



INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF  
BUDAPEST  
Smart Education.  
Smart Life.



**CAMBRIDGE**  
International Examinations

Cambridge International School

# International School of Budapest

## Information Brochure



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## 1. ABOUT ISB

The International School of Budapest, established in 1996, is the largest English-Hungarian bilingual international school in Hungary. We provide an international education in a caring environment to pupils from 5 to 18 years old, covering preparatory, elementary and high school education.

### 1.1. Accreditations



ISB is a registered Cambridge International School, an IB candidate school and a registered Hungarian private school.

The international accreditation of ISB was given by **Cambridge International Examinations**, which has been one of the largest accrediting organisations in Britain for decades. The organisation provides qualification systems recognised worldwide for international schools. There are more than 10,000 Cambridge schools in over 160 countries worldwide. The Cambridge International Examinations accreditation ensures that ISB has one of the world's highest quality education programmes, as well supporting a rigorous evaluation system via internationally recognised examination materials. In addition to that, at the end of Grade 5 (Key Stage 2), Grade 8 (Key Stage 3) and Grade 10 (Key Stage 4, IGCSE) the children can take an official Cambridge examination which offers them an excellent opportunity to gain internationally recognised qualifications.

ISB has started the accreditation procedure for the **International Baccalaureate Organisation** and will be preparing to launch its International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme from September 2020. The IB Diploma Programme is followed by all major international schools across the world, there are 2,795 schools offering it in 143 different countries. The IB Diploma Programme is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities. From September 2019, we will also be offering a Pre-IB Year for those students who need additional support in English, prior to beginning the IB Diploma programme.

ISB also has a Hungarian accreditation from the **Hungarian Educational Ministry** as an International School of Budapest and Hungarian-English Bilingual Primary and Secondary School (Ministry ID: 035019). Thus, ISB is authorised to issue an official Hungarian elementary school report (at the end of Grade 8) in accordance with the Curriculum for Bilingual Schools of the Hungarian National Curriculum which is accepted in all state schools in Hungary.



## 1.2. The ISB Philosophy

### Mission Statement

We are ISB, a truly bilingual school that excels in English and Hungarian education.

We provide a safe, friendly learning environment where all children are welcome, we celebrate all cultures, and we are an integrated part of the educational community in Hungary.

We offer high quality teaching, child-centred curriculum, and a social community for students, parents and teachers.

We strive to help each child do their best and learn in their own unique way, to the best of their ability.

Through our education we are dedicated to convey the following values for our students:

- Independence, creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking;
- Responsibility, self-confidence and a dedication to learning;
- Honesty, integrity, tolerance, empathy and respect;
- Accepting, understanding and respecting different cultures -being truly international pupils.
- Proactivity and taking initiative

We are facing the challenge of preparing our pupils for a rapidly changing and unknown world. Children starting our school now will probably not begin working until around the year 2033 and possibly not retire until the next century. This is the future for which we are preparing them. We cannot be certain of what skills and knowledge will be then required of them. However, we can be certain that the above values, which are a combination of skills, attributes and dispositions, will enable our pupils to engage successfully in the world around them.

Acquiring knowledge and learning facts are very important and, alongside teaching them, it is the values and competences outlined above which we will put at the very centre of our teaching and the heart of our school. In this way we will be preparing our pupils to meet the challenges of successfully and confidently living and working in the unknown and exciting world which lies ahead of them.

## 2. WHY ISB?

There are several reasons why ISB is special among the international schools in Hungary.

### 2.1. Unique curriculum

Besides the Cambridge International Curriculum students in ISB can also acquire the knowledge of the Hungarian National Curriculum. These two curricula perfectly complement each other, as the two different aspects of knowledge and skills development provide maximum effectiveness in our students' academic progress. English lessons are taught by native **fluent** English-speaking teachers, while Hungarian lessons are taught by native Hungarian teachers, ensuring the highest level and quality of the transfer of knowledge and skills in each subject.

