

Immersion Handbook for Students

Compiled by Daryl Snell
2026-2027



Kantonsschule Baden
Seminarstrasse 3
5400 Baden
www.kanti-baden.ch

Contents

1. All About Immersion	2
2. Sample Immersion Timetable.....	3
3. Frequently Asked Questions	4
4. Current Immersion Team.....	5
5. School and Classroom Vocabulary	6
6. Useful Expressions in the Classroom	10
7. Reading Numbers and Common Symbols.....	11

1. All About Immersion

Why study immersively?

The global reach and the importance of English are undeniable. It is the common language in a vast array of fields including business and finance, academia and the sciences to name but a few.

As a result, many undergraduate (Bachelor) and postgraduate (Master) courses in Switzerland are taught in English. In order to meet the linguistic demands of such courses, universities have emphasised the importance of students being well prepared when they start university.

The immersion programme therefore serves as the ideal preparation for these courses, while also opening up many more opportunities to study in the USA, the UK, Ireland and Australia among others.

The main concept underlying the programme is that you are learning a language naturally, including subject-specific vocabulary, and yet the primary focus is still on the subject and not the language itself.

What you can expect from immersion

Based on data collected over several years from placement test results, an immersion student typically finishes the programme with an advanced C1 level (or higher). In contrast, students in regular classes typically achieve a level of B2.

Despite initial concerns, numerous studies have confirmed that immersion students' subject knowledge does not suffer as a result of being taught in English.

However, what cannot be guaranteed is a native-like accent at the end of the programme. Even if all your immersion teachers were native speakers (which the majority are not), it is likely that they would all have a different accent. Therefore, the fact that most of your immersion teachers are non-native speakers is not a problem at all. It is worth noting that the vast majority of English-speakers around the world are non-native, so non-native accents are something that one has to get used to.

What teachers expect from you

- That you make as much effort as possible to communicate in English at all times during the lesson. This includes asking and answering questions, as well as when working in groups.
- That you assist your classmates with the language whenever appropriate and that you are willing to read longer English texts even if they include technical terms.
- That even if you are not sure how to say something, you still try. It is better to speak with a few mistakes than say nothing at all.

2. Sample Immersion Timetable

School Year	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Lessons
Term	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Biology *			2	2	2	2			160
Chemistry *			2	2	2	2			160
Economics			2	2					80
Geography *	2	2	2	2	2				200
History			2	2	2	2	2	2	240
Computer Science *	2	2	1	1					120
Mathematics		4	3	3	3	3	4	4	480
Physics			2	2	2	2	2	2	240
Total									1680

* At least two subjects from biology, chemistry, geography or computer science will be taught in English

Please note that this timetable is only a guide, as teachers may start teaching in English slightly earlier or later than stated. This primarily depends on the nature of the topics being taught at the time. Additionally, note that other deviations from the timetable may occur during the programme because some topics are simply better suited to being taught in German (e.g. Swiss law).

Subject changes may also arise due to staff availability but this does not cause any problems as the school is well above the minimum 800 lessons stipulated by the educational authorities.

3. Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will there be a lot of extra work because the lessons are in English?

A: At the beginning, there will be more work because there are many new terms to learn but former students adapted to the new situation very quickly.

Q: Will it be possible to go on an exchange year during the programme?

A: It may be possible to go on an exchange year. A shorter exchange of six months may also be possible if suitable schools can be found. Generally, the second year is the best time for such an exchange but students should remember that there is no right to an exchange.

Q: What have former immersion students enjoyed most about the programme?

A: That with time they were able to speak more fluently and without fear of speaking in a foreign language in front of others. They also started to think in English, meaning that for some it became more like a second first language.

Q: Will immersion teachers be correcting my language errors?

A: The important point here is that the focus is on the subject in contrast to the accuracy of the language. However, teachers will intervene when they deem it necessary, due to more serious and repeated errors that could lead to misunderstanding. This is why the English lessons are vitally important; there you will receive the structured language instruction required for your immersion lessons.

Q: Will I have to write my Matura Paper in English?

A: Even though this is not compulsory, it is something we would strongly recommend as it is an excellent opportunity to write such a paper in English. You will also be given support in the form of a workshop highlighting the main points about writing a paper in English, in addition to general language assistance should any problems arise.

Q: Will I receive an International Baccalaureate (IB) certificate at the end?

A: No, as the IB programme is completely different and primarily designed with international schools in mind. However, you will receive a certificate acknowledging the successful completion of the «Zweisprachige Matur». Your certificate will also contain an English translation and make reference to the subjects taught and examined immersively.

Q: Would former students choose to do the programme again?

A: Almost all have said that they would definitely do it again because it was an excellent experience. The few that would not do it again mentioned that the level of the class was high and caused them some issues.

