Reichswald-Gymnasium Ramstein-Miesenbach

Important information for foreign students

Reichswald-Gymnasium
Ramstein-Miesenbach

Dear student,

we are very pleased about your interest to visit our school. Here you will find all important information for the visit of classes 11 to 13.

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Checking whether a recording is possible

There will have to be an individual examination based on the last certificate, whether admission to the school is possible.
It may be necessary to submit a German translation of the certificate.
The supervisory authority in Trier is responsible for the recognition of foreign school certificates. All further information about this topic can be found using the QR code:

Documents required for registration

- registration form
- the last two school certificates
- birth certificate
- Evidence of measles vaccination

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Understanding the German Gymnasium System, Rheinland-Pfalz MSS and Abitur

1. What a Gymnasium represents

A Gymnasium is an academically oriented secondary pathway leading to the Allgemeine Hochschulreife (Abitur), Germany's general higher-education entrance qualification. Admission to the upper-secondary Gymnasiale Oberstufe requires an intermediate school-leaving qualification with eligibility for upper-secondary study. The upper-secondary program culminates in the Abitur examination and certificate.

2. Upper-secondary structure: Gymnasiale Oberstufe / MSS

In Rheinland-Pfalz, the upper-secondary program is organized as the Mainzer Studienstufe (MSS). Reichswald-Gymnasium is a G9 Gymnasium, with the Oberstufe spanning grades 11-13. Students select areas of emphasis while continuing a broad academic program.

- At Reichswald-Gymnasium, students entering the Oberstufe select three Leistungskurse (advanced-level major subjects) and seven compulsory Grundfächer/other required subjects.
- Rheinland-Pfalz requires continuing study across German, a foreign language, mathematics, natural science, social sciences, religion/ethics, sport, and an artistic subject, with additional second-language/science/informatics requirements depending on the student's pathway.
- For Abitur, 36 qualification-phase courses contribute to Block I. Required included coursework spans German, a continuing foreign language, mathematics, natural science, social science, an additional language/science/informatics course, artistic study, and all four qualification-phase courses in each of the three Leistungskurse.

3. Leistungskurse: advanced study within the regular program

Leistungskurse are not extracurricular enrichments. They are the student's advanced-level major subjects within the MSS and are studied with greater depth and assessment demands than basic-level subjects. The Reichswald school profile states that major subjects normally receive 4-6 lessons per week, include recurring written examinations, and carry higher requirements than minor/basic subjects.

4. Grading:

1 (sehr gut / very good) is the highest conventional grade and 6 (ungenügend / insufficient) is the lowest. In the MSS, performance is also reported on a 15-to-0 point scale: 15-13 points correspond to grade 1, 12-10 to grade 2, 9-7 to grade 3, 6-4 to grade 4, 3-1 to grade 5, and 0 to grade 6.

German grade	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5/6**
MSS points	15-13	12-10	9-7	6-4	3-0
Average percentage of correct results in an examination	> 90%	> 75%	> 60%	> 40%	> 20%

5. The Abitur is cumulative and examination-based

The final Abitur result reflects both sustained performance during the qualification phase and performance in the final Abitur examinations. The Abitur examination generally consists of four or five examination subjects. Students take three written examinations in their major subjects. For students majoring in Sports Science, the Sports Science examination consists of one theoretical written examination as well as practical examinations in swimming, track and field, volleyball, and gymnastics. In addition, students take one or two oral examinations in minor subjects. Sports Science majors take two oral examinations, while students in other majors take one. In almost all German states, written Abitur tasks are centrally set. National educational standards apply in German, Mathematics, continuing English/French, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, supporting comparability of expectations.

6. Foreign-language and bilingual study

Rheinland-Pfalz requires students seeking the Allgemeine Hochschulreife to have studied two foreign languages. Students who completed the standard Gymnasium foreign-language sequence continue at least one language in the Oberstufe. Some schools, including Reichswald-Gymnasium, additionally offer bilingual content-subject instruction in which academic subjects are taught through English.

