



Abitur or Diploma?

January 8, 2026

Class of 2028

Agenda



- AP Classes
- Diploma Overview
- Abitur Overview
- Important Dates
- Q & A

Diploma Program



- Accredited by:
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
(NEASC)
- Recognized by universities in the United States,
Canada, and around the world
- **Diploma + 3.0 unweighted GPA + AP exam scores**
allows students to enter universities around the
world, including Germany, the Netherlands, and the
U.K.



Diploma Graduation Requirements

English	4 Credits
Social Studies	4 Credits (1 credit required in U.S. History)
Science	4 Credits
Math	3 Credits (U.S. Colleges prefer 4 credits)
P.E./Sport	2 Credits (must take every semester at JFKS)
German	1 Credit for each year of attendance at JFKS (Many U.S. Colleges require 1-3 years of the same language)
Electives to Total	<u>26 Credits minimum</u>

28 class periods minimum per week required

Changes cannot be made from Diploma to Abi after 11th grade begins



Advanced Placement (AP)

- Administered by the College Board
- **College-level courses**
- Globally recognized
 - **AP classes** on a transcript show rigor and ability to master college-level work.
 - **AP exams** - **separate from the course itself** - can give you college credit (USA) and are used in university admissions in Germany, Netherlands, UK, and many other countries

[Click Here for University Policies on Granting AP Credit](#)

JFKS AP Courses



- 2D Art & Design
- Art History (alternating years)
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Comparative Government & Politics
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Drawing
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- European History
- French Language & Culture (limited)
- Seminar (Grade 10/2-year with Research)
- Spanish Language & Culture (limited)
- Music Theory
- Physics 1 and Physics 2 (2 exams)
- Physics C: Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism (2 exams)
- Psychology
- Research (Grade 11/2-year with Seminar)
- U.S. History

[Link to Information about JFKS AP Classes](#)



College & University Considerations

Choose high school courses that will help you reach your goals.
For Europe, pay attention to AP Testing and other requirements.

Quality over Quantity!

UK & Netherlands

UK: 4-5 passing AP Exams. Must know your intended “course” and gain experience related to it.

Netherlands:
Unweighted 3.0 +
3-4 passing AP Exams

United States

Grades in your classes are more important than AP exam scores.

Some schools may require SAT/ACT.

Extracurriculars are important

Germany

Unweighted 3.0 GPA.
4 passing AP Exams in specific combination (depending on course).

See *College Planning for Abitur and Diploma Students* on JFKS website for more information.

Some Comparisons



Diploma

Studying and testing primarily in **English**, with more “American” style of instruction and assessment*

A rigorous, university-preparatory diploma, that when **combined with AP exams and an unweighted 3.0 GPA**, can access U.S./German universities and others worldwide

Must meet credit requirements, but can choose from a variety of courses

Students choose the rigor of class schedule and how many, if any, AP classes/exams to take each year

Courses are **one year** in length, with exams at the end of the year

Abitur

Studying and testing primarily in **German**, with more “German” style of instruction and assessment

A rigorous, university-preparatory diploma with access to German/U.S. universities and others worldwide

Must take a specific set of standardized classes, similar to other Abitur students

Must choose two Leistungskurse (LK’s) and three additional exams

Written exams (2 LK’s and 1 GK) cover **two years** of material

*Students in both programs will take Klausuren

Course Selection Timeline



- *Schnupperwoche*: **January 12th - 16th**
 - If undecided, explore both Abi and AP classes
 - Signup will start today. Check your emails carefully
- Parents Register Your Decision by **January 30**
 - <https://jfks.de/students/transition-information/>
- Diploma Course Selection Meeting Online: **February 10 - 6:00 PM**
 - For parents and students (online)
- Individual course selection take place in **February/March** for Diploma students with Mr. Kelly and for Abitur students with Frau Aust
 - Invitations will follow via email
- Sport Class choices will be online **after Spring Vacation**

Click Here to Register Abi/Diploma Decision

Remember, deadline is January 30

If you have questions...

Mr. Kelly (Counselor)

randel.kelly@jfksberlin.org

Ms. Hale (American Principal)

erin.hale@jfksberlin.org

Frau Aust (Oberstufenkoordinatorin)

katalin.aust@jfksberlin.org

Ms. Mack (Registrar - Graduation requirements and transcripts)

registrar@jfksberlin.org

Q & A