



Federal Agency
for Foreign Affairs
Central Agency for Schools Abroad

ZfA
Deutsche Auslandsschularbeit
International

Central Agency for Schools Abroad – a brief introduction



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Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen, ZfA)

Head office	Bonn
Legal form	Directorate within the Federal Agency for Foreign Affairs
Founded	1968
Head	Heike Toledo (since 2017)
Staff	approx. 100 in Bonn, 5 in Berlin

The Central Agency advises and supports

- 135 German schools abroad around the world,
- 27 German profile schools,
- more than 1100 DSD schools (schools offering the German Language Certificate (DSD)).

The focus is on

- promoting the German language,
- supporting pupils' education biographies,
- enabling them to interact with the culture and society of the host country,
- providing schooling to German children living abroad and
- promoting Germany as a location for business, as well as an attractive place to study.

Teachers working abroad

The Central Agency appoints and supports

- 1244 teachers at German schools abroad,
- 74 teachers at German profile schools,
- 214 teachers at DSD schools,
- 218 teachers at European schools and
- 6 teachers at teacher training institutes.



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Administrative bodies

The Central Agency is advised by an Academic Advisory Council and is a member of various bodies, including

- the Federal and State Commission for School Education Abroad (BLASchA),
- the Central Committee for the German Language Certificate of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs,
- the Permanent Working Party on “German as a foreign language” (Netzwerke Deutsch),
- the Goethe-Institut’s German Language Advisory Council,
- the Quality Development and Quality Assurance Steering Committee and
- the Editorial Group of the journal Fremdsprache Deutsch (German as a foreign language).

Schools: Partners for the Future (PASCH)

The Central Agency is a partner of the Federal Foreign Office initiative “Schools: Partners for the Future (PASCH)”. PASCH is a global network of more than 2000 schools that place a high value on German.

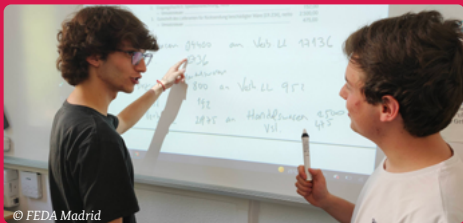
www.pasch-net.de

Multipliers

Some 60 German language advisers assist schools in more than 65 countries.



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Preparatory and in-service training & networking

Some 500 seminars are held every year:

- 13 preparatory courses for new teachers, in Germany
- 154 regional in-service training sessions, abroad
- approx. 300 DSD seminars, in Germany and abroad
- The Central Agency's learning platform provides access to:
 - E-learning
 - blended-learning courses
 - materials, explanatory videos, etc.
- Seminars on Germany for local teachers
- Conferences for
 - head teachers
 - German language advisers
 - heads of administration
- Regional network meetings
- Information events for:
 - student advisers and career counsellors
 - Board of Directors



German Language Certificate (DSD)

around **85,000** examinations worldwide, including

- more than **13,900** DSD II examinations at German schools abroad and DSD schools
- more than **25,800** DSD I examinations at German schools abroad and DSD schools
- more than **29,500** DSD I examinations in connection with country-specific projects (France, Hungary, Italy)
- some **500** DSD I PRO examinations at German schools abroad and DSD schools
- some **15,000** DSD I and DSD I PRO examinations at schools in Germany

Examinations

More than **4200** pupils each year take examinations to entitle them to enrol in a German university.

Pupils

Some **450,000** pupils are enrolled at subsidised schools abroad, including some **82,000** at German schools abroad (approx. **22,000** of these speak German as a mother tongue) and more than **360,000** pupils are learning German at DSD schools.



Inspection by German Educational Authorities (BLI)

Federal and state inspectors visit schools to assess the quality of their instruction. They closely examine each school's teaching profile. The aim is to be designated an "Excellent German School Abroad".

Some 20 inspections are conducted every year.

Evaluation of German as a foreign language programmes (Eva-DaF)

In cooperation with the federal states, the Central Agency evaluates schools' DSD programmes, based on standardised criteria. In addition to assessing the implementation of many subsidised projects, the evaluation fo-

cuses on instruction of German as a foreign language.

The Central Agency also evaluates the work of German language advisers, with the aim being to further develop DSD programmes in these countries.

Business analyses

- business consultancy services for the 135 German schools abroad
- consultancy for the establishment of new schools

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