

PRIVATE GYMNASIUM

Respect Excellence International Mindedness



2023-2024

OVERVIEW

Private Gymnasium at ISCS is the alternative route to University that we offer to motivated students. When students reach Year 9 of the local Swiss Educational System, they often find they would prefer to continue with their further education rather than an Apprenticeship.

Many students are unable to continue their Education in the Swiss system as a result of the challenging entry requirements and limited capacity, particularly when German isn't their first language. **This is where we come in.**

Students will study IGCSE qualifications, then A Level qualifications, which will allow them to access leading University courses, both in Switzerland and Internationally. These qualifications are rigorous, academic and highly regarded by businesses around the World.

This educational route is a recognised by employers and will be well-suited to students interested in entering into a range of careers and professions; particularly in a business-rich environment such as Zug.

Both Swiss and International students have the opportunity to thrive at ISCS, the British School of Zug. It is a system that offers specialist knowledge and more flexibility than the Swiss Matura.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Subjects offered at IGCSE:

(students are recommended to choose 5 - 6 subjects):

English, German, Mathematics,
Coordinated Sciences, Computer
Science, Spanish/History/EAL/ Art.

Subjects offered at A Level

(students are recommended to choose 3 subjects- max. 4):

English, German, Mathematics, Biology,
Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science,
History, Business Studies, Art, French,
Spanish.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

I joined ISCS five years ago and have since earned IGCSEs and As-Level qualifications. I particularly enjoy the family feel of the school: a combination of small classes, dedicated teachers and friends from all over world. I enjoy being a member of the Student-led NGO and working on a community project as part of the ISCS Leadership Programme. Last year, I took part in the student exchange programme at our sister school in Spain, where I had the opportunity to practice Spanish and make new friends, while following the same curriculum as ISCS. In the future I would like to study in the USA. However, I still can't decide between engineering or medicine.

-Isabella Saenz

I joined ISCS after attending a local school. I wanted to obtain IGCSEs and A-Levels qualifications, which I know open door to the best universities here in Switzerland and abroad. At ISCS I really enjoy the relaxing atmosphere: the teachers are approachable and supportive, and my fellow students are really friendly. My favourite subjects are PE, Business and History. In the future I would like to study Business and work in the sport industry, because it combines all my personal interests and Switzerland is home to world's largest sporting organisations.

-Misha

I decided to join ISCS 3 years ago, after attending a local school, because my dream is to study abroad. At a recent University Fair, I spoke to representatives from a university in Canada, where I would like to study Business & Marketing. ISCS is a great place to learn: the small classes make the teaching focused on us, everyday we have opportunities to spend time with the teachers one-on-one and get constant feedback on our work. In order to gain leadership and business experience, I am a member of the Student Council, Student NGO and several school committees. I feel everyone at ISCS is very supportive and welcoming. Apart from the academics, I really enjoy the social activities organised by the school, such as hikes, or visits to universities.

-Jade



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Ages 14 or older
2. B1 Level of English

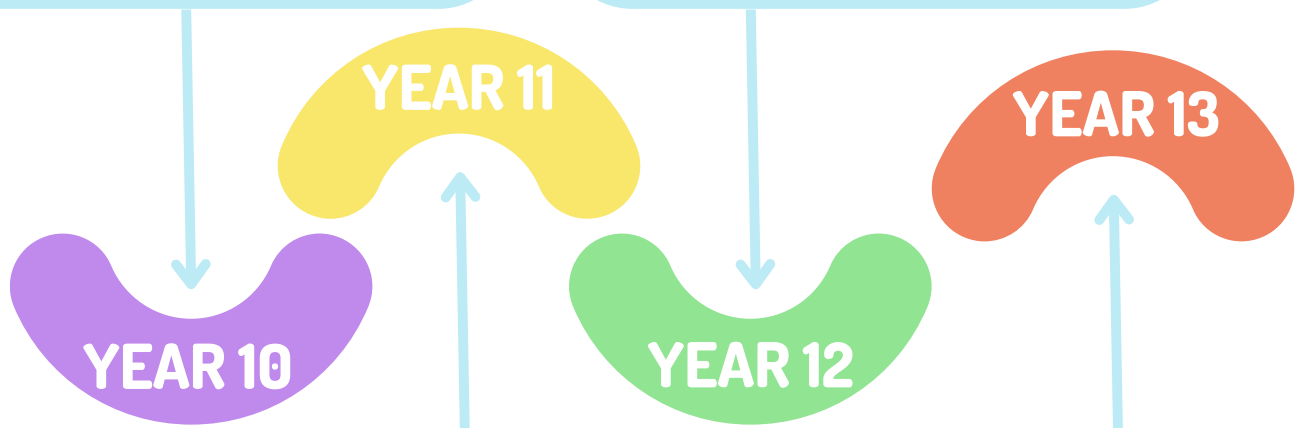
Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- 2nd year of Swiss langgymnasium
- Year 9 at ISCS or a British School
- 8th grade in an international school
- Admissions interview