## 2.2. Individual attention

We have small class sizes. In the academic year 2018/19 our average class size is 16. As a result, we can ensure individual attention to every student, taking into consideration the personal needs of each child to achieve the maximum improvement in their academic performance.

## 2.3. Family ambience, healthy environment

We believe that appropriate emotional, psychological and physical progress of a child is not only essential but indispensable for their mental development. ISB is a truly friendly and caring school with a family-like atmosphere. Furthermore, we provide one of the healthiest and greenest environments for our students in Budapest, thanks to the location of our school in the wooded Buda-hills.

## 2.4. Committed teaching staff

Our teaching staff is exceptionally committed and serve as teachers here for extended periods of time. The average time spent with at ISB for a Hungarian staff member is 7 years, while our international staff averages about 5 years.

## 2.5. Integration

The particularly helpful Hungarian community in ISB supports the integration of foreign or returning families into the Hungarian social life. Foreign children quickly and easily integrate into the Hungarian community, meanwhile they share a lot of new knowledge and customs with their Hungarian schoolmates. At the same time, Hungarian students can enjoy an international atmosphere without losing the Hungarian environment.

The time they spend together provides valuable and unforgettable experiences for all children.



# 3. CURRICULUM

## 3.1. Our Educational Approach

The following conceptions summarise what we consider important at ISB:

- differentiated and child-centred teaching
- encouraging the natural, intrinsic interest and desire for knowledge
- individual attention in small classes
- thorough textual evaluations, careful assessment methods
- project works to develop independence, creativity, problem solving and logical reasoning

- positive, motivating and supportive atmosphere to help build confidence and inspire good academic performance
- individual and group performances to develop communication and performance skills
- preferring praise to inspire good behaviour and foster motivation
- team work to develop cooperation and leadership skills
- theme weeks to create a wide range of learning opportunities
- well qualified teaching staff

### 3.2. Our Academic Programmes

ISB offers two different academic programmes for its students.

Our **International Academic Programme** follows the Cambridge International Curriculum, an international curriculum like the English National Curriculum. In this programme, well-qualified native fluent English-speaking teachers educate the children, and the teaching is conducted only in English. Twice in the school year, students are given a school report containing a written evaluation in English with details corresponding to the international curriculum. Within this academic programme we also provide the opportunity for students in Grade 1-10 to take part in a second language Hungarian course.

Our **Bilingual Academic Programme** offers high-standard instruction for Hungarian or Hungarian speaking children with English or another mother tongue. The curriculum follows both the Curriculum Framework for Bilingual Schools of the Hungarian National Curriculum and the Curriculum Framework of the Cambridge International Examinations' curriculum. Students in this programme have a native fluent English-speaking homeroom teacher, and instruction is provided in the proportion of two-thirds of the timetable in English and one-third in Hungarian. Twice a year, students receive a Hungarian school report recognised by the Hungarian state, and a written evaluation in English with details corresponding to the British practice.

This academic programme not only provides a bilingual curriculum, but it enriches the children with the Cambridge curriculum's skills-based method of education and provides instruction in an international environment. Our students benefit from having the chance to integrate with their international classmates, and their English language major subjects are taught exclusively by native fluent English-speaking teachers.



In all our academic programmes English is taught in our successful **ELL – English Language Learning programme**. Within this programme, students from each grade group are placed in study groups of 3-16 members (most often 6-12 members) with mixed English levels. This means that all children are evaluated by our professional staff and carefully placed in mixed-ability language learning groups.

We believe in differentiated instruction, bringing all our students up to a high level of English and so not limiting any student's learning potential. Utilising the opportunity to mix our groups also promotes increased social interaction within grade levels enhancing social, emotional and intellectual development of all our children.

### **EAL Programme**

We are pleased to offer English as an Additional Language (EAL) support at ISB. This department provides extra English classes for lower-level English speakers. Sometimes EAL students are taken out of ELL classes and taught English in a comfortable one-on-one or small group setting. This lets EAL teachers gauge the need for development and provide specific support. Other times, EAL students are joined in class by an EAL teacher. This teacher sits with the student or students and offers English help while Cambridge curriculum is taught in class. In this case, students are not missing important information, and they are better able to understand what they encounter in books, worksheets, and classes.

