

## To whom it may concern

### **RE: German Language Certificate (*Deutsches Sprachdiplom*, “DSD”)**

This paper provides you with information regarding the German Language Certificate (*Deutsches Sprachdiplom*, “DSD”).

#### **1. General Information**

The *DSD* is an official language diploma granted by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the States of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Kultusministerkonferenz*, “*KMK*”) to high school students abroad. The *Standing Committee* is the German equivalent of the US Department of Education. The diploma is offered on two levels ranging from A 2 – B1 (level I) and from B2 – C1 (level II) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and tests the four skills, listening and reading comprehension, writing and oral communication.

Language preparation for Level I mandates an average of 600 to 800 contact hours, for Level II requires an average of 800 to 1200 contact hours of German instruction.

**The holder of a *DSD Level-I Certificate* has met the German language proficiency requirements for admission to a preparatory course for admission to a German university. The *DSD Level I Certificate* is the equivalent of a *TOEFL iBT* score ranging from 57 to 86.**

**The holder of a *DSD Level-II Certificate* has met the German language proficiency requirements for admission to a German university. As far as the proficiency level is concerned, the certificate can be compared to a *TOEFL iBT* score of 87 to 120.**

The examinations are prepared and evaluated by the Central Agency for the Schools Abroad (*Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen*, “*ZfA*”) in Cologne, Germany, to ensure consistent grading standards and reliability.

#### **2. Requirements for language schools**

The exam for the *DSD* can only be offered by schools that have been accredited by the *KMK* to conduct the exam. In order to become an accredited school, schools must fulfill some stringent requirements. They must offer German language and culture contents for multiple years, possess an up-to-date expert curriculum, have an experienced and professional faculty who teaches in accordance with the latest knowledge in methodology and research.