

Dutch and French mother tongue education in Singapore

Research has shown that it is of prime importance for the development of youngsters that they have a good control and cultivation of the mother tongue. "Of all the student variables, the most powerful predictor of academic success in second language learning is formal schooling in the first language" (Collier & Thomas). It contributes to a balanced social emotional and academic development of the pupil. Mother tongue learning strongly supports re-integration into the home country. Mother tongue tuition provides a sense of home-coming and belonging, even when far from home. It gives young people a cultural reference framework and learns how to react and adopt changes.

1. Current Dutch tuition in Singapore:

At this moment there are possibilities in Singapore for every Dutch student to attend Dutch Language and Culture lessons. In addition to the provisions at the Hollandse School Ltd and to the Dutch classes at United World College, Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore started their Dutch Mother Tongue programme recently in Singapore. They provide an afternoon school programme in Dutch Language and Culture (NTC) for children from 4 till 18 years old.

Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore is part of Rijnlands Education Worldwide (REW). For more than 25 years, Rijnlands Education Worldwide has offered and developed Dutch language education for children (temporarily) living abroad. In 2010 more than 500 students in Europe and the Middle East are participating in the Rijnlands programmes.

The following schools offer Dutch education:

➤ Dutch tuition for children from 4 till 12 years old

- Hollandse School Limited: Dutch Primary School (full time day tuition)
- Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore: Dutch Language and Culture (NTC) after school programme at Hollandse School Ltd.

➤ Dutch tuition for children from 12 – 18 years old

- The United World College of South East Asia provides the "Nederlandse Taal en Cultuur" (NTC) tuition incorporated in the normal curriculum.
- Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore offers its Dutch Mother tongue Programme at the German European School Singapore (GESS). The programme is incorporated in the curriculum and the students' timetable.
- Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore offers its Dutch Language and Culture programme (NTC) at the Overseas Family School. This is an after school programme, which is **also open for students from other schools**.

Several organisations offer correspondence classes at primary and secondary school levels for children living abroad. Just to name a few: De Wereldschool, Edufax and Stichting IBID.

Should you look for more personalised tuition, you can always contact the Belgian Embassy which can provide contact details of private Dutch teachers currently based in Singapore.

Contacts

Hollandse School (HSL): adminhsl@hollandseschool.org or +65 - 6466-0662

Rijnlands Lyceum Singapore: rijnlanslyceumsingapore@gmail.com or +65 - 8349-5138

United World College: info@uwcsea.edu.sg or +65 - 6775-5344

German European School Singapore: jain.fish@gess.sg or +65 - 6469-1131

Overseas Family School: bentin@ofs.edu.sg or +65 - 6738-0211

De Wereldschool: www.wereldschool.nl

Edufax: www.Edufax.nl

Stichting IBID: www.stichtingIBID.org

2. Current French tuition in Singapore:

French speaking community being very important in Singapore, French is studied extensively, both as a native and a foreign language. Here are a few ideas to show you what is available. The list is not exhaustive.

- The [French International Lycée of Singapore](#) offers the complete curriculum from first kinder garden till baccalauréat. The language level is excellent and the school level is comparable to the best Lycées in Paris. A bilingual (French-English) system is now also available. For admission, priority is given to French citizens, then to French speaking children.
- Most of the [international schools](#) (primary and secondary), [local secondary schools](#) and [national universities](#) offer French classes as foreign language. Many of them organize their classes by levels. Bilingual IB (French and English literature) can be passed.
- The [Alliance Française](#) provides an excellent program adapted to the special needs of French native speakers who do not attend the French school but still want to study their mother tongue at a native speaker level. The panel of classes is wide and goes from primary reading classes to literature. Official diplomas can be passed at the alliance twice a year if you need to provide a certificate in order to register in a French speaking university or a school in Europe. (DELF, DALF)

If you wish to study French at home, many French teachers (native speakers) are available in town. They are familiar with the different exams curricula. Many of them join the French Teachers Association of Singapore (APFS), which you can contact if you wish to find a tutor.

It is also possible to follow correspondence classes. The French community of Belgium proposes primary and secondary school classes for children living abroad. The program is available on <http://www.ead.cfwb.be>

Eventually, if your child encounters more specific problems in his learning of French mother tongue, French "orthophonistes" are available in town. The French association (AFS) has published a very interesting guidebook about Singapore, in which those therapists are listed: Singapour Pratique, on sale @ Kinokuniya Book Store

Contacts

Lycée Français de Singapour: administration@lfs.edu.sg or +65 – 6488-1-160/161

Alliance Française de Singapour: courses@alliancefrancaise.org.sg or + 65 – 6737-8422

French Teachers Association of Singapore (APFS): www.apfs.sg/APFS/

Communauté française de Belgique, Enseignement à Distance: www.ead.cfwb.be