EAL students can be taught anything related to English, depending on their needs and levels. These topics include phonics, pronunciation, general conversation, spelling, reading comprehension, sentence structure, grammar structures, writing style, and academic vocabulary. Our EAL department aims to supplement classes with English lessons in order to enable students to access and maximise the excellent education available to them at ISB.

## **3.3. Elementary School**

### **3.3.1. Preparatory**

Our preparatory grade is an excellent bridge between kindergarten and school. It focuses more on learning than typical kindergartens, aiding small children in their transition to school life through a paced and gentle introduction to our challenging school expectations.



### **Curriculum design**

The curriculum design in our preparatory year takes into consideration that children at this age get tired faster and have a relatively higher need for play. It prepares students for the intellectual challenges of further education, focusing on the development of the whole child as an inquirer. Our Preparatory Grade corresponds to Year 1 of Key Stage 1 in the English National Curriculum.

= Instruction language is Hungarian

Preparatory Grade subjects	International Programme (I) No. of lessons/week	Bilingual Programme (B) No. of lessons/week
ELL (English Language Learning) in small groups – reading, comprehension, writing, spelling, phonics, literacy, games and songs	6	6
Project Based Learning (Projekt alapú tanulás)	2	2
Additional Language Activities – circle time, language skills, story time, show and tell, topics, writing/writing preparation*, creative play, games, songs and individual development	9	8
Mathematics	3	4
English Science and Social Studies	3	2
Hungarian Environmental Education	0	2
Songs and Music	2	1
Drama, Social Skills	1	1
Visual Art	2	2
Physical Education	2	2
<b>Total no. of lessons</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in Hungarian</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in English</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>

\*Students have Writing in the International Programme and Writing Preparation in the Bilingual Programme.

### 3.3.2. Grade 1-5

The vital role of the elementary school is to encourage the natural inquisitiveness of children and to orient them towards a lifelong love of learning. Increasing importance is placed on motivating learning, developing critical thinking and metacognitive skills, and fostering collaboration and a sense of community in our younger learners.



### Curriculum design

Elementary School subjects give a strong foundation for further studies and prepare students well for the more sophisticated curriculum of the High School. The curriculum develops students' academic, social and emotional wellbeing, focusing as well on their personal development. The number of hours

increase slightly as a new subject, a second language gets introduced in Grade 5. Our Grade 1 corresponds to Year 2 of Key Stage 1, and our Grades 2 to 5 are equivalent to Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) in the English National Curriculum.

= Instruction language is Hungarian

Grade 1-5 subjects	International Programme (I) No. of lessons/week	Bilingual Programme (B) No. of lessons/week
ELL (English Language Learning) in small groups – reading, comprehension, writing, spelling, phonics, literacy, grammar, diary, poetry	7	7
Additional Language Activities – language skills, reading, comprehension, topics, writing, spelling, literacy, poetry, grammar, library, social studies and science*, drama, technology-art-design	4	7
Mathematics	5	4
Additional Mathematics	1	1
Science and Social Studies	4	4
Foreign Language** – Spanish or German	2**	2**
Hungarian as a Foreign Language	2	0
Drama and Ethics	1	1
ICT (Information and Communication Technology)***	1	1
English and Hungarian Music	1	1
Visual Art	2	2
Physical Education (3 + 2 after school lessons)	3	3
<b>Total no. of lessons</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in Hungarian</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in English or other Foreign Language</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>

\*In the Bilingual Programme Hungarian Environmental Education is integrated in the Grade 3 and 4 curricula, while students have separate lessons (two Hungarian History and one Hungarian Science lesson) for this subject in Grade 5.

\*\*Foreign Language instruction starts in Grade 5 as a compulsory after school club in the 7th period.

\*\*\*In Grade 1 students have library and reading hour instead of ICT.

## 3.4. Grade 6-12

### 3.4.1. Grade 6-8

Academic expectations increase in Grade 6-8. Students need to be a lot more self-reliant and responsible to successfully take on the new challenges. Project work gets more emphasis teaching students time management, independence, accountability and efficient collaboration with others.