1. Ages 16 or older
2. B2+/C1 Level of English

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- 5 IGCSEs (compatible subjects) or more
- 4th year of Swiss langgymnasium
- Year 11 at ISCS or a British School
- 10th grade in an international school
- Admissions interview



1. Ages 15 or older
2. B2 Level of English

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:













- 3rd year of Swiss langgymnasium
- Year 10 at ISCS or a British School
- 9th grade in an international school
- Admissions interview

1. Ages 17 or older
2. C1+/C2 Level of English

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- Year 12 at ISCS
- Year 12 at a British School (with compatible subjects)
- Admissions interview

ISCS SUBJECT PROVISION & OPTIONS FOR IGCSE

CORE (COMPULSORY)	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
CO. SCIENCES* 	ART & DESIGN  OR BUSINESS/ ECONOMICS 	HISTORY 
ENGLISH 		OR SPANISH 
ENGLISH LITERATURE 		OR EAL 
GERMAN 		
ICT OR COMPUTER SCIENCE 		
MATHEMATICS 		
ENRICHMENT (COMPULSORY): PHYSICAL EDUCATION 		

CORE

ISCS students study all of the core subjects at IGCSE.
 *Please note that Coordinated Sciences is worth 2 IGCSE grades!

OPTIONS 1 & 2

Students are required to make Options 1 & 2 choices.
 Please note that English as an Additional Language is an IGCSE qualification and is designed to support and enrich all students' ability to access the English Language instruction of all of their subjects as well as their English IGCSEs. EAL is meant for non-native English students who would really benefit from additional English language acquisition.

The ISCS Team can advise you further if you have any questions regarding our subjects offer.

HEAD OF SECONDARY'S WELCOME TO IGCSE

A warm welcome to the International School of Central Switzerland!

ISCS is a British International school located in the heart of Switzerland in Cham in the beautiful Canton of Zug. Zug is a highly desirable area with an International influence that attracts families, professionals and big businesses. Our school is the only school to provide a British curriculum in our area via the World renowned Cambridge International accreditation, and as a result, is an attractive choice for our students.

IGCSEs are highly regarded qualifications that begin at the start of Year 10 and culminate in final certificated examinations at the end of Year 11. The grading for IGCSE is A* to G, with A* being the highest achievement. IGCSE requires students to not only demonstrate their knowledge but to show enthusiasm, consistent preparation, commitment and hard work in their approach. A strong routine and approach from the start is key.

It is also important to recognise at this stage that IGCSEs are the stepping stones to the next phase of learning - A Level. In order to study A Level qualifications in Year 12 and therefore go onto other Higher Education such as University, students will have to gain a minimum of 5 grade Cs at IGCSE.

The ISCS British International School Curriculum

All Key Stages are reliant on the one that comes before. At each stage, students must reach a certain level for the next to be accessible. At Key Stage 4, students build upon the base knowledge that they have acquired from the previous broader spectrum of subjects studied at Key Stage 3 or the equivalent. In Year 10, our students will study a maximum of 9 IGCSE qualifications, which will include a core list of **compulsory subjects** plus **2 free option choices**.

At Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & 11), we typically have 10 to 15 students per year group and for optional subjects this number can be lower. The smaller class sizes at ISCS guarantee a degree of individualised teaching and learning, support and advice that is intrinsic to students reaching their academic potential.

It is important to note at this early stage that should students wish to progress to A Level qualifications in Year 12, they must achieve a minimum of **5 Grade Cs** or above in their IGCSE qualifications in order to access the content of this deeper academic study! **It is vital that our students understand the importance of the IGCSE stage to their future choices!**

The ISCS Secondary Team looks forward to discussing your IGCSEs with you and supporting you with making your future goals happen!

We look forward to supporting you with the next stage of your educational journey!



COORDINATED SCIENCES

Lead Teachers: Ms Predouli, Dr Caracheo, Mr Evison
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE Coordinated Sciences is designed to be taught in a two-year long time span and awards a **double IGCSE qualification**; the learners gain **two grades**.

