

Careers Education – SISS Secondary - Schuldorf Bergstrasse

Year 8:

During Spring term in Humanities lessons students will begin preliminary exploration of career fields.

1) Introduction to the world of work

In these sessions students are introduced to the categorization of work into career sectors. They also identify skills, competencies, aspects of personality and lifestyle that may be deemed important for different sectors of employment.

Group brainstorming, paired discussion and response to personal questionnaires enable the students to begin identifying their own strengths and interests to facilitate investigating possible future career paths. Many activities are based on the materials provided by the state of Hessen Berufswahlpass, which is a careers guidance folder.

2) Careers Day:

We are extremely grateful to representatives from a wide spectrum of employment sectors who have offered or continue to offer a series of workshops that Y8 students visit on this day. We continually develop this structure and are always open to parents and other representatives from employment sectors who would like to contribute to this event. Thus far we have either offered workshops in cooperation with representatives from the following sectors and related companies:

- Chemical engineering
- Mechatronics
- Nursing
- Pharmaceuticals and Communication
- Tourism
- Flight industry
- Space industry
- Logistics and international trade
- Energy
- Advertising
- Industrial research and Intellectual Property
- International development
- Construction

We would like to stress that students benefit considerably from the experience of working with adults from diverse sectors on problem solving, information exchange and simulation activities. If you are interested in joining this team for future events, please contact the SISS careers coordinator on k.obermeier@schuldorf.de.

Year 9

All year 9 students take part in a compulsory two-week work experience placement during second term. Students are guided through the preparing applications and CVs in English and in German for this purpose (late in year 8). Students are encouraged to seek placements that are of interest to them, beginning one year in advance.

Further preparation for the two-week experience as well as follow-up and reflection is carried out in Politics and Economics lessons this year.

Please note the following aspects of the experience:

- The work experience unit culminates in a written report which counts as an assessment grade in Politics lessons.
- All students are mentored and supervised by a named person in their hosting company.
- The Politics teacher remains in contact with the students and their supervisors.
- Students are visited by a member of the staff onsite.
- Placements must be within our region (south of Frankfurt, north of Heidelberg and East of Mannheim) to facilitate visits.
- There are many international companies in the region that communicate in English but we also encourage all students to improve their German in employment contexts if the opportunity arises.

BIZ (Berufsinformationszentrum) / employment agency visits:

As a follow-up to the work experience placements, Year 9 classes are taken to the Federal Employment Agency (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) in Darmstadt. The careers adviser guides them through career search engines whilst explaining the structures offered in Germany for training course advice and application.

Year 10

1) 'Firmen in der Schule':

SISS Y10 students attend this careers event organized by the Gymnasium which focuses on dual study and training programs for post IB students. Members from large industries operating from local offices share their programs of study and training they offer in different fields of business. Trainees or entry-level employees generally present their experiences and what potential candidates can expect from such programs.

2) Advice on study and training directions at post-IGCSE and post-IB:

Our Schuldorf representative from the Federal Employment Agency, Mr. Heckmann, gives an annual talk to Secondary families on employment and further education at 16+ in the region. Click the link on the Careers page to access summary (in English) of his latest presentation (March 2023).

He also offers regular consultation sessions at school to provide information and support to students who are applying for courses outside SISS. Mr. Heckmann is available on campus for students or at the agency for appointments with parents under the following address: Thomas.Heckmann@arbeitsagentur.de if you would like an appointment to discuss applications for apprenticeships or transfer to technical training colleges.

Years 11/12:

Students are encouraged to attend some of the many regional educational fairs offered by universities and industry in the region to explore career and training opportunities. The annual *Hobit* or *Nacht der Ausbildung* in Darmstadt are two of which can be mentioned.

(updated May 2023, K. Obermeier)