## Curriculum design

Students have several new subjects in Grade 6-8 and their knowledge deepens in all subject areas. We nurture independent learning skills in every way, encouraging every student to take responsibility for their learning. The programme incorporates local and global issues into the curriculum. Our Grades 6 to 8 correspond to Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) in the English National Curriculum.

 = Instruction language is Hungarian

Grade 6-8 subjects	International Programme (I) No. of lessons/week	Bilingual Programme (B) No. of lessons/week
ELL (English Language Learning) in small groups – reading, comprehension, writing, spelling, grammar, literacy, poetry	6	6
Additional Language Activities – language skills, literature and grammar, reading, comprehension, writing, spelling, library	4	4
Mathematics	3	3
Additional Mathematics	3	3
Hungarian History	0	2
Social Studies – World History, Civilisation, Geography	2	2
Science	4	4
Foreign Language – Spanish or German	2	2
Hungarian as a Foreign Language	2	0
Drama/Ethics	1	1
ICT (Information and Communication Technology)	1	1
English and Hungarian Music	1	1
Visual Art	2	2
Physical Education (3 + 2 after school lessons)	3	3
<b>Total no. of lessons</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in Hungarian</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total no. of lessons in English and other foreign languages</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>

### 3.4.2. Cambridge IGCSE programme – Grades 9-10

ISB launched its Cambridge IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) programme for students in Grades 9 to 10 in September 2017. This programme consists of a preparatory course culminating in world-recognised IGCSE examinations at the end of Grade 10. Cambridge IGCSE examinations are the international equivalent of the GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) taken by all students in the UK at age 16 years. They are rigorous tests of a student's academic skills and knowledge. The IGCSE courses are excellent preparation for the IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma.

#### Curriculum design

The Cambridge IGCSE years help the progression from Grades 6-8 to IB Diploma style education. Students have 5 major IGCSE subjects: English, Mathematics, History, Sciences and Spanish/German. Along sides these students take a variety of co-curricular activities. The co-curricular programme includes sport, art, music, and ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

Our Grades 9 and 10 correspond to the Key Stage 4 in the English system.

 = Instruction language is Hungarian

Grade 9-10 subjects	International Programme (I) No. of lessons/week
<b>English</b> English as a Second Language IGCSE	8
<b>Mathematics</b> Maths International IGCSE	4
<b>Science</b> Combined Science IGCSE	4
<b>Social Studies</b> History IGCSE	3
<b>Foreign Language</b> Foreign Language IGCSE – Spanish or German	3
<b>Hungarian as a Foreign Language</b>	2
<b>Co-curricular subjects</b> ICT, Music, Art, Sports	10
<b>Total no. of lessons</b>	<b>34</b>

### 3.4.3. IB Diploma programme – Grade 11-12

Our Grade 11-12 students are preparing in 6 subject areas, to take comprehensive IB examinations at the end of Grade 12.

ISB has started the accreditation procedure for the **International Baccalaureate Organisation** and will be preparing to launch its International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme from September 2020. The IB Diploma Programme is followed by all major international schools across the world, there are 2,795 schools offering it in 143 different countries. The IB Diploma Programme is recognized and respected by the world's leading universities. From September 2019, we will also be offering a Pre-IB Year for those students who need additional support in English, prior to beginning the IB Diploma programme.

The IB Diploma is also fully recognised by the Hungarian State, students can enrol in Hungarian State Universities with the IB certificate.

The IB Diploma Programme is more than just an examination system, as it requires its students to develop their abilities not just in academic subjects but also in life-skills and strong personal values as described in the IB Learner Profile.

### 3.5. After school programmes, clubs

After school activities provide students the opportunity to explore a variety of areas beyond the academic curriculum offered during the regular school day.

Activities are generally offered in semester groupings, and last for approximately 10-12 weeks per semester. Activities are arranged according to different age groups.

