



INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



International Baccalaureate (IB)
Diploma Program (DP)



MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of education is to develop the self and find one's voice. To this aim the BME International Secondary School mentors students to reach high academic standards, engage in the school and local community and explore life ambitions while focusing on respect for the visions of others. Having a multinational student community, the BME International School stresses the integration of the student by developing meaningful relationships with other students, into the broader values and rationales of the international community.



TEAM WELCOME

Dear Prospective Parents and Students,

The International Baccalaureate (IB) at our school is an exciting experience. Many of the students tell us that our IB program is special. The diploma and the privileges of that diploma are the same as any other IB program, but here the students seem to feel they are part of a tight family. Working and organizing together builds on the decades of tradition we share. It's not unusual to see students and teachers having a working lunch or taking part in crafts, music, or sports in small groups both casually and formally.

In developing our IB program, we have kept this in mind. We have two new labs, new computer systems and new spaces - all with the continuity of having the same educators guiding the students through the IB program.

In this booklet you will find what you need to know about our program. It starts with a description of our school and is followed by information concerning the IB and the IB in our school. We also include brief policy statements and information about fees and services.

Enjoy looking through this brochure and we look forward to any questions you might have.

All this and other information about our school and school-wide policies can be found at: www.bmegimnazium.hu

Yours,

The I B Team



OUR HISTORY

The BME International Secondary School opened its doors in 1993 and was the brainchild of the English Department of the Technical University of Budapest who at the end of socialism saw the need for meeting the global world head on. They thought the best way to do this was to create a private school which would be the first Hungarian school to offer all subjects in the global language, English.

The school has come a long way since then. It is now in a new building and is a fully independent educational institution. We have had more than 15 years of graduating students who come from and will study in most of the continents in the world. We now are about more than just offering the best English Language training, but within the Hungarian Secondary School diploma system, offer students of all backgrounds a place to call home.

In the last ten years, we have become a forerunner in participating in European student exchange projects, have developed the most comprehensive Hungarian as a Foreign Language program in all of Hungary, were the only school to offer both higher and standard level English Literature Exams and have developed a rich tradition of events and travel opportunities.

The future looks bright for our school as we continue to increase our services and enrollment and we look forward to the next twenty years of which the International Baccalaureate (IB) will be an integral part.

WHAT IS THE IB?

IB MISSION STATEMENT

The core of the IB is its philosophy - seen through its mission statement and often repeated list of traits (learner profile). It is worth stating a bit of it here.

The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect



THE PROGRAM

To realize this mission the IB offers an academically challenging and balanced two-year course of study for students in their last years of secondary school. Candidates for this program take 6 different courses, choosing one from each of the various categories and then take centralized exams at the end of the second year in three higher level and three standard level courses. In addition, there is a critical thinking course all students take (Theory of Knowledge), there is a projects and service element known as (Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), and finally there is a 4,000 word research/exploration (Extended Essay) students must complete to graduate. These make up the core of the IB and are best illustrated in the IB hexagon. For more information please visit: www.ibo.org.



WHY THE IB?

The IB is international. The IB is accepted around the world. The IB is designed with a globe in the hand. IB graduates are respected and respect each other. These are the reasons for the IB, but, this program is not for everyone. If you like school, enjoy reading books, challenging your mind, and are ready for an intense two years that will test your intellect, creativity, and initiative, you can profit from this program.

THE IB TEACHES THINKING SKILLS FOR LIFE

The IB uses a problem solving approach.

The IB teaches how to judge information.

The IB gives students a chance to produce.

The IB stresses personal responsibility

The IB believes in empathy and making moral judgments

In other words, the IB prepares students for the work world and life.

UNIVERSITIES LOVE THE IB

The IB program is accepted all over the world and in much of the world is the preferred diploma of universities. Admissions departments know that the IB diploma means more.

To learn more about the successes of IB students visit the IB website:

<http://www.ibo.org/en/section-benefits/benefits-for-students/>

THE IB AT OUR SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

The BME International Secondary School is proud to be an IB school. Our facilities continue to expand as we have an established, special extension to our campus for many of the IB classes.



OUR IB FACILITIES

Our school has everything necessary for the IB. The teachers have all been trained to be IB teachers. A special IB laboratory has been constructed. Vernier sensors are used in small groups. Students, parents, and teachers can follow their progress through Managebac (<https://bme.managebac.com/login>)

COURSE CHOICES FOR THE IB

The following courses may be offered at standard level:

Studies in Language and Literature:

English Language and Literature, English Literature, Hungarian Literature, Independent Studies in Literature, Literature and Performance

Language Acquisition:

French, French ab initio, German, German Ab Initio, Spanish, Spanish Ab Initio

Individuals and Societies: Business and Management, Environmental Systems and Society, History, Psychology, Economics, Global Politics

Experimental Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Systems and Society, Physics, Design Technology

Mathematics: Mathematics Analysis, Mathematics Applications

The Arts: Visual Arts

The following courses may be offered at higher level

Studies in Language and Literature:

English Language and Literature, English Literature, Hungarian Literature

Language Acquisition:

English, French, German, Spanish

Individuals and Societies:

Business and Management, History, Psychology, Economics

Experimental Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Mathematics: Mathematics Analysis

The Arts: Visual Arts

OUR IB DESIGN

Students will be in the school working for 3 or 4 blocks each day. Each block consists of 90 minutes. This allows for intensive, varied practical work. In addition there are individual consultations and time after school to work on projects, essays, and CAS. Students have the opportunity to take part in clubs and after school programs related to science, social sciences, creative arts, and service.

The school year runs from September 1st to June 22nd with special days aside for working on self-designed assignments.



APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applying for our IB Diploma is a selective admissions process for which students may start applying on rolling admissions from the end of the first semester (January) through April. Students will be informed of acceptance to the program by June 1st or within 2 weeks of completing all application elements.

The applicant must demonstrate and complete the following:

1. You can find our application at <http://www.bmegimnazium.hu/IBprogram/>
2. After you have completed and scanned all the necessary forms send them via a single email to either: ib.isgs.admissions@bmegimnazium.hu Please do not send a portion of the application. We accept electronic applications only.
3. Once we have all the application materials, we will email you to set up a time for the **interview and academic discussion**- which will be completed no later than April 19th.
4. Application results will be emailed out on April 27th to both parent(s) and applicant. A letter of acceptance, provisional acceptance, or rejection will be sent. Details on these can be found on the application form.

How we determine Acceptance

The following are the minimum requirements.

- A.** 90% attendance rate in current school.
- B.** A minimum of a “B+” average in academic subjects for the previous one and a half years (Hungarian 4.5).
- C.** No less than “B” but at least one “A” in higher level choice subjects for the last half year.
- D.** Between 16-19 years of age on the first day (September 1) of IB studies.

The staff will then determine acceptance based on the following criteria as demonstrated through the application:

- A.** Ability to understand and take part in an English language classroom
- B.** Ability to achieve in three higher-level subjects
- C.** Ability to use the language for thoughtful writing
- D.** An open, caring attitude
- E.** The trustworthiness needed to carry out independent work
- F.** Long-term goals that match the IB program

SERVICES AND FEES:

TUITION

The tuition fee for the program is 2 500 000 HUF/year

INCLUDED IN THE FEE:

Instruction (35 hours/week), laboratory time, consultancy with DP coordinator, CAS and EE coordinator, Managebac information System.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

Textbooks, graphic calculator, laptop, examination fees, CAS expenses

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are scholarship opportunities for in-house applicants or 2nd year IB students. These are given for both academic and service elements. Well over 1,000,000 HUF have been distributed to students every year so far.

POLICIES IN BRIEF

Language Policy (in brief)

The BME International School is an English language Hungarian foundation school that has students from more than 20 countries with many students functioning in two or three languages. In connection with this the school functions in two languages: English and Hungarian, but because many of the students are non-native speakers in one or both of these languages, the school acknowledges the right of parents and students to be supported in their native languages. The school also realizes that all teachers are language teachers and must support Language B learning strategies as many students learn to speak English quickly but it takes 5-7 years to become academically fluent in another language.

Academic Honesty

The BME International Secondary School endorses the idea that candidates need to be able to engage in authentic creative thought and in an age where information can be gathered quickly, be able to synthesize information from multiple kinds of sources into dialectical shifts to internalize knowledge. Candidates must be given opportunities to develop these skills. This means that teachers and administrative policy, through what is done in the classroom and how candidates are assessed and monitored, create these opportunities. This also means that there is a zero tolerance policy with strict sanctions for academic malpractice.

In general, though, the promotion of academic honesty involves all the stakeholders in the candidate's secondary school years, but the focus for successful promotion of authentic production are the teachers, candidates, and administration. Each of these must be actively engaged in the process of helping and at times making sure candidates synthesize information to authentic thought.

Assessment Policy

Assessment is a natural process in which all stake holders; particularly educators and students must be fully involved with on a daily basis. Self-assessment with guidance has always been a part of this process. Assessment also does not just come from teachers in a traditional classroom setting in numerical written form. It comes from peers, administrators, or even parents or even the wider community. It can be found happening in forums, formal events, or private consultations.

Introduction

The ISGS has a long established assessment policy, in particular for grading. It is the intention of the school to continue this form of assessment for the IB program as well. Although the integration, differences and an outline of these pre-IB school policies are presented here, the School Rules and Regulations provides further details on the pre-IB assessment policies.

In-House Assessment

Background: Simultaneously the students will be assessed through the IB assessments as well as an in-house system. If students do not wish to receive credit within the Hungarian education system, this in-house system is used for ISGS scholarships, may be sent to higher education institutes, and allows promotion from the first year of the IB to the second, but it is not a legal document for promotion within the Hungarian educational system. If a student wishes to receive credit for in-house assessments within the Hungarian system, please see the section on integration of assessment into the Hungarian system. The IB internal and external assessment, of course match the requirements for the IB Program and carry the full privileges of this diploma..

An Outline of IB Assessment

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Grade Scale:

Unlike the grade scale used at ISGS, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme uses the following numerical scale in each individual subject area.

7 – Excellent, 6 – Very good, 5 – Good, 4 – Satisfactory, 3 – Mediocre, 2 – Poor, 1 – Very Poor

Additionally, the assessments for the Theory of Knowledge course as well as the Extended Essay follow a letter grade system as seen below.

A – Excellent B – Good C – Satisfactory D – Mediocre E – Elementary N – No grade.

Students will receive these grades from two forms of assessment: Internal assessment which are periodic assessments completed in school, graded by the in school teacher, but approved by external IB examiners/moderators and the other form: external assessment which are periodic assessments graded exclusively by an external grader.

For details on all of these policies please see our website: www.bmegimnazium.hu/IB/policies.

WHAT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS THINK

Teacher Statement:

I like the creativity of the classes most – the fact that the students have to work towards goals by coming up with their own ideas. It's great to see how much the students enjoy the lab work and animated experiments. You can really see them making progress.

Vegh Veronika: Biology



Student statement:

The osmosis lab was fun – everyone got their own vegetables and of course helping classmates is enjoyable. At times the independence can be stressful, but I get to work on what really interests me.

Li Fang Ge - Class of 2017.



CONTACT US

If you have any further
questions contact us:

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