

Academic Programs

Introduction and Overview

Since the establishment of the American International School-Salzburg in 1976 thousands of young people from all over the world have combined a challenging and rigorous academic program with the chance to live and study in Salzburg, Austria. While living abroad can be an education in its own right, the American International School-Salzburg offers a very solid, college-preparatory program which leads to the awarding of an American high school diploma with AP credentials.

The curricular program of the school is maintained and regularly evaluated by the school's administration, teaching faculty, and resident-care staff. It complies fully with AP -program guidelines and our policies, teaching materials, and approach to teaching remain consistent with most accredited independent schools in the United States and worldwide. The language of instruction at our school is English, and most of the teaching faculty and resident-care staff members are US citizens and native English speakers. Given our historical and educational orientation, it should not be surprising that our students participate in a program which will provide excellent preparation for entrance to universities and colleges in North America.

Students interested in studying abroad upon graduation from AIS-Salzburg are also served by our curricular program and Advanced Placement® examinations. Graduates of AIS-Salzburg meet the requirements of and gain entrance to colleges and universities in Great Britain, continental Europe, the Far East, and all over the world. The key to equivalency with local school diplomas lies with the Advanced Placement® program of examinations which students may take each spring. The American high-school diploma plus a number of Advanced Placement® examinations with appropriate scores can open the doors to nearly any university program anywhere in the world.

What does distinguish the school from other American independent boarding schools is the fact that our students and setting are quite international. Given this, the school takes pains to provide appropriate English assistance programming for students whose English requires improvement before enrollment in the regular academic curriculum. Several levels of English assistance coursework are offered throughout the school year which require the students' participation in a number of English courses including grammar and composition, reading and vocabulary, and speech and pronunciation. Although a student may be enrolled in the English Assistance program, they still participate in a full load of credit-bearing classes and move toward the school's diploma at the end of the 12th grade year.

Grade Levels and Corresponding Ages

The American International School-Salzburg offers instruction to students in grades seven through twelve. The junior-high school program includes grades seven and eight, and the senior-high school program is composed of grades nine through twelve. AIS-Salzburg also offers a post-graduate, thirteenth year for students who desire further preparation before university entrance or who require an additional year for completion of further Advanced Placement® examinations. The following table should assist with grade-level placement:

Grade	Ages	Level	Program Description
7	12–13	Junior High	Seventh-grader
8	13–14	Junior High	Eighth-grader
9	14–15	Senior High	Freshman
10	15–16	Senior High	Sophomore
11	16–17	Senior High	Junior
12	17–18	Senior High	Senior
13	18–19	Post-Graduate	PG

Promotion Requirements

Students of the American International School-Salzburg must meet the following requirements on a yearly basis:

1. Earn a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 1.500 minimally
2. Meet the school's attendance requirements
3. Maintain a positive citizenship record while enrolled at AIS-Salzburg

Course-Load Requirements

The load requirement determines the minimum number and type of courses a student must be enrolled in each trimester at AIS-Salzburg. Load requirements apply to all students in attendance at the school.

1. Thirty-three classroom periods per week
2. One English and two foreign-language courses, except for students in English Assistance levels
3. Successful completion of the Healthy Lifestyle Requirement each trimester
4. One elective course or study hall each trimester
5. Successful completion of one course in health for all first-year students in grades 7 through 9

Diploma Requirements

The American International School-Salzburg diploma is awarded to all students who have met the following requirements:

1. Completed twelve years of formal post-kindergarten schooling
2. Completed at least one full school year (three trimesters) at AIS-Salzburg
3. Achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 1.500 in all courses enrolled in at AIS-Salzburg since the ninth grade
4. Met the school's attendance requirements
5. Maintained a positive citizenship record while enrolled at AIS-Salzburg
6. Earned a minimum of twenty-seven academic credits. One academic credit is granted for the successful completion of one full-year course which meets at least four periods weekly. These twenty-seven credits must be earned in the following areas in the ninth through twelfth grades:

English	4 credits
German	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, including Geometry and Algebra II
Physical Education	2 credits, 0.5 credits per year of enrollment
Science	3 credits including Biology and Chemistry
Social Studies	3 credits including World Cultures and US History or an equivalent or high level course in European or American history
Math/Science	1 credit in a math or science course at least one level higher than the minimum required
French or Spanish	4 credits, 1.0 credits per year of enrollment
Health	0.4 credits
Electives	3 credits

Students may have several choices of levels of study as long as all of the AIS-Salzburg promotion, graduation, and load requirements are met. For example, students may choose Advanced Placement® level coursework over a standard course for the grade level, provided approval has been granted and the appropriate background study has been successfully completed.