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Sciences gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, **scientifically coherent** syllabus. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study (in their A Levels).

The Coordinated Sciences syllabus sets a **solid base for the A Level** studies in any of the three sciences as the skills acquired in IGCSE level for all three core sciences together are supporting each one of the individual ones in A Levels; for example formulas from the IGCSE Physics and Chemistry part of the coordinated sciences are essential for A Levels Biology as they are prerequisite knowledge and not included to the A Levels Biology curriculum.

Course outcomes

By the end of the course the learners will be aware of:

- - the studies in different fields of science and its applications to everyday life
- - the results of scientific research and how they can have both positive effects and negative impacts on individuals, communities and the environment
- - the technological world in which they live and the current scientific developments.

The learners will also acquire skills in:

- - studying and practicing science
- - a systematic approach to problem-solving
- - efficient and safe practice of science and scientific experiments
- - effective communication through the language of science
- - understanding the limitations of science and recognizing errors and potential complications

Progression

The objective of the first year's programme is to cover the half (or more, in the case of an academically strong year group) of the course's curriculum, equally divided between the three core sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

As a subject that at the end of a two-year journey the learners are expected to sit an official Cambridge exam, the exam preparation starts from the beginning of the course, with continuous chances for revision and constant training on exam-style questions throughout all styles of assessment.

At the end of the second year, the learners are fully prepared to face the **three exam papers** required for the course, which are:

Paper 1: Multiple Choice Questions

ENGLISH

Lead Teachers: Mr Turner
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English is designed to give learners the opportunity to respond with understanding to a wide variety of reading texts during the course as a whole.

Candidates will use these texts to inform and inspire their own writing, and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences. The first year of the course will be concerned with learning the skills they need to pass Paper 1 (the reading paper) and developing the skills to complete the coursework at the beginning of the second year. In the second year Paper 1 skills will be revisited alongside the completion of coursework.

Course outcomes

Learners will develop both their speaking and their listening skills, Learners are also encouraged to become appreciative and critical readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

- At the end of the course they will sit a 2 hour paper to assess their reading.
- The written aspect of the course is assessed using three pieces of coursework which
- are completed at home and in the classroom.

Progression

The skills developed throughout the course of study are highly transferable. After studying English language learners will be better equipped to deal with the demands of a variety of A levels or other courses in further and /or higher education which require them to read texts or produce written work in essay form.

The critical thinking skills developed during the course are very useful in studying a variety of subjects at higher levels in the humanities and social sciences including English Language and English Literature.

Outside of academia the written, speaking and listening and reading skills will enable them to be more effective, productive and successful in a workplace environment.

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Lead Teachers: Mr Davies
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

The course enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied. The syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

Course outcomes

The course consists of the following parts:

- The study of prose (in this case a novel) and poetry which is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper (Paper1).
- The study of a Shakespeare play which is assessed in a 45 minute open-book examination.
- A portfolio of two assignments each based on the study of a complete text and each 600 - 900 words in length.

Progression

The skills developed throughout the course of study are highly transferable. After studying English literature learners will be better equipped to deal with the demands of a variety of A levels or other courses in further and /or higher education which require them to read texts or produce written work in essay form.

The critical thinking skills developed during the course are very useful in studying a variety of subjects at higher levels in the humanities and social sciences.

GERMAN FIRST LANGUAGE

Lead Teachers: Frau Lepore
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description:

IGCSE German First language is a program meant for mother tongue speakers or students, who have attended a German speaking school and have a language level of B2 and above. It is a challenging program ideal for those students, who have a love for German and want to pursue it further in A Levels.

Course outcomes:

The course is a skills-based program with a focus on reading comprehension and writing skills. The aims are to enable students to:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding, enjoying and appreciating a variety of language
- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write accurately and effectively, using standard German appropriately
- work with information and with ideas in German language by developing skills of critical evaluation, analysis, comparison, use and inference
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions.

The course is assessed in 2 examinations:

1. Reading comprehension and directed writing (weight 40%) 2. Composition(60%)

The **reading paper** asks students to read, analyze and respond to fiction and non-fiction texts.

The **writing paper** asks students to compose two essays (one argumentative/discursive AND one descriptive/narrative).

Progression:

IGCSE German First Language enables students to strongly develop their language skills in their native language and prepares them for A Levels as well as for the local job market should they seek to leave school after their IGCSEs.