A few samples of our school clubs: piano, mountain biking, acrobatic rock-and-roll, judo, soccer, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, modern dances, woodwork club, etc.



### 3.6. Field trips, excursions

ISB recognises the value of out-of-classroom educational experiences. In each school year there are 3-4 field trips sponsored by the School. These trips enhance some particular curriculum objectives. There might be additional field trips which are not necessarily fully sponsored by the School, e.g. forest schools or field trips abroad for older children. These are usually longer than one day.

### 3.7. Academic competitions

There are several academic competitions organised by the school. Organisation can be in school, amongst ISB students as well as participation in outside competitions at the local and national levels.



## 4. COMMUNICATION

In all well-run communities' communication plays an important role. In ISB the following communication channels are used.

### 4.1. ISB Newsletter

Newsletters are sent out once in every two weeks to brief parents about school news, important information, upcoming events, competition results, students or events we can be proud of and about future developments. The newsletters are sent out via email to parents.

### 4.2. School assembly

ISB holds monthly school assemblies in the Theatre Hall, where parents and students can watch the plays, shows and other presentations performed by different classes or after school club groups of the school.

### 4.3. Productive parent-teacher relationship

We liaise closely with our parent community, so parents are regularly informed about their child's academic and social development. All the teachers are available through the school email and also personally for a short time after the teaching period on school days. Meetings for longer conversations are organised weekly in the time of the teacher's consultation hours and pre-arranged individual appointments are also available. In addition, parents' conferences are held twice a year, when all teachers are available.

#### 4.4. ISB Parent – Teacher Association (PTA), Parent questionnaires

ISB appreciates parents’ suggestions and feedback. This is what enables us to continuously improve the quality of our education service. The PTA holds a meeting every other month in a year. Parents’ representatives forward the parents’ recommendations, constructive ideas and any offers for voluntary help in organisation regarding the school’s educational and other activities to the management.

ISB parents are also invited to share their opinions in the annual survey when any parent can evaluate the yearly performance of the school. The feedback provided by the parents’ questionnaires is analysed and then integrated in the educational development plans of the following school year.

#### 4.5. e-Student Register (E-Kréta)

In the e-Student Register (E-Kréta), which can be accessed through the ISB website, parents receive up-to-date information about the academic progress of their child from full written evaluations, test results, grades, lesson topics and upcoming test forecasts. Lower grades use Class Dojo as an additional platform, which is also a motivation tool for young pupils.

#### 4.6. School reports

Twice in each academic year, at the end of the first and second semester, our students receive a comprehensive and detailed assessment about their performance at school. Subjects part of the Hungarian curriculum are assessed in Hungarian; while for subjects included in the English curriculum students receive a textual report and assessment that follows evaluation procedures like those found in other international schools. Mid-term reports are provided to the parents on Teacher-Parent meetings.

### 5. EVERYDAY LIFE AT ISB

#### 5.1. Daily schedule

The school is open during the regular school time from 08:00 to 17:00 hours. School starts with a registration for 10 minutes before the first lesson. Classes last for 45 minutes from the Preparatory to Grade 10.

Our daily schedule is the following:

PREPARATORY AND GRADE 1-4		
Period	from	to
Registration	8:20	8:30
Period 1	8:30	9:15
Period 2	9:25	10:10
Long break		
Period 3	10:35	11:20
Period 4	11:25	12:10
Lunch		
Period 5	13:10	13:55
Period 6	14:05	14:50
Day care, Study hall After school activities until 17:00		

GRADE 5-10		
Period	from	to
Registration	8:20	8:30
Period 1	8:30	9:15
Period 2	9:25	10:10
Period 3	10:15	11:00
Long break		
Period 4	11:25	12:10
Period 5	12:15	13:00
Lunch		
Period 6	13:40	14:25
Period 7	14:30	15:15
Study hall, After school activities until 17:00		

## 5.2. Outdoor play and break

Outdoor play is an essential part of our younger students' daily life. Weather permitting our students spend their break times; long break, lunch break and some after school activities outside in ISB's playground.

