Get ahead with international schooling

academia International School
Bilingual all-day school
English-language college
### About us

academia International School is an international, bilingual all-day school. Our school programme extends from kindergarten to university entrance qualification.

Teaching in kindergarten, in primary school and at secondary level is provided half in German and half in English, with English predominating at college. Our teaching focuses on our students and their individual needs.

Our curriculum is based on the UK Cambridge International Curriculum as well as the official curriculum of the respective Canton ("Lehrplan21", obligatory period of schooling). Our university entrance qualification is recognised by international and Swiss universities.

The International School is part of the academia educational group (www.academia-group.ch), which is active in the following educational areas:

- International schools (kindergarten, primary and secondary school, college)
- Language teaching (language courses for adults and companies)
- Learning: Learning for children and adolescents (Primary school and secondary school; tuition and individual solutions; academia talents, school for highly talented students)
- Day care centres
- Language holidays, student exchange programmes

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### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About us</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immersion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-school programme</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday programme</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immersion</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-school programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday programme</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After-school programme</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject overview</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition in Switzerland</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition abroad</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade system</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education subjects</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and further education</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kindergarten

In our bilingual kindergarten, children develop their reading, writing and numeracy skills as well as their decision-making, learning and social competencies. Native speaker teachers create individual work and activities based on the child’s strengths and talents. The child learns the new language in guided learning sequences and in supervised playing phases.

We offer:
- Qualified and experienced kindergarten teachers
- Small groups
- Individual advancement of each child
- Varied experience in the field of basic mathematical skills
- Diverse experience in letters and writing
- Preparation in all learning areas for entry to primary level
- Daily activities like dance, singing, music, sport, art and swimming
- Forest days
- Extensive after-school programme
- School bus

Curriculum

Teaching in our bilingual kindergarten is based on the curriculum of the respective Canton as well as on the UK Cambridge International Curriculum. Our individual work and activities plans allow us to focus on the talents and skills of each child.

Immersion (lat. ‘immersio = immerse’)

Children are taught by a German-speaking and an English-speaking teacher. The German-speaking teacher always speaks High German with the children, while the English-speaking teacher consistently speaks English. We believe in the principle of one person for one language.

This makes it possible for the children to immerse themselves in both languages. To help the children to learn the new language quickly, this language is always spoken in the guided learning phases. The children are free to communicate in the language of their choice during the supervised playing phases.
Timetable
Our bilingual kindergarten starts with an arrival period, which allows the children to settle in and prepare for the day. The children attend kindergarten in the afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, while Wednesday afternoon is off.

Our day care centre offers an extensive after-school programme for all children wishing to stay longer.

Exact times and current timetables of each kindergarten are provided on our website: www.academia-international.ch

After-school programme
Our after-school programme is run by qualified and experienced staff. The programme advances the decision-making and social competence as well as the responsibility and creativity of the children. Participation is strength-based: the children should experience a feeling of success and be motivated to take part in the courses.

Our various mini clubs in the kindergarten are intended for the children to try out and switch between them within the school year if they wish.

Holiday programme
During the school holidays (except for Christmas holidays), we offer supervision on a daily or weekly basis within the scope of interesting themed weeks.

Primary school
Our teaching concept is based on immersion and advancement of talents and gifted children. A German-speaking teacher in a German-speaking learning environment during one half of the week alternates with an English-speaking teacher in an English-speaking learning environment during the other half of the week. The children study in small classes according to an individual work plan, which focuses on their individual talents and strengths.

We offer:
• Qualified, committed and experienced native speaking teachers
• Native speaking assistant teachers
• Team teaching
• Individual advancement
• Intensive support and supervision
• School bus
• Lunchtime supervision
• Extensive after-school programme
• Homework supervision

Curriculum
Our curriculum is based on the UK Cambridge International Curriculum as well as the official curriculum of the Canton ("Lehrplan21", obligatory period of schooling).

Our teachers differentiate all learning targets, also in the form of weekly work plans. These work plans take into account the level as well as the pace of learning of each child.

Regular learning progress tests provide important feedback on status of learning and knowledge in the various fields of study. Our curricula combine the academic standards of public and international schools with music, art and sport in a comprehensive educational programme. We promote openness, tolerance and personal responsibility and encourage children to solve problems responsibly and creatively.
Instruction is interdisciplinary to advance holistic thinking and action. Interdisciplinary means that various subjects are combined: a history-related topic may for instance also be taught in German lessons.

Students form teams to work on projects in different subject areas, which they then present to the class.

Homework is intended to help students organise and structure their learning process independently. Most homework can be completed in the Homework Club.

We attach importance to:

• Learning processes structured by the children themselves
• Critical questioning
• Individual learning and problem-solving strategies
• Promotion of self-confidence
• Familiarisation with various presentation techniques

Immersion

In our primary school, children are taught in English and German by teachers who are native speakers. The switch allows our students to fully immerse themselves in the respectively new language.

We also believe in the principle of one person for one language with regard to primary school level.