GERMAN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Lead Teachers: Miss Orford
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description:

IGCSE German Foreign Language is a program designed to further develop the German studied at ISCS in lower secondary. Students interested in entering the program need to be on a minimum of A1 level already. For students with no prior knowledge of German, attending the German accelerator program is mandatory.

Course outcomes:

The course aims to enable students to:

- develop the language proficiency required to communicate effectively in German at level A2 (CEFR Basic User), with elements of level B1 (CEFR Independent User)
- offer insights into the culture and society of countries and communities where German is spoken
- develop awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- encourage positive attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- develop transferable skills (e.g. memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in German or another subject area.

The subject content is organised in five broad topic areas (A-E below). These provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. The study of these topic areas enables students to gain an insight into countries and communities where German is spoken.

- A. Everyday activities
- B. Personal and social life
- C. The world around us
- D. The world of work
- E. The international world

The course is examined in 4 examinations (equal weight of 25%). The areas examined are: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing.

Progression:

This examination enables students to acquire a sound knowledge of German, which will help them to communicate in their host country and ideally instills in them a passion for the German language and language learning in general.

ICT

Lead Teachers: Mr Alvarez

Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

Students develop an understanding of the implications of technology in society and the ways Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can help at home, work and the wider world. Through practical and theoretical studies, students solve problems using a variety of common software such as word processors and interactive presentation software.

Learners will analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT systems, making sure that they are fit for purpose. There is an emphasis on developing lifelong skills, which are essential across the curriculum and their future career.

Course outcomes

Cambridge IGCSE Information and Communication Technology encourages learners to develop lifelong skills, including:

- understanding and using applications
- using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to solve problems
- analysing, designing, implementing, testing and evaluating ICT systems, ensuring that they are fit for purpose
- understanding the implications of technology in society, including social, economic and ethical uses
- awareness of the ways ICT can help in home, learning and work environments

All candidates take three examination papers, with two Practical papers with a weighting of 30% each and one Theory paper with a weighting of 40%.

Progression

The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE Information and Communication Technology gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including Cambridge International AS & A Level Information Technology.

Cambridge IGCSEs are accepted and valued by leading universities and employers around the world as evidence of academic achievement. Many universities require a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs or equivalent to meet their entry requirements. UK NARIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge IGCSE and found it to be comparable to the standard of GCSE in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide.

MATHEMATICS

Lead Teachers: Mr Er, Mr Eid
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE Mathematics is an essential subject for all learners as it encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a strong basis for more advanced study.

The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop competence and fluency with mathematical concepts, methods and skills, recognising proper ways of handling and solving problems as well as a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships. A strong emphasis is given on presenting and interpreting results in addition to understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

The learners will build the basic knowledge to lead them with their further studies with Numbers, Algebra and manipulation of algebraic expressions (essential for their progress in sciences), Trigonometry and Geometry, Graphs and Coordinate Geometry, Mensuration, Probability & Statistics and Vectors.

Course outcomes

IGCSE Mathematics is a course that prepares the learners for applying mathematics principles in everyday life and for their further studies in A Levels.

The course's aim is for students to acquire:

- an understanding of mathematical principles, concepts and methods to increase confidence towards mathematics
- an understanding of the part that mathematics plays in learners' own lives and the world around them - analytical and problem solving skills
- the ability to present the solutions clearly, and to check and interpret the results
- the mathematical communication skills with emphasis on the use of clear expression and structured argument
- the ability to apply mathematics in other subjects, particularly science and technology - the ability to reason logically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions - a foundation for further study of mathematics or for other disciplines.

Progression

The course is designed to be taught in two years time span but under the precedence of solid mathematics basis from the pre-IGCSE years the curriculum can be finished in less than a year and a half, giving ample time for revision, work on past papers and extensive exams preparation.

At the end of the second year, the learners are fully prepared to face the two exam papers required for the course, which are:

Paper 1: Short-answer questions

Paper 2: Structured questions

ART & DESIGN

Lead Teacher: Mr Santos
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE Art & Design is a 2 year course and is an optional component of the IGCSE programme that encourages a range of skills, stimulates aesthetic awareness, knowledge and critical understanding of Art. It provides opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills through a personal and independent perspective. The syllabus accommodates a wide range of abilities of learners, materials and resources and can be adapted according to the specialist skill set of the teacher.

