



ICARDA International School of Aleppo

A coeducational day school serving the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas providing academic excellence and an international vision for the children of the world.



2011-2012 IISA SCHOOL PROFILE

The school The ICARDA International School of Aleppo (IISA) is a non-profit coeducational day school founded in 1977. Its purpose is to provide a university preparatory education for the children of scientists and staff of ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) as well as to all students enrolled. English is the language of instruction. The school is committed to facilitating a smooth transition to institutions of higher learning worldwide.

Philosophy ICARDA International School of Aleppo is an English language IB World School offering the PYP, MYP, and IB programs to the children of ICARDA staff, expatriates and Syrians. We challenge students to be principled, self-directed, life-long learners who strive for excellence. The school is committed to social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth and to facilitating a smooth transition to educational institutions around the world.

Accreditation K-12 by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, IISA is also an IB World School, College Board testing center, a member of the Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESAS) and the Mediterranean Association of International Schools (MAIS).

Curriculum The IISA Primary School, Pre-School - Grade 5, follows the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP). Students in Grades 6-10 participate in the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP). IISA is currently a candidate school for the IB MYP. The IB Diploma Program is in place in the High School for Grades 11 and 12.

Student Body 34 nations are represented at IISA: 29% of students hold Syrian passports only. Dual national, Syrian+another nationality, 51%. Dual nationals with non-Syrian passports, 1%. 23% of the students hold US passports; 13% are citizens of Canada; 5% are citizens of UK; Turkey, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are each 3%; remainder of nationalities, 2% or less. Dependents of ICARDA, the sponsor organization, constitute 20% of total enrollment.

Enrollment PS – Gr.12: 284. Boys: 179, girls: 105. Primary School: 131, Middle School: 58 and High School: 95. Class of 2011: 24. Class of 2012: 23.

Faculty IISA faculty are all certified teachers and highly qualified, with more than half holding MAs. As of the 53 teachers and administrators, 29 are foreign hires, including the head of school, 2 principals and counselor. Nationalities include the following countries: USA 13 (including school head); Canada 4; Netherlands 2; UK 3; France 1; Australia 1; Cuba 1; Jordan 1 and Lebanon 3. All 24 Syrian teachers hold 4 or 5-year degrees from Syrian universities with many possessing teacher training and advanced degrees from foreign universities.

High School The IISA High School is implementing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP) in Grades 9 and 10 and the two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB DP) in Grades 11 and 12. IISA runs a strong academic program with almost 100% of our 11th and 12th Graders registered for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. At IISA, the IB Diploma Program is an academically challenging, university-preparatory comprehensive curriculum for highly motivated students. Drawing from many educational traditions in the western world, the IB Diploma Program is a rigorous, internationally recognized qualification.

Culminating credential, credits and graduation: The culminating credential at IISA is a US style High School Diploma, an IB Diploma or a DP Diploma. Students earn credits for individual subjects if they achieve a mark/grade of '3' or higher. One credit is awarded for each one-year course/subject completed successfully. The student takes from seven to nine subjects per academic year. All High School courses offered are for credit. Possible High School subject progression is as follows:

(000621) IB Courses gr 11 (Yr 1) & gr 12 (Yr 2)		
Subject Group		Course
Group 1	Language A1	IB English A1 SL/HL
Group 2	Second Language	IB Arabic A2 SL/HL IB Arabic B SL/HL IB French B SL/HL IB Spanish ab-initio SL
Group 3	Individuals & Societies	IB Business & Management SL/HL IB Geography SL/HL IB History SL/HL IB Psychology SL/HL IB Theory of Knowledge
Group 4	Experimental Sciences	IB Biology SL/HL IB Chemistry SL/HL IB Physics SL/HL
Group 5	Mathematics & Computer Sciences	IB Mathematics SL/HL IB Math Studies IB Computer Science
Group 6	Arts	IB Visual Arts SL/HL
Other credits in grades 11 & 12 (non-IB)		
Syrian Studies		
Regional Studies		
Physical Education		
Capstone		

Language Requirements at IISA Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is required in grades 1-10. There are separate strands for MSA as a second language and MSA for native speakers of spoken colloquial Arabic. French as a second language is required in grades 6 – 8. Spanish is offered to complete beginners in grades 9 to 12.

****Regional Studies** Refers to one-week, school-sponsored trips to surrounding regions, e.g., Syria at large, Turkey, Lebanon, Spain, Egypt & Jordan. Participation is required, graded, and earns 0.25 credit per academic year. In grade 12, Regional Studies is graded Pass/Fail.

***Syrian Studies:** Required for Syrian nationals only. Offered in grades 1-12, it serves as preparation for Syrian university entrance examination in Arabic Language, History, Geography, and National/Civil Education. The Syrian Ministry of Education officially recognizes the IISA IB Diploma as equivalent to the Syrian Baccalaureate. Credit per year: 0.5.

Other Courses and Co-Curricular Activities: Dramatic and musical productions; intramural and extramural sports tournaments; Student Council; a variety of school clubs; excursions. IISA students take part in traditional charitable activities, such as Ramadan Drives or the annual Terry Fox Run.

