened to form one space or two, for flexible use. On each level, two seminar rooms serve our smaller senior classes and our linguists in residence. There is a kitchen for teachers and students to celebrate and explore culture and language through gastronomy.

### LANGUAGE CLASSES FOR PARENTS

Parents can attend beginner language evening classes, to gain new skills and insights into their children's learning experiences.





## INTERNATIONAL DAY AT IGS

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A highlight on the IGS calendar, International Day is a celebration of our diversity of cultures and our global outlook. In workshops, forums and lectures, we explore a different theme each year through the lenses of cultures from around the world. On this day, we give our students and school community a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world around us, enhancing general knowledge and building our intercultural capabilities.





## EARLY LEARNING

At IGS, bilingual language immersion begins in Preschool, where children experience immersion in Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian or Japanese.

The daily program includes 30 minutes of language exposure in the target language, with native-speaking educators. The learning of their new language is natural, joyful and authentic. IGS children become confident in the expression and embodiment of their new learning.

### LANGUAGES IN THE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE – PRESCHOOL AND TRANSITION

In childhood, language learning comes naturally. Gestures, accents and words are absorbed through dance, song and play.





## LANGUAGES IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL – KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

Bilingual partial immersion in a second language at IGS continues in Primary School through to Year 6.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Students' skills develop as they hear and use their second language in songs, games and craft activities, integrated with selected units of core curriculum subjects, taught directly in the target language.

Second languages taught from Kindergarten are French, German, Italian, Japanese and Chinese. Parts of the NSW Curriculum are taught in the second language for 40 minutes a day in Kindergarten, and for 80 minutes a day in Year 1 to Year 6. Our commitment to languages is strong and is reflected in the time we devote to language learning during these formative years.

### LANGUAGE CAMPS AND TRAVEL ABROAD

Students in Years 4 and 6 attend annual Language Camps where they are immersed in activities in their language including craft, cooking, sport and drama. There is also an exchange program opportunity to Nouméa for Year 5 students studying French.





“It’s fun to stand on stage and perform in a different language with friends.”

## LANGUAGE ASSEMBLIES IN THE PRIMARY YEARS

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In the Primary School, students participate in language assemblies to showcase their confidence in their second language. The assemblies are an opportunity for parents to hear and see their child performing in another language, and for students to perform in front of an audience of their peers and parents. The performances also enhance understanding of cultural diversity, developing respect for others and acceptance of difference.





## LANGUAGES IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

Our commitment to languages continues into High School, with new opportunities opening up. With increasing fluency, students gain a deeper understanding of culture and language systems.

## HIGH SCHOOL

In the High School, students enter a phase of language learning that is academically rigorous as they build upon a strong foundation and achieve high levels of proficiency and accuracy towards Years 11 and 12.

### OUR SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM CONTINUES IN HIGH SCHOOL

At IGS, all students continue studying a second language to the end of Year 10. For students entering IGS at Year 7, a beginner level class in a second language is provided. All students have the opportunity to go on exchange to Europe or Asia.

### OUR THIRD LANGUAGE PROGRAM BEGINS IN HIGH SCHOOL

All students in Years 7 and 8 study a third language (Chinese – Mandarin – or Spanish) at beginner level. The third language then becomes an elective choice in Years 9 and 10.





## LANGUAGES IN THE HIGH SCHOOL – OUR ACCELERATION PROGRAM

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Students who achieve at an advanced level, and demonstrate highly developed senior study skills, are given the opportunity to accelerate in their second or third language study so that they can complete the HSC in languages early. With our focus on languages it is not surprising that our students continue to excel academically in languages. We know that strength in languages flows into all academic endeavours and provides students with a truly global outlook.

## LANGUAGES AND THE HSC

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Most students continue their study of languages in Year 11 and Year 12. Their second and third language studies from Year 7 to Year 10 progress into the Continuers Courses for the HSC. In each of these languages, it is also possible to sit for a further one-unit Extension course. IGS also offers intensive two-year beginner HSC courses in all of our languages, according to demand.





## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

GS is dedicated to ensuring the Indigenous Scholars at the School thrive and are given opportunities to express themselves through their culture and language.

We are consulting with Elders in the community to translate Welcomes to and Acknowledgements of Country into traditional Aboriginal languages where possible. So far this has been done in both the Dunghutti language and the Wiradjuri language. Through HSC Aboriginal Studies, students can pursue major works related to Aboriginal languages, culture and history.



## OUR GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAM – LANGUAGES EXCHANGE

Experiential learning has an immediate and deep impact on a student's cultural outlook. IGS has well established exchange relationships with schools in Montpellier and Valbonne, in the south of France; Bad Salzufen, Germany; Rovereto, in the north of Italy; Madrid, Spain; Osaka and Tokyo, Japan; and Guangzhou, China.

“Going on exchange is the best kind of immersion, being surrounded by the language every day. We even start dreaming in the language, and that's when you know it's really sinking in.”

Maxim Adams (Head Boy 2016)

“There's a lot more to exchange than just languages. You really become a better communicator in general. I think you also develop a greater appreciation of different cultures, and different ways people do things. I've learnt skills that I know will be useful as I continue through my studies, and in my career as well.”

Zelda Winestock (Head Girl 2016)



## EXCHANGE

An exchange is offered every year for our senior students. Students in Years 10 and 11 independently travel abroad for an extended school and homestay experience.

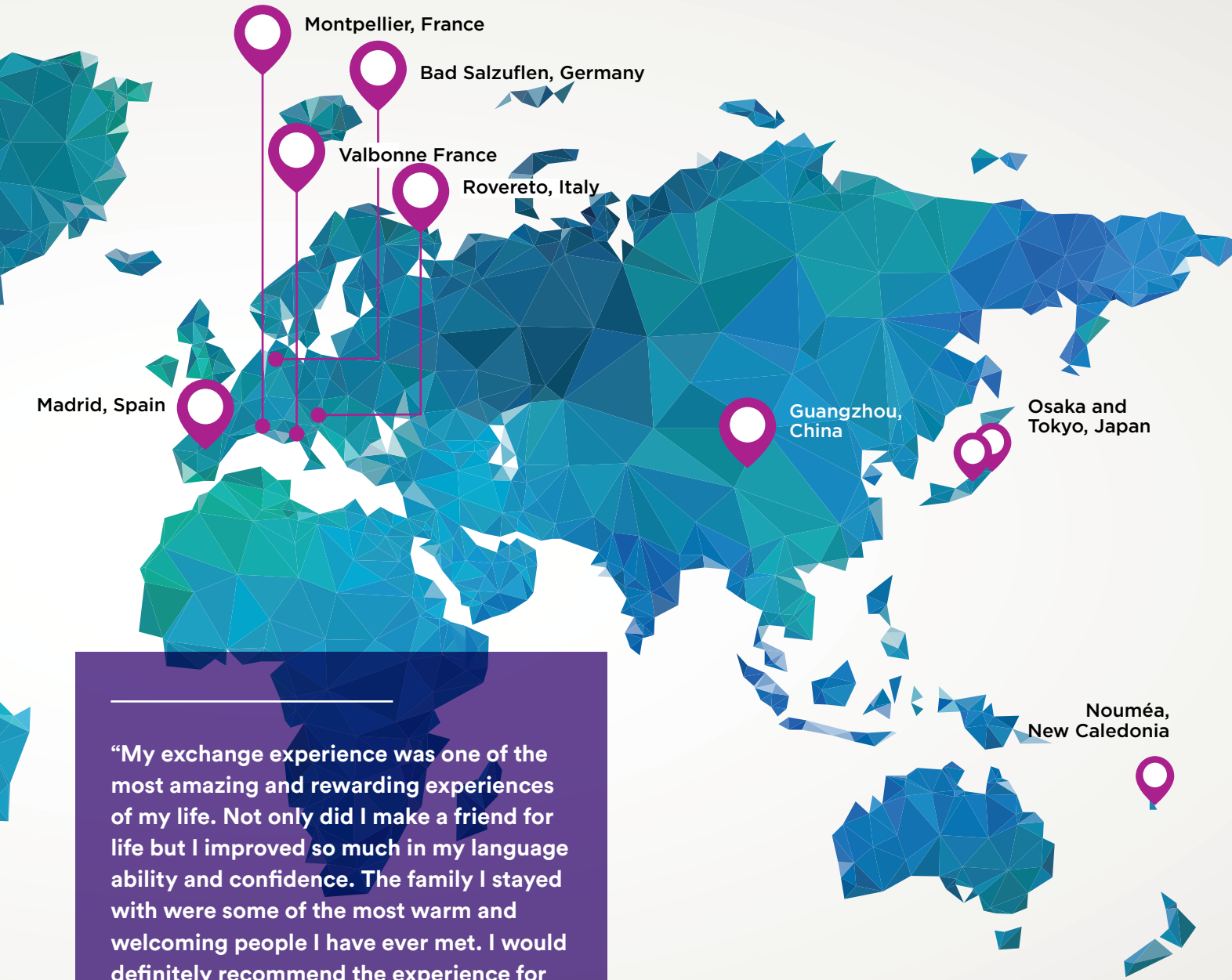
A teacher from IGS visits the students to support them during their exchange. French, German, Italian, Spanish and Japanese students come to IGS for an extended school and family homestay experience in July and August.