Standard Schedules for Each Grade Level

The following list represents common course schedules offered to AIS-Salzburg students in grades seven through twelve. Individual student schedules may vary, given placement testing results and educational history.

Seventh grade (Ages 12–13)	Junior High English German (at an appropriate level) Pre-algebra Junior High Science World Geography or World History (alternates annually) Health Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement Junior High Seminar
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Eighth grade (Ages 13–14)	Junior High English German (at an appropriate level) Algebra I Junior High Science World Geography or World History (alternates annually) Health or Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement Junior High Seminar
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Ninth grade (Ages 14–15)	Introduction to Composition and Literature German (at an appropriate level) French or Spanish (at an appropriate level) Geometry Biology World Cultures Health or Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement 9/10 Seminar
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Tenth grade (Ages 15–16)	American Literature German (at an appropriate level) French or Spanish (at an appropriate level) Algebra II
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	Chemistry United States History Health or Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement 9/10 Seminar
Eleventh grade (Ages 16–17)	World Literature German (at an appropriate level) French or Spanish (at an appropriate level) Precalculus Physics or AP Biology or AP Chemistry* AP Human Geography or AP European History or AP American History* Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement Junior Seminar
Twelfth grade (Ages 17–18)	AP Literature or Senior English German (at an appropriate level) French or Spanish (at an appropriate level) AP Calculus AB or AP Statistics AP Chemistry or AP Biology or Environmental Science* AP European History or AP American History* Electives Healthy Lifestyle Requirement Senior Seminar

*AP Chemistry and AP Biology alternate annually as course offerings. AP American History and AP European History alternate annually as well.

The Advanced Placement® (AP) Program

General Information:

(Published by the College Board, <http://www.collegeboard.com>, 2006)

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP) is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. Since its inception in 1955, the Program has provided motivated high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses in a high school setting. Students who participate in the Program not only gain college-level skills, but in many cases they also earn college credit while they are still in high school. AP courses are taught by dedicated and enthusiastic high school teachers who follow course guidelines developed and published by the College Board.

The Program's success is rooted in the collaborative efforts of motivated students, dedicated teachers, and committed schools. By participating in the Program, secondary schools make the commitment to organize and support at least one class that is equivalent to a first-year college course.

There are currently more than 140,000 teachers leading AP courses in high schools worldwide. AP teachers are some of the world's finest. The Program is strengthened by their participation in professional development workshops and Summer Institutes and in the annual AP Reading where thousands of AP teachers and college faculty gather at college sites across the United States to score the AP Exams using rigorous guidelines.

The AP Program, sponsored by the College Board, is an intensive program of 30 university-level courses and examinations. In May 2005, more than 2.1 million Advanced Placement examinations were taken globally. The grades from these examinations were used by nearly 3,000 universities worldwide as one means of determining the academic qualifications of matriculating students.

The AP Program provides course descriptions and teaching materials as well as examinations based on those descriptions. It does not, however, prescribe the textbook, schedule of lessons, or teaching techniques. The examination grade is sent to the colleges of the student's

choice, which then grant credit, advanced placement, or both, depending on institutional policies.

AP examinations are offered throughout the world each May. Most examinations are three hours; some are shorter. They are administered at participating schools. Except for studio art—which consists of a portfolio assessment—all the examinations contain a section that is free response (either essay or complex problem solving) and another section consisting of multiple-choice questions. The modern language examinations also contain a performance section that includes recording student responses on audio tape.