IGCSE Art & Design helps to equip learners with lifelong skills such as creativity, confidence, enthusiasm, adaptability and problem solving as they approach the design process. Students are encouraged to consider IGCSE Art & Design to allow them to experience the varied and holistic skill set and education that is required for future opportunities.

Course outcomes

The IGCSE involves 2 practical projects both of which are worth 50% of the final grade. Each project includes preparation work and a resulting final piece. The title of the first project is set by the subject teacher and the second is set by Cambridge International Exam Board.

Both outcomes are assessed on the following features:-

- RECORD: This is making a record of initial ideas, mind-mapping and recording what is seen, imagined or planned for and can be done in many forms e.g. drawing, painting, printing, digital processes or mixed-media.
- EXPLORE: This means formulating thoughts and ideas, techniques, styles and concepts and students can tailor their outcomes to suit their own personal interests and strengths.
- DEVELOP: This means experimenting with media and techniques, methods and materials, and selecting those that are most appropriate to your own outcome.
- PRESENT: This means making your own personal, polished and practised drawings, paintings, mixed-media pieces, sculptures and a portfolio of work that makes sense to the viewer.

Progression

Art & Design helps to equip learners with lifelong skills such as creativity, confidence, enthusiasm, adaptability and problem solving. This is an enriching subject that promotes an innovative and ideas-driven approach that is needed in all professions.

Art combines well with all subjects and adds vital life skills to your set of qualifications.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Lead Teachers: Mr Hopton
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE Business Studies syllabus develops students' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Students find out how the major types of business organisations are established, financed and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence. Students not only study business concepts and techniques but also enhance related skills such as numeracy and enquiry. The course provides both a foundation for further study at Cambridge International A Level and an ideal preparation for the world of work.

Course outcomes

All candidates take two papers. Paper 1 is 1 hour 30 minutes and counts for 50% of the overall grade. It is structured in four main questions which require a mixture of short answers and structured data responses. Paper 2 is also 1 hour 30 minutes and counts for the other 50% of the overall grade. There are four questions based on a case study, which is provided as an insert with the paper.

Both papers cover the same skills -

1. Knowledge and understanding of facts, terms, concepts, conventions, theories and
2. techniques;
3. Application of knowledge and understanding;
4. Order, analyse and interpret information in narrative, numerical and graphical forms; and,
5. Present reasoned explanations, develop arguments, understand implications and draw
6. inferences.

Progression

Business Studies IGCSE is an excellent introduction into the world of business. It takes students through a range of topics and encourages them to think "outside of the box". Areas of study include: economics, finance, accounting, marketing and law.

HISTORY

Lead Teachers: Mr Hopton
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE History looks at some of the major international issues of the twentieth century, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth (Germany 1918-1945). The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Students develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. The course will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Course outcomes

All candidates take three components.

Paper 1 is a written paper and is worth 40% of the overall grade. Candidates answer two questions from Section A (International Relations of the Twentieth Century) and one question from Section B (Germany 1918-1945).

All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c).

Paper 2 is also a written paper and is worth 33% of the overall grade. Candidates answer six source-based questions on one prescribed topic taken from the Core Content (International Relations of the Twentieth Century).

The final element is a piece of coursework of 2000 words produced at the beginning of Year 11 based on Germany 1918-1945. This is internally marked and externally moderated.

All three components cover the same skills:

1. Recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge
2. Construct historical explanations
3. Understand, interpret, evaluate and use a range of sources as evidence

Progression

History IGCSE helps students to understand the world as it is now based on the decisions and actions of the past. It takes students through a range of topics and encourages them to develop logical and evidence-based opinions. Areas of future study include: Archaeology, English, History of Art, Law, Politics and Education.

SPANISH

Lead Teachers: Mr Turner, Mr Santos
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

IGCSE Spanish as a Foreign Language is a program designed to further embed and develop the foundation language studied at Key Stage 3. The course develops aptitude in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as in grammatical complexity and theory and cultural awareness. Continuing with Spanish at this level allows for further opportunities of links with our sister school in Jerez. Students will be awarded a Grade ranging from A* - G after 2 years of the IGCSE course.

Course outcomes

The course will enable students to:

- develop the language proficiency required to communicate effectively in Spanish at a level equivalent with A2 with elements of a B1 standard.
- offer insight into the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken
- encourage positive relationships and attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- develop transferable skills (e.g. memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in Spanish or another subject area.

The subject content is organised into five very broad topic areas, which provide a context for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures.

A. Everyday activities, B. Personal and social life, C. The world around us, D. The world of work, E. The international world.