The advantages of immersion are combined with intensive supervision, which focuses on the children’s individual talents and strengths.

Immersion at a glance:

• Native speaking teachers
• Team teaching (a German and an English mother-tongue teacher)
• Adapted class sizes
• Specialised teaching materials and differentiated learning programmes
Timetable
Teaching at our primary school takes place in the mornings and afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, while Wednesday afternoon is off.

Our day care centre offers an extensive after-school programme for all children wishing to stay longer.

Supervised homework hours as well as additional “support courses for beginners” are offered in both German and English as required.

Exact times and current timetables of each primary school are provided on our website: www.academia-international.ch

After-school programme
Our after-school programme is run by qualified and experienced staff. Various clubs advance the decision-making and social competence as well as responsibility and creativity of the children. Participation is strength-based: the children should experience a feeling of success and be motivated to take part in the courses.

Homework
After school, students can complete their homework in the afternoons and work on their individual weekly targets.

Homework is set to pursue an educational goal and can mostly be completed in the Homework Club.

Holiday programme
During the school holidays (except for Christmas holidays), we offer supervision on a daily or weekly basis within the scope of interesting themed weeks.

Secondary school
Our bilingual pre-college secondary school prepares students for admission to our English-language college or other further education schools. Knowledge, abilities and skills are consolidated and extended in lessons structured according to specific subjects. Abstract thinking and learning becomes more significant due to the general and cognitive development of the students, while they continue to learn through concrete actions and situations.

Interdisciplinary competences are strengthened and trained consistently. Attitudes and approaches are reflected upon, helping students to learn independently and responsibly.

We offer:
• Motivated, experienced native speaking teachers
• Subjects taught in German and English
• Preparation for college
• Acquisition of a broad general education
• Individualised language instruction in German and English
• Development of an additional foreign language (French)
• Higher linguistic proficiency by lessons in the target language

Curriculum
Our curriculum is based on the official curriculum of the respective Canton and the UK Cambridge International Curriculum.

In Mathematics, we help all students to develop their mathematical thinking skills further: abstract and spatial thought, problem-solving strategies are key elements of lessons. Linguistic and literary competencies of the curricula are conveyed by native speakers in German, English and French using modern didactics and teaching methods.

Natural Science, Sport, Art and Music are further important components of teaching, broadening horizons and promoting differentiated learning. Students also form teams to work on projects on different subjects, which they present to their class.
Timetable
Teaching at our secondary school takes place in the mornings and afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, while Wednesday afternoon is normally off. A comprehensive after-school programme is available within the scope of our day care service for all students wishing to stay longer.

Exact times and current timetables are provided on our website: www.academia-international.ch

After-school programme
Our after-school programme is run by qualified and experienced staff. Various clubs advance the decision-making and social competence as well as responsibility and creativity of the children. Participation is strength-based: the children should experience a feeling of success and be motivated to take part in the courses.

Participation in the various programmes depends on the current secondary school timetable.

Homework
After school, students can complete their homework in the afternoons and work on their individual weekly targets.

Homework is set to pursue an educational goal and can mostly be completed in the Homework Club.

Whether secondary school children can make use of this also depends on the current timetable.
College

In our English-language college, students are prepared for the international university entrance qualification (A levels) in four years. Students who are at the stage just before gaining the Swiss university entrance qualification (Matura) can complete the qualification in two years.

We offer:

• A qualification acknowledged in Switzerland and all over the world
• English as the language of instruction
• Supervised homework and study times
• Comprehensive preparation for academic studies

We attach importance to:

• Focus on key subjects
• Promotion of excellence in key subjects
• Advancement of scientific working and writing
• Promotion of competence in methods
• Advancement of the ability to plan, conduct, present and post-process projects on complicated issues

Curriculum

Our college is based on the British education system (IGCSEs, AS and A levels) and follows the Cambridge International and Edexcel curricula. Students attend our school for 4 years in order to gain the university entrance qualification. Exams take place after the first 2 years, as well as after the 3rd and 4th year.

IGCSE

IGCSE stands for the international qualification “International General Certificate of Secondary Education”. Our students receive 2 years of teaching based on the IGCSE curriculum, which gives them a solid and diverse education. Examinations in at least 6 subjects are held after these 2 years.

Our school is recognised as an official examination centre by the Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel examination boards. Exams are taken on our premises in line with the strict examination conditions prescribed by the two boards.
IGCSE lessons are generally given in small classes, which is an ideal learning environment. Our experienced teachers from Great Britain, the USA, Australia, Germany, France and Spain make use of established teaching methods to ensure successful learning. Apart from acquiring the ability to define, describe or learn things, our students are also introduced to more sophisticated analysis, synthesis and evaluation processes. The teachers encourage them to critically question information, deduce information, argue logically and develop a critical way of thinking. These academic skills gain further importance at AS and A level.

**AS-Levels**

AS levels are “Advanced Subsidiary levels”. Students must have at least a “C” in the IGCSE exams to commence an AS level. Grade “C” corresponds to a grade 4 in the Swiss system or 60% of optimal performance. 3 or 4 subjects are generally studied in greater depth at this level. One year later, i.e. after the 3rd year of schooling with us, students take the examinations required for the internationally recognised AS levels.