In June, the examinations—as well as portfolios in studio art—are graded by more than 3,400 college and secondary-school teachers brought together especially for this purpose. The faculty consultants' judgements on the essay or problem-solving questions are combined with the results of scoring the multiple-choice questions, and the total raw scores are converted by the chief faculty consultants to the program's five-point scale:

- 5 – extremely well qualified
- 4 – well qualified
- 3 – qualified
- 2 – possibly qualified
- 1 – no recommendation

AP examinations administered outside the United States represent a volume that is growing at about 7 percent annually.

The Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID)[®]

The Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID)[®] is designed for students whose higher education plans include applying to a university outside the United States. It is accepted by universities worldwide as an indication of a student's readiness for post-secondary work. It is not, however, used for credit or advanced placement in universities outside the United States, and is also not a substitute for a secondary school diploma.

To earn the International Diploma, students must earn grades of 3 or higher on at least four full-year (or the equivalent in half-year) AP Examinations within at least three of five academic areas as follows:

- Two different languages from the "languages" area
- One from either the "sciences" or "mathematics" areas
- One or more from any other area not previously selected

AP[®] Examination Areas

Area I

Languages: English Language, English Literature, French Language, French Literature, German Language, Latin Vergil, Latin Literature, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, Japanese Language and Culture, Chinese Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture

Area II

Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C Electricity & Magnetism*, Physics C Mechanics*

Area III

Mathematics: Calculus AB, Calculus BC

Area IV

History and Social Sciences: Government and Politics-Comparative*, Government and Politics-U.S.*, Macroeconomics*, Microeconomics*, World History, European History, U.S. History, Psychology*

Area V

Computer Science A*, Computer Science AB, History of Art, Studio Art, Music Theory

*Indicates the AP examinations that cover half-year college courses. These exams are given half the weight of exam results corresponding to full-year college courses.

AP® College Facts

- In May 2006, 2.1 million AP Exams were taken.
- AP Exams are administered at more than 15,000 schools in 100 countries.
- Since the first AP Exams were given in 1956, more than 12.6 million students have taken more than 19 million AP Exams worldwide.
- On average, 62 percent of the AP Exams taken receive a grade that is recommended for college credit, advanced placement, or both. More than 90 percent of the colleges and universities in the United States recognize these exam grades.
- More than 1,400 institutions grant a full year's credit (sophomore standing) to students presenting satisfactory grades on a stated number of AP Exams. This represents not just the chance to save on college tuition and graduate early from college but also frees up time in a student's college schedule, allowing a student to take more advanced courses, to double major, or to explore additional disciplines and opportunities.

Commentary on the Advanced Placement® Program

The school's successful participation in the Advanced-Placement® Program since 1983, the widespread international recognition of AP scores, and the strength of the AP curricula have convinced the administration of AIS-Salzburg that the College Board's Advanced-Placement program provides AIS-Salzburg's students opportunities superior to those of the International Baccalaureate®. Given the fact that most international schools do offer the IB, we would like to provide the following specific comparative information to students and parents considering enrollment at AIS-Salzburg:

Advanced-Placement® Program	International Baccalaureate®
Students can build up an AP profile over the course of several years.	Students are restricted to completing the IB diploma program during the final two years of school.
Students sit examinations as they complete the respective course.	Students write all examinations upon completion of the second year of the program.
Students can sample a wide variety of advanced courses.	Students must enroll in six two-year courses, excluding other possible interests.
Each course combines breadth and depth in treating the subject.	Each course emphasizes depth of treatment, not breadth.
The flexibility of the AP program allows for additional boarding-school demands on student time.	The inflexibility of the IB program does not allow, or comes into conflict with, some boarding-school requirements.
Entrance to German universities requires 4 examinations in year-long AP subjects, one of which must be mathematics or science.*	German universities require the entire IB diploma program plus four years of a second foreign language.
Austrian universities require 4 AP examinations in year-long subjects, one of which must be calculus.*	Austrian universities require the entire IB diploma program.

*With acceptable scores.

English Assistance Program

The English Assistance Program at AIS-Salzburg is designed to meet the needs of non-native English speakers who would benefit from increased hours of English instruction on a weekly basis. After testing, students are placed in one of four levels and given daily lessons on grammar, composition, reading, vocabulary, speaking, and aural training.