Q: What do immersion students intend to do with their English afterwards?

A: The most typical responses are for travel or for future studies either in an English-speaking country or in Switzerland itself.

4. Current Immersion Team

Heinz Anklin	Mathematics / Physics
Julia Bolliger	Mathematics
Irmgard Bühler	Mathematics
Francesco Canonaco	Chemistry
Joel Franceschi	Geography
Odette Frey	Biology
Andrew Gasbarro	Physics
Simon Hallström	Mathematics
Janine Hartmann	Mathematics
Benita Heiz	Chemistry
Thomas Kälin	Chemistry
Stephan Keiser	Economics
Alexis Kessel	Computer
Ariane Knüsel	History
Michael Laufer	Economics
Andreas Meier	Biology
Nikomedes Mojado	Mathematics
Kathleen Noreisch	Geography
Corrado Olivito	Economics
Günther Palfinger	Computer Science / Mathematics / Physics
Patrizia Perlini	Economics
Caspar Rahm	Biology
Daryl Snell	Immersion Coach
Marc Stieger	Chemistry
Janine Surber	History
Diana Teider	Mathematics
Daniela Tenger	History
Tessa Adelaide Turini	Mathematics

5. School and Classroom Vocabulary

Quizlet flashcards available: <https://quizlet.com/join/jAT3fb3XH>

School Administration

Kanti Baden	Baden Further Education College*
Schulleitung	school administration
Rektor	headmaster ^{BE} , principal ^{AE} , head of school
Prorektor	deputy headmaster, vice principal
Abwart / Abwärtin	caretaker ^{BE} , janitor ^{AE}
Arbeitswoche	(week-long) workshop
Assistent	assistant or lab technician (in science subjects)
Aufnahmeprüfung	entrance test / exam
Austauschschüler	exchange student
Berufsberatung	career guidance
Besuchstag	open day
Betreuer	supervisor, mentor
Elternabend	parents' evening
Exkursion	field trip
Fachschaft	department
Fachschaftsvorsitzende	head of department
Halbklassenunterricht	half-class teaching, lesson
Hausdienstpersonal	maintenance staff, cleaning staff
Klassenlager	class camp
Lehrerfortbildung	teacher training
Lehrerkonferenz	teachers' meeting
Lehrling	apprentice
Matura	final matriculation exams
Maturaarbeit	final year project, «Matura»* project

Mediotheeksangestellte	librarian
Notenabgabe	grade submission
Notenkonferenz	grade discussion meeting
Praktikant	trainee (teacher), intern
Schularzt	school doctor
Schulausflug	school outing
Schülerorganisation	students' organisation
Schulinterne Beratung	school counselling service
Schulkalender	school calendar
Schulkommission	school board
Schulreise	school trip
Sekretariat	school office
Sekretariatsangestellte	office staff
Semesterverzeichnis, Stundenplan	timetable, schedule
Sozialdienst	social service
Stellvertreter	supply teacher ^{BE} , substitute teacher ^{AE}
Weiterbildung	training
zweisprachige Matur	bilingual programme

Classroom Management

Arbeitsplatz (im Labor)	workbench
Faustregel	rule of thumb
die Schule schwänzen	to play truant, to skip school
dispensiert	exempt (from)
eine Lektion vorholen	to bring forward a lesson
eine Lektion verschieben	to postpone a lesson
Einzahlungsschein	payment slip

Ergänzungsfach	subsidiary subject, minor (subject)
Folgefehler	error carried forward (ECF)
Freifach	optional subject, elective (subject)
Gedankenexperiment	thought experiment
Grundlagenfach	foundation (core) subject
Klassenbuch	class book (class register if just used for attendance)
Klassenbuchverantwortliche/r	person responsible for the register
Klassenchef	class spokesperson, representative
Kassenkasse	class account
Kassenkassier	class treasurer
Klassenlehrer	Tutor, form teacher
Klassenlehrerstunde	tutor's, form teacher's lesson
Klassensprecher	class spokesperson, representative in the students' organization, council
Leitprogramm	self-study module
Lernkartei	flash cards
Nachprüfung	catch-up test, exam
Plaudertasche	chatterbox
Praktikum	practical (as in lab work)
Probezeit	probationary period
schwatzen	to chat
Schwerpunktfach	specialty subject, major (subject) ^{AE}
spicken	to cheat, copy
Spickzettel	cheat-sheet
Strafarbeit	punishment
Streichnote	excluded lowest mark
Stundenausfall	lesson cancellation
Tafelputzdienst	blackboard duty
unentschuldigter Absenz	unauthorised absence
Unterrichtsbuch	textbook