Grading System 6-12: IISA adopted the 1-7 point IB rubric in 2005-2006. Grades are reported at the end of each semester.

Credit Distribution:		The IISA Grading System consists of an IB 7 point scale:			
English	4credits	Standard US grading equivalent	GPA	IISA 7 Point Scale	Descriptor
Math	3credits	A+	4.33	7	Excellent
Social Studies	3credits	A to A-	4	6	Very Good
Foreign Language	3credits	B+ to B-	3.33	5	Good
Science	3credits	C+ to C-	2.33	4	Satisfactory
Physical Education	1credit	D+ to D	1.33	3	Mediocre
Information Technology	1credit	D-	0	2*	Poor
Fine Arts	1credit	F	0	1	Very Poor
Electives	6credits				
A total of 25 credits is required for graduation		*No credit awarded for a 2 unless approved by Head of School Courses graded as Pass/Fail do not count toward GPA			

Grade Point Average: In grades 11 and 12 GPA is calculated for IB subjects only. **Exact class rank** is computed solely on the basis of the student's final marks for Year 1 IB courses in grade 11 and reported with student permission.

RECENT RESULTS OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

CEEB number 693001

ETS official Test Center number: 54500

TOEFL: IISA students are usually exempted from taking the TOEFL. Only the paper-based test is available in Syria.

PSAT: Grade 10 IISA students take the PSAT. Grade 11 students who are US citizens are encouraged to re-take to improve the score.

AVERAGE SAT RESULTS for 2010-2011

A total of 38 IISA students took the SAT Reasoning test from January 2010 to June 2011. 22 members of the Class of 2011 took the SAT I as juniors and seniors. Most students take the SAT I two or three times in order to improve their scores.

SAT I Average Score: Verbal 477 Math 557 Writing 507

SAT I Highest Score: Verbal 700 Math 740 Writing 750

SAT II Subject Tests: Six students took the subject tests: Math, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2011

The Class of 2011 numbered 24 students. 22 graduated earning the IISA High School Diploma, 2 certificate of High School Completion.

22 students have been accepted into four-year universities or colleges.

IB Results for May 2011 Examinations (School Code 000621)

23 students were declared IB Diploma candidates: 13 students earned the IB Diploma, (average points earned, 30; highest diploma points awarded: 36). 6 students earned an English-Arabic IB Bilingual Diploma.

FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED BY IISA GRADUATES 1995 – 2011

**In green, the placement of the Class of 2011. One student is still undecided.*

United States of America

Birmingham Southern College*
Boston University*
Brigham Young University
Cornell University, New York
Denison University
Hamilton College
Harvard College
Ithaca College
Lawrence University
Marymount College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Minnesota State University
McAlester College
Monterey Institute of International Studies
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Ohio Wesleyan University
Ohio State University
Rhode College of Design
Rutgers University
Simmons College*
SUNY Plattsburgh*
Temple University
Texas A&M University
University of California – Davis
University of California – Irvine
University of Louisiana, at Lafayette
University of Memphis*
University of Miami
University of Montana
University of Nevada, Las Vegas*
University of Northern Florida*
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California*
University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wittenberg
Virginia Tech
William Paterson University

Canada

Concordia University
McGill University
University of Guelph
University of Ottawa
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Windsor
Vanier University

United Kingdom

Birmingham University
Kingston University
Royal Holloway, U. of London
University of Derby
University of Portsmouth
University of Reading
University of Warwick
University of Westminster*
Regents college, European Business School
Swansea University
Plymouth University

Germany

University of Potsdam
Jacobs-Bremen University
Hochschule Mannheim University
Martin Luther U. in Halle-Wittenberg
Niederhein University
Bauhaus-University in Weimar, Germany

Switzerland

Webster University, Switzerland
HIM Hotel Institute, Montreaux
Glion Institute Higher Ed

Other universities in Europe

Vesalius College, Belgium
American University of Paris, France
Université de Bordeaux, France
American University of Bulgaria
American University of Rome
American University of Athens, Greece
Tilburguni University, Netherland
The Hague University*

Syria

Arab European University
Private University Sciences & Arts
University of Aleppo
University of Kalamoon
Int. Inst. of Science & Technology
Ithad Private University

United Arab Emirates

University of Sharjah
Emirates Academy
American University of Dubai
European University College of Brussels

Lebanon

American University of Beirut*3
Lebanese American University*1
University of Balamand*5

Other universities in the Middle East

Amman National University, Jordan
German-Jordanian U, Jordan

Other, international

American University of Sudan
Bahcesehir University, Turkey*
North East University, Cyprus*2
St. Scholastica's College, Manila, Philippines
Almashrek for Science & Technology, Sudan*
University of Hong Kong, China
University of Madras, India
University of Morocco

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CEEB number 693001

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South Asia Council
of Overseas Schools



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Colleges and Schools



IB WORLD SCHOOL
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