## 5.3. Study hall

Until 17:00 ISB provides study hall, a variety of facultative activities including gifted and talented lessons, in certain cases individual special development activities and academic preparation for inter-school competitions for its pupils in addition to our selection of clubs.

## 5.4. Additional services

At ISB the following additional services are available to children and parents.

### Lunch

Catering for the children is provided by the restaurant next to the school. Besides lunch, morning and afternoon snacks are also provided for the children. When planning and preparing the meals special emphasis is placed on providing our students a healthy diet. We offer balanced menus, encourage the consumption of fruits and vegetables and reduction of salt, white flour and refined sugar. The children can choose between two menus daily to allow greater variety and preference.

Lunch consists of soup, main dish with a side dish and/or salad, seasonal fruit or some cake for dessert.

### Security

Entry into the territory of Csillebérc Leisure Centre is allowed only by an entry permit issued by the school and the Centre's operator and it is controlled at the main entrance. In the school building a security guard monitors the students and visitors during the day, and we also have security cameras watching our outdoor playground and the areas in front of our buildings.

### Facilities

The school facilities are provided with all the devices and equipment that are necessary to meet the requirements of quality education. In our classrooms, projectors and interactive white boards aid our students' learning.

- bright and cosy classrooms
- a multifunctional community and theatre hall
- a library of English and Hungarian books and other reading material
- several specialised classrooms furnished for art (visual art, crafts etc.), music, information technology (computer applications, film, 3D design), and drama activities
- a small and a large fully equipped gym
- school yard surrounded by forests with separate playgrounds for younger and older children as well as an artificial turf football, volleyball & basketball pitch, ping-pong tables
- the territory of Csillebérc Leisure Centre, which provides an ideal and safe venue for organising biking, outing, hiking as well as other sports and leisure activities

Students are taken on regular visits to a fully equipped science laboratory, where they can carry out experiments connected to the curriculum.

## Parking

Parking is available and free for ISB parents within the territory of Csillebérc Leisure Centre in front of and close to our school.

## Health service

The school doctor and nurse are available once a month at an arranged date and time in the school or can be contacted by parents in e-mail stated on the ISB online parent portal. During each academic year, the pupils need to take part in some mandatory screening tests prescribed by law. The school doctor informs the parents about the screening test results in writing.

## 6. APPLICATION

The International School of Budapest accepts admissions throughout the year provided there are free places.

We organise several Open Days and welcome prospective parents on our school tours that are held each Wednesday starting at 09:00, alternating weekly in English and Hungarian. They provide an excellent opportunity to get more information about ISB's life. Registration for our Open Days and school tours can be made online on the ISB website.



### Application procedure

The student status of the child becomes effective upon enrolling to ISB, for which the following steps:

1. In order to get enrolled to our school it is necessary that the given child take part in our Assessment Day. During the Assessment Day, children can spend a morning in our school together with a group of students from the same age. This is a wonderful opportunity for enquiring parents and their children to get a flavor of ISB, meet our teachers, learn more about our modern teaching methods, and experience the friendly atmosphere that can be found in our school. Besides, we can also get acquainted with the children and can informally assess their skills, based on which we can advise the parents about enrollment.
2. After receiving the official acceptance letter from school, the fully completed and signed Enrollment Form and Tuition Agreement with the documents specified in it should be submitted to ISB. We also accept the photocopies or scanned copies of the documents necessary for enrollment. The Enrollment Form can be downloaded from the school website or asked for in the Office.
3. Paying the registration and seat reservation fee: Registration fee is a one-time fee covering the administrative costs of the enrollment; seat reservation fee is part of the tuition contribution, none of

them is refundable. For parents to pay the registration and seat reservation fee and the tuition contribution the school will issue an invoice based on the data provided in the Enrollment Form. Paying the fee can be accomplished based on the data contained in the invoice (amount, account number, etc.).

4. Beside the Enrollment Form, two original, completed and signed Tuition Agreements should be submitted to the school. One of the submitted agreements will be given back to parents after signing by the school.

## 7. SCHOOL'S CONTACT

### International School of Budapest

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### Management and School Secretariat

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