A level is short for “Advanced level”. Exams at A level are taken after the 4th year and are considered as final examinations. A level exams test everything studied in the last 2 years of school, including AS-level material.

Passing A-level exams successfully requires students to possess advanced academic abilities, which serve as a solid basis for the requirements at university and other further education schools. A levels are equivalent to the so-called AP levels and are also recognised by American schools and universities.

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**Overview**

The following table illustrates the four-year programme of our English-language college:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st year</td>
<td>IGCSE 1</td>
<td>Broad general education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>IGCSE 2</td>
<td>Internationally recognised qualification in 6 general education subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd year</td>
<td>AS-Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th year</td>
<td>A-Level</td>
<td>Focus on key subjects taught at an advanced level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A levels are recognised in Switzerland and all over the world for their high academic standard and specialisation.

The language of instruction is English throughout. Students who need to boost their English skills attend supplementary English courses in the 1st year.

On completion of our college, students are able to speak English at native speaker level. This is an ideal preparation for university studies or a professional career.

**Subject overview**

Our students can take the following subjects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>IGCSE, AS, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>AS, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>IGCSE, AS, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Science</td>
<td>IGCSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We furthermore offer courses in Academic English and Intensive English. 
Conduction of the course depends on the number of participants.

Individual lessons can be organised if required.

**Timetable**
Each student completes a programme geared towards his/her abilities, which is 
specified in conjunction with the school management.

Sample timetables can be found on our website: www.academia-international.ch.

**Recognised at all universities and universities of applied sciences**
The Swiss Rector’s Conference has defined the general admission requirements as follows:

Admission requirements of Swiss universities are fulfilled by students who have at least two IGCSE levels, one AS level and three A levels in general education subjects, one of which must be Mathematics or a Natural Science subject. The subjects must be passed with grade “C” or better. Students gain a middle school qualification with 5 IGCSE subjects and an A level in German, which makes them eligible for tertiary education (ISCED level 5B) at a College of Higher Vocational Education and Training (Höhere Fachschule – HF) in Switzerland.

**Recognition abroad**
A levels are generally recognised as a university entrance qualification all over the world. Regulations vary from country to country. The following information gives an overview of the various admission requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Elite university</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS</td>
<td>A<em>A</em>A<em>A</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good university</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS</td>
<td>Minimum grade B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average university</td>
<td>2–3 A levels, 1 AS</td>
<td>Minimum grade E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Elite university</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS</td>
<td>A<em>A</em>A<em>A</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good university</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS, partial dispensation from 1st year of study may be possible</td>
<td>Minimum grade B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average university</td>
<td>2–3 A levels, 1 AS, partial dispensation from 1st year of study may be possible</td>
<td>Minimum grade E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>All universities</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS, subjects according to course of study</td>
<td>Minimum grade E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other EU countries</td>
<td>Most universities</td>
<td>3 A levels, 1 AS, possibly 2 IGCSEs</td>
<td>Minimum grade C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade system
Assessment is not based on the Swiss grading 1–6 system. Grades range from A to U. An A is given for achievement of over 90% of the maximum possible points.

The table gives an overview of the grade system and the general opportunities for academic study in Switzerland and all over the world:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades in A-level system</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade A – best mark</td>
<td>Academic study at elite universities in England and the USA, access to all Swiss universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade B – good to very good</td>
<td>Academic study at very good universities in England, the USA and all Swiss universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade C – good</td>
<td>Academic study at good universities in England, the USA and all Swiss universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade D – adequate</td>
<td>Academic study at average universities in England and the USA, academic study at certain Swiss universities of applied sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade E/F – minimum mark</td>
<td>Academic study at average universities in England and the USA, academic study at German universities and certain Swiss universities of applied sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade U – unqualified</td>
<td>The exam cannot be assessed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General education subjects
1 First language (native language)
2 Second language
3 Mathematics
4 Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
5 Humanities and Social Sciences (Geography, History or Business/Law)
6 Free selection (one subject from category 2, 4 or 5)

Admission requirements are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher education institution</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Fribourg</td>
<td>6 general education subjects with minimum grade C, of these 3 A levels, 1 AS level and 2 IGCSEs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Gallen</td>
<td>Same as Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Fribourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zurich</td>
<td>Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Lucerne, Neuchâtel, Fribourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETH Zurich</td>
<td>3 A levels in the subjects Mathematics, Physics or Chemistry, native language or foreign language with minimum grade A in each of these 3 subjects and at least 4 further subjects as IGCSE and AS level from: Geography, History, a Language, Natural Sciences, Business. Otherwise: reduced admission test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College and further education

- IGCSE
- A-Level
- University or University of Applied Sciences
- College of Higher Vocational Education and Training
- Apprenticeship
- Bachelor, Master etc.

Year
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Contact
www.academia-international.ch
www.academia-matura.ch
We look forward to meeting you!