Level	Offered	Periods of English per Week
Introductory English	Regular School Year	15
Intermediate English Assistance	Regular School Year	15
Advanced English Assistance	Regular School Year	10
Accelerated English Assistance	Regular School Year	5–10

AIS-Salzburg can accept only those students who have already achieved a low-intermediate level of English knowledge. All students in the English Assistance program must successfully complete the Accelerated English Level to achieve the AIS-Salzburg diploma. Students who successfully complete the accelerated level before their senior year are mainstreamed into the regular academic program.

AIS-Salzburg Diploma with Emphasis on English Language

Although load, promotion, and credit requirements remain the same as with the standard AIS-Salzburg diploma, the AIS-Salzburg Diploma with Emphasis on English Language students are not required to reach as high a level in subject areas other than English. Adjustments are made as follows for this diploma:

A minimum of twenty-six credits is required, whereby these credits must be earned as follows during the ninth through twelfth grades:

English	8 credits, including Accelerated English
German	1 credit
Mathematics	3 credits, including Geometry and Algebra II
Physical Education	2 credits
Science	3 credits, including Biology and Chemistry
Social Studies	3 credits, including US History
Math/Science	1 credit in a math or science course at least one level higher than the minimum required
French or Spanish	1 credit
Health	0.4 credits
Electives	4 credits

Standard Schedules for English Assistance Level Students by Course Level

A. Introductory-Level English Assistance:

- Introductory English A - grammar and composition
- Introductory English B - reading and vocabulary
- Introductory English C - speaking and listening
- Pre-algebra or Algebra I
- Science E
- Social Studies E
- Elective or study hall
- Healthy Lifestyle Requirement

B. Intermediate-Level English Assistance:

- Intermediate English A - grammar and composition
- Intermediate English B - reading and vocabulary
- Intermediate English C - speaking and listening
- Geometry or Algebra II
- Biology E
- American History
- Elective or study hall
- Healthy Lifestyle Requirement

C. Advanced-Level English Assistance:

- Advanced English A - grammar and composition
- Advanced English B - reading and vocabulary
- German 1
- An appropriate level of mathematics
- Chemistry or Physics
- US History or AP Human Geography
- Health
- Elective
- Healthy Lifestyle Requirement

D. Accelerated-Level English Assistance:

- Accelerated Composition and Literature
- Accelerated Grammar and Reading
- Precalculus, Advanced Mathematics or AP Calculus
- Chemistry, Physics or AP Biology or AP Chemistry
- German at an appropriate level
- French or Spanish
- Elective
- 9/10, Junior, or Senior Seminar
- Health
- Healthy Lifestyle Requirement

Diploma Acceptance

Students who have graduated from the American International School-Salzburg with a AIS-Salzburg diploma with emphasis in English language have gained acceptance to many state universities and colleges in the United States and in their home countries. In most instances, this diploma is not acceptable for university entrance in Europe. Continued English instruction may be required at the university level in some cases.

AIS-Salzburg Student Body

The student body at AIS-Salzburg represents over twenty nationalities from around the world. Typically, around 20% of the students are from North America and over 75% of the students have previously attended schools in which English was the language of instruction and have a strong knowledge of the English language. Over the past five years, the following countries have been represented in our student body:

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenija, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

Faculty, Resident-Care Staff, and Administration

The teaching faculty of AIS-Salzburg is composed of 18 teachers, most of whom hold advanced degrees from universities in the United States and Canada. The faculty members have an average of ten years' teaching experience at the secondary-school level and are dedicated to the mission and educational principles of the school. The teaching faculty is under the direct supervision of the academic dean.

The resident-care staff is composed of three Dorm Parents and four Resident Assistants and is directed by the Head of Student Life. These staff members are dedicated to the well-being and appropriate development of the students outside of academic hours. The resident-care staff lives in the dormitories with the students and is individually responsible for the various floors during non-academic hours. Additionally, the resident-care staff is responsible for physical education instruction, coaching various competitive sports teams, and organizing and carrying out all weekend activities and excursions.