



**Bangkok Patana School**  
*The British International School in Thailand*  
Established 1957

## **Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Choice for new Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 Students**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Bangkok Patana School.

Please complete this form at the time of application as it is important to know the language options as early as possible in the admissions process.

- Please note that all students registered as Thai nationals are required to undertake Thai A studies (language and literature) as part of government regulations.
- Students currently on the EAL register will receive additional EAL support during the MFL slot and therefore do not study an MFL. However, for future reference, please complete the form.
- Students whose level of Dutch entitles them to join the Dutch programme will learn Dutch during curriculum time and after school ECAs.

### **Information Regarding MFL Programme**

The languages offered in Years 3 to 6 are French, Mandarin, Spanish and Thai.

*(Please note that German and Japanese are being phased out of the Primary School MFL Programme. In 2020/21 German is available for Y5 and Y6 students only, and Japanese for Y6 students only. In 2021/22 German will be available for Y6 students only.)*

Students take two 60-minute MFL lessons twice a week from Year 3 onwards. Starting in Year 3, all students take the “Language Carousel” where three languages and cultures (French, Mandarin and Spanish) are introduced on a rotational basis. This gives the students an opportunity to experience these languages before making their language choice. Students have already experienced Thai in their “Thai Language and Culture” classes, so therefore it is not part of the “Language Carousel”.

Towards the end of Year 3, students are asked to select one language to study from Year 4 to Year 9, as their MFL1. This should be a language that the student can start as a beginner with little or no prior experience. At this stage, native speakers will be asked to choose a different language from their own, because all MFL1 languages are taught from beginner level only.

It is important to discuss the choice of language with your child as they will be studying this language into Secondary School. In Year 7, they will be requested to select a second MFL (MFL2). In Year 10, they will have the option of studying MFL1, MFL2 or both at IGCSE level.

Once a language has been chosen, we encourage students to continue with it and not change language. This is because language acquisition is cumulative, and the student’s motivation increases over time as they become increasingly familiar with it.

**Bangkok Patana is a not-for-profit IB World School accredited by CIS**

## Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)

“MFL is Fun” ECA is provided for students who are currently enrolled in Y4-6 MFL and would like to reinforce what they have learnt in class, twice per week. Students can attend one or both sessions.

Home Language ECAs are provided for some languages. Students with prior exposure or family background who wish to further continue language study outside of school hours can join.

### Additional information for Mandarin:

Extra practice outside of school time is essential for the successful acquisition of Mandarin, especially learning to read and write the script.

Mandarin is generally not an ideal choice for students who join Bangkok Patana in Year 6 with no prior knowledge of the language due to the difficulty of learning the writing system.

Contact details if you have questions or require a meeting.		
French	Mrs. Patricia Bugaud ep. Calmels d'Artensac	<a href="mailto:pabu@patana.ac.th">pabu@patana.ac.th</a>
German	Mrs. Gabriele Odermatt	<a href="mailto:gaod@patana.ac.th">gaod@patana.ac.th</a>
Japanese	Ms. Hitomi Takeda	<a href="mailto:hita@patana.ac.th">hita@patana.ac.th</a>
Mandarin	Ms. Grace Chen	<a href="mailto:grch@patana.ac.th">grch@patana.ac.th</a>
Spanish	Mrs. Mariela Bianciotti Sennecke	<a href="mailto:mabi@patana.ac.th">mabi@patana.ac.th</a>
Thai	Kru Rosarin Vattanaput	<a href="mailto:rowa@patana.ac.th">rowa@patana.ac.th</a>

Please complete the form and upload it to your child's application, or email to [admissions@patana.ac.th](mailto:admissions@patana.ac.th) if you have already submitted your application.

Should you have any queries regarding the language choice, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mariela Bianciotti  
Leader of Learning, World Languages  
[mabi@patana.ac.th](mailto:mabi@patana.ac.th)

## MFL Option Form for new Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 students

### Information about your child

- Surname \_\_\_\_\_
- Name \_\_\_\_\_
- Year group \_\_\_\_\_
- Nationality (as per registration) \_\_\_\_\_
- Languages spoken with ease \_\_\_\_\_
- Is your child receiving English as an Additional Language (EAL) support at their current school?      YES      NO      (Please circle as appropriate)
- If your child is on the EAL register, please indicate a language s/he would like to study later:  
- \_\_\_\_\_

### ***This selection box is for students who are NOT on the EAL register:***

Please select your language and tick in the appropriate box

<i>*Please note the availability of languages in Years 4, 5 &amp; 6 will be subject to student numbers and will be confirmed by the end of the academic year.</i>	<b>MFL1</b>	
<b>Language</b>	<b>First choice</b>	<b>Second choice</b>
<b>*French</b>		
<b>German</b> (2020/21 available only in Y5 & Y6; 2021/22 available only in Y6)		
<b>Japanese</b> (2020/21 available only in Y6)		
<b>*Mandarin</b>		
<b>*Spanish</b>		
<b>Thai A</b> (compulsory for Thai /dual nationals)		
<b>Thai B</b> (not available in 2020/21 – may be available in 2021/22 subject to demand)		

Parent / guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_