7. How to read a German Gymnasium transcript

- Read broad subject titles in the context of the state curriculum. A transcript entry such as Mathematik represents a continuous, multi-year mathematics curriculum.
- Distinguish Leistungskurse from basic-level subjects; Leistungskurse represent the student's principal advanced academic concentrations.
- Consider the required breadth of the Oberstufe and the cumulative nature of the Abitur qualification, not only individual final examinations.
- Preserve original German grades and MSS points; avoid mechanical grade conversion without the receiving institution's methodology.

Authoritative references

Standing Conference (KMK) - Upper Secondary Level and Abitur:

https://www.kmk.org/en/bildungsministerkonferenz/vertiefendebildungsinhalte/educational-paths-and-qualifications/upper-

secondary-level-gymnasiale-oberstufe-and-abitur.html **Rheinland-Pfalz MSS - Subject selection:** https://mss.rlp.de/organisation/faecher-und-faecherwahl/faecherwahl

Rheinland-Pfalz MSS - Qualification area, Abitur 2027: https://mss.rlp.de/abitur-und-fh-reife/qualifikationsbereich-1 **Rheinland-Pfalz MSS - Performance assessment / point scale:** https://mss.rlp.de/organisation/faecher-undfaecherwahl/leistungsbewertung

Rheinland-Pfalz MSS - Foreign languages: https://mss.rlp.de/organisation/faecher-und-faecherwahl/besondere-regelungen-fuer-einzelnefaecher/fremdsprachen

8. Organization of classes 11 to 13 ("Oberstufe")

The Oberstufe is divided into five half-year-terms 11/1, 11/2, 12/1, 12/2 and 13.
The last term is longer than the others.

Before starting in 11th class, a student has to choose three major and seven minor subjects.
Every Gymnasium offers just specific combinations of three major subjects. The possible combinations may vary from year to year. It depends in particular on the choice of the students in 10th class of a Gymnasium.

There are subjects which have to be taken either as a major or a minor subject:

- German
- Mathematics
- Physics, Chemistry or Biology
- A foreign language
- Two from the subjects Geography, History and Social Science
- Physical Education
- Religion or Ethics
- Arts or Music or Drama

Difference between major and minor subjects:

Major subjects	4 to 6 lessons per week 1 or 2 written examinations in all terms written school leaving examinations in all major subjects
Minor subjects	2 or 3 lessons per week 1 written examination in every term

9. Promotion from 11th to 12th class

In the 11th class you will get marks in every subject for each half year 11/1 and 11/2 and a mark for the whole year ("Jahresnote")

$$Jahresnote = \frac{(mark\ 11/1) + (2 \times mark\ 11/2)}{3}$$

The promotion from 11th to 12th class depends on the Jahresnote.

No promotion in case of

- at least one subject with Jahresnote = 6
- three or more subjects with Jahresnote = 5
- two major subjects with Jahresnote = 5
- at least one subject with mark = 6 in term 11/2

A promotion is possible, if you are able to equalize

- Jahresnote = 5 in one major subject
- Jahresnoten = 5 in one major and one minor subject
- Jahresnoten = 5 in two minor subjects

You need to have Jahresnote = 2 or 1 in one subject or two subjects with Jahresnote = 3 to equalize Jahresnote = 5 in one subject.
Jahresnote = 5 in a major subject must be equalized only with Jahresnoten from other major subjects.

10. Qualification for the school-leaving qualification "Abitur"

One part of the qualification consists of the summation of the MSS-Points you receive in your 10 subjects specified in the four reports from the terms 11/2 to 13. Ask the responsible member of administration for further information.

The other part of the qualification depends on the results of three written final examinations and one or two oral final examinations in one or two minor subjects.

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Very good knowledge of German is required:

The teaching language is German. You are expected to be able to read, understand and analyze novels, poems or academic texts!

Your knowledge of the German language should be at least at level B2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Starting with term 11/2 you will be treated as every other German student, e.g. you are not allowed to use a dictionary of your native language or a translation-app in an examination.

The participation in lessons is very important and has a huge effect on the marks!

History will focus on German History. Students are expected to know important historical events like the “Hambacher Fest”.

Social Science will take a look at the German society, e.g. the duties of the president and the duties of the federal chancellor.