A reciprocal exchange program for Year 8 and Year 9 with partner schools in Spain, Japan and China provides students in the middle years with the opportunity to visit schools abroad and experience homestay for three weeks.

These opportunities greatly enhance students' language skills, and their love and understanding of a different culture.



## IGS STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS



“My exchange experience was one of the most amazing and rewarding experiences of my life. Not only did I make a friend for life but I improved so much in my language ability and confidence. The family I stayed with were some of the most warm and welcoming people I have ever met. I would definitely recommend the experience for anyone who is thinking about the program.”

Charlotte Howden, IGS French exchange student

## MEET SOME OF OUR LANGUAGES TEACHERS



Passionate and talented teachers, many of whom are native speakers, deliver this unique, whole-school languages program.

“Our Early Learning to Year 12 languages program is truly unique. It has been created and custom made for IGS and has evolved over time, challenging students of all abilities in six languages. I’m not sure there is one quite like it anywhere in the world.

Vilma Rotellini, Head of Junior School Languages



“Coming from a European background myself, I greatly respect the importance placed upon learning languages at IGS. What impresses me most is the holistic approach to teaching each individual student, customising lessons to suit each student’s needs, whether they require more advanced work within the classroom or a little extra help.

Marin Rosandic, French Teacher



“IGS is full of magic – when you open a door, you can step into Rome, Beijing or anywhere in the world. When you open a window, you can see Mount Fuji, the Eiffel Tower and much more. You can talk to anyone in different languages about any culture. The IGS languages program allows students and staff to connect to each other and connect to the world.

Shuyi Wu, Chinese (Mandarin) Teacher





OUR ALUMNI

After graduating, Year 12 students join our alumni, a growing international network of young professionals who share the IGS values of authenticity, connectedness, diversity, personal achievement and vibrancy.

ALUMNI

We host reunions in various parts of the world where IGS alumni reside for work and study, including London and New York, where we have established our first chapters of the alumni network. Their fluency in and love of languages open up exciting global career opportunities.

THE ALUMNI LANGUAGE EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Alumni Language Exchange Scholarship was established as a gift to the School by the students of the graduating Class of 2014, as their legacy to IGS, and in thanks for the education they received here. This gift allows a senior language student, who would otherwise be unable to do so, the opportunity to travel on one of the IGS exchanges. Our first Scholarship was awarded in 2016. The Scholarship will now continue through further generous donations.





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**“I want to go beyond what I  
already know, what I am already  
familiar with, and I can do this  
through the study of languages”**

Floyd Sen (2009)

Please note that while this booklet outlines the languages program at IGS, a range of other global learning opportunities exists at IGS in other subject areas such as Mathematics, Science, Humanities, the Arts, Drama, English, Philosophy and more.



**INTERNATIONAL  
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