

Languages at UWC Mahindra College

Congratulations on being selected as a student at UWCMC!

An important part of your UWC experience is to successfully complete the [International Baccalaureate Diploma](#) over your two years here.

This program, popularly known as the DP, has some mandatory and some optional subjects that you need to learn. This document will help you understand the **language study requirements**.

1. **All students need to study some level of English.** The different options available for English are explained below:
 - **English B** – This is the English course with emphasis on **language acquisition and usage for non-native users** of English. The goal is to take the learner to a near-native or bilingual comfort with the language. Here, **non-native means** a learner who
 - does not use English at home with family and friends
 - has studied English for not more than 4 or 5 years and
 - has never used English as the medium of study for any other subject (apart from English)
 - **English A** – This includes English L&L (Language & Literature) and English Literature. This course is meant for **students who already have native or near-native comfort** with the use of the language.
2. All students need to do **at least two languages that include one Language A**. This means that if you are a **non-native speaker** of English and need to **choose English B**, then you have to choose **another Language A**. The **options for Language A** besides English L&L and English Literature at UWCMC are:
 - a. Spanish
 - b. German
 - c. School-supported Self-taught Mother-tongue Literature

Option C, School-supported Self-taught Mother-tongue Literature gives you the freedom to choose your own mother tongue as a subject of study and explore the literature in this language.

If you think you may want or need to choose the School-supported Self-taught Mother-tongue Literature option, you will need to choose and acquire the books before you come to college. The detailed instructions on how to choose these books will be made available to you the summer before you arrive.

An English Placement Test

If your Nomination/Application form indicates you are **clearly a non-native speaker of English**, shortly after your acceptance you will be invited to undertake a simple online placement test that we have put together to help choose the right level of English for you. We urge you to **take this assessment test with a free unstressed mind** without worrying about being judged. This is not to evaluate your ability to be a UWC Mahindra College student but to place you in the right level of English so that you are helped in not only learning English but in gaining the confidence and fluency to fully participate in all activities and opportunities the College has to offer.

An English Preparatory Course

Based on this test, we will recommend the right level of the language for you as well as possibly invite you to come early to campus for a 10-day English Preparatory course. This course will mainly focus on listening and speaking skills in English. The idea will be to help you get comfortable with the different accents that you will hear on campus and also to practice everyday conversational skills that will help you become a member of the college community with ease. This will also help you better grasp content and participate in your class lectures once the academic year commences.

Possible Skype Conversation

After the test, we may also arrange a Skype conversation with you to assess the extent of help that we may need to provide to you, not only during the English Preparatory Course but also going forward.

Questions?

Please address questions to admissions@muwci.net and we will direct your queries onwards.