Wahlfach	chosen compulsory subject*
Wandkarte	map
Wandtafel	blackboard / whiteboard
Zeugnis	school report
Zwischenresultat	interim result
Zwischenstunde	free lesson
Zwischenzeugnis	interim / mid-term report

Places in School

Aula	(school) assembly hall / auditorium
Gang	corridor / hallway
Garderobe	cloakroom
Getränkeautomat	drinks machine
Kopierraum	photocopy room
Lehrerzimmer	staff room, teachers' room
Mediothek	library, media centre
Mensa	school canteen, cafeteria
Pausenplatz	schoolyard
Postfach (Lehrerzimmer)	pigeonhole
Raucherzone	smoking area
Schliessfach	locker
Schüleraufenthaltsraum	recreation, common room
Stockwerk	floor
Treppenhaus	stairwell
Turnhalle	gym (gymnasium)
Umkleidekabine	changing room

* English only necessary perhaps when dealing with English-speaking countries.

BE – British English

AE – American English

6. Useful Expressions in the Classroom

Quizlet Flashcards available: <https://quizlet.com/ch/924151651/useful-expressions-for-the-classroom-flash-cards/?i=5vykli&x=1jqt>

Translation

What's the English for

How do you say in English?

What does mean?

I don't know the word for

Language issues

Can I answer/explain this in German?

Sorry, I didn't quite understand that. Could you explain it again please?

Not hearing

Sorry, I didn't catch that. Could you say it again please?

Could you repeat the question please?

Could you speak up a little please?

Apologising

Sorry, I forgot to do my homework.

Sorry, I forgot to bring my textbook.

Sorry I'm late.

Asking for help

Could you help me with this exercise please?

Could you give me a hint please? I'm stuck.

I'm really lost. Could you help me please?

Homework

What do we have to do for homework?

I had some problems with the homework.

When is the homework due?

Tests/exams

Do we need to know this for the test?

How much is the test worth?

Could we take another look at before the test?

Are we allowed to use a dictionary in the exam?

7. Reading Numbers and Common Symbols

Numbers:

101	one hundred and one
199	one hundred and ninety-nine
2,880	two thousand, eight hundred and eighty
6,600,000	six million, six hundred thousand
7,777,000	seven million, seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand
0.7	nought/zero point seven
0.07*	nought/zero point oh seven or point oh/zero seven
0.185	nought/zero point one eight five
€598,340	five hundred and ninety-eight thousand, three hundred and forty euros
£478m	four hundred and seventy-eight million pounds
\$7.5bn	seven point five billion dollars
1m	one million
3bn	three billion

Please note:

- British English is with «and» whereas American English is without «and».
- The comma above is used to separate the thousands and is NOT a decimal point.
- * «oh» is never said before decimal point, only after.

Exponential Notation:

10^1	ten		
10^2	one hundred	ten squared	
10^3	one thousand	ten cubed	
10^4	ten thousand	ten to the (power of) four ^{BE}	ten to the fourth ^{AE}
10^5	one hundred thousand	ten to the (power of) five ^{BE}	ten to the fifth ^{AE}
10^6	one million	ten to the (power of) six ^{BE}	ten to the sixth ^{AE}
10^7	ten million	ten to the (power of) seven ^{BE}	ten to the seventh ^{AE}
10^8	one hundred million	ten to the (power of) eight ^{BE}	ten to the eighth ^{AE}
10^9	one billion ^{BE / AE}	one thousand million ^{EU}	"eine Milliarde"

10^{10}	ten billion ^{BE / AE}	ten thousand million ^{EU}
10^{11}	one hundred billion ^{BE / AE}	one hundred thousand million ^{EU}
10^{12}	one trillion ^{BE / AE}	one billion ^{EU} “eine Billion”

BE – British English
 AE – American English
 EU – Mainland Europe

Please note:

There are two different numbering systems used when talking about billions. That is, the American system (where one billion is one thousand million) and the European system (where one billion is one million million). The American system is now widely used within British English, which was not always the case. Even though the word «milliard» does exist in British English, it is rarely used.

Years:

1800	eighteen hundred
1905	nineteen oh five
1984	nineteen eighty four
2006	two thousand and six (twenty oh six was not widely used)
2021	twenty twenty-one (although you will still hear two thousand and twenty-one)

Dates:

In British English, dates usually have the order day/month/year such as the example:
I handed in my work on 14 June 2021 (or *14th June 2021*). This date would be spoken as “the fourteenth of June, twenty twenty-one”. Therefore, note that even though “the” and “of” are spoken here, they are typically not written.

In American English, dates usually have the order month/day/year such as the example:
I handed in my work on June 14, 2021. This date would be spoken as “June fourteenth, twenty twenty-one” or “June fourteen, twenty twenty-one”.

Symbols:

=	equals / is equal to
$\sqrt{\quad}$	square root of
π	/paɪ/