Students will study these topics through a range of learning styles that will prepare them for the 4 assessment objectives below. There are 4 separate examinations for Spanish all equaling 25% of the final grade A*-G. The areas examined are: Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing.

Progression

This course enables students to acquire a good knowledge of Spanish, which will support communication and encourage a passion for the Spanish language and language learning in general. The need for a language in the professions of the future is extremely important. Every career path chosen by our International students will require the skills that learning a Modern Language offers.

ENGLISH (as an additional language)

Lead Teachers: Mr Turner, Ms Bradley
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

This is a course that is suitable for students whose first language is not English! The IGCSE English as an Additional Language (EAL) is a brand new IGCSE course from Cambridge that provides students with the expertise that they need to communicate proficiently in English up to a solid A2 standard. It is a program designed to embed and develop communication and recognition on a broad range of topics through the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students will be awarded a Grade ranging from **A* - G** after 2 years of the IGCSE course.

Course outcomes

The course will enable students to:

- develop the language proficiency required to communicate effectively in EAL at a level equivalent to A2 with elements of a B1 standard.
- offer insight into the culture and society of English speaking countries
- encourage positive relationships and attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures
- provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- develop transferable skills (e.g. memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- form a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study in the medium of English
- Access additional Core Cambridge IGCSE courses (IGCSE English and/or IGCSE English Literature)

The subject content is organised into five very broad **topic areas**, which provide a context for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures.

A. Everyday activities, B. Personal and social life, C. The world around us, D. The world of work, E. The international world.

Students will study these topics through a range of learning styles that will prepare them for the 4 assessment objectives below. There are 4 separate examinations for EAL all equaling 25% of the final grade A*-G. The areas examined are:

Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing.

Progression

IGCSE EAL will be studied alongside the core IGCSE English IGCSE qualifications and decisions regarding the number of English qualifications taken, will be made in collaboration with students and their parents on a case by case basis dependent on aptitude.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Lead Teachers: Mr Perliyev
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

A high-quality physical education curriculum inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. It provides opportunities for students to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

Course outcomes

- use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games (for example, badminton, basketball, football, hockey, rounders and tennis)
- develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports
- take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage pupils to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group
- continue to take part regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

Progression

Physical Education at Key Stage 4 is based around the promotion of healthy active lifestyles and developing the needs, interests and talents of young people.

HEAD OF SECONDARY'S WELCOME TO A LEVELS

A warm welcome to the International School of Central Switzerland!

ISCS is a British International school located in the heart of Switzerland in Cham in the beautiful Canton of Zug. Zug is a highly desirable area with an International influence that attracts families, professionals and big businesses. Our school is the only school to provide a British curriculum in our area via the World renowned Cambridge International accreditation, and as a result, is an attractive choice for our students.

A Level study is highly academic and requires students to not only demonstrate their aptitude but to demonstrate enthusiasm, cooperation, preparation, commitment, hard work and positivity in their approach. Your previous teacher's recommendations will also play a vital part in your acceptance.

We have extremely high expectations of our students and we encourage them to be ambassadors for and involve themselves fully in the ISCS community, and to be role models for the rest of the school body.

The ISCS Curriculum culminates in Key stage 5 for students aged 17-18 years. At this stage, there is greater emphasis on student responsibility for their own self-directed study time, their independence and resilience. This along with the support of their tutor and subject teachers, provides our students with the stepping stone required for their transition to University, Apprenticeship or the World of Work.

At Key Stage 5, our Year 12 students can **choose from a list of 12 A Level subjects** that they will study for the **2 year course**. A Level qualifications are highly regarded and recognised all around the World.

At Key Stage 5, we typically have 8 to 10 students per year group and 15 students is our maximum figure per class. Currently, we have 5-8 students in each subject lesson.

A Level study is a good academic option for students from all over the World. The smaller class sizes at ISCS guarantee **individualised teaching and learning**, support and advice that is intrinsic to students reaching their **academic potential**.

The ISCS Secondary Team looks forward to discussing your options with you and supporting you with making your future goals happen!

We hope that you will trust us with the next stage of your journey!

Mrs Rebecca Bradley



HEAD OF FUTURES WELCOME

Welcome to the Advanced Secondary Programme at ISCS. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "the world of the future is in our making." We want to help you to create your future and your world.

The Advanced Secondary programme is a two year experience where you prepare for the next stage of your professional and educational journey, all whilst honing the skills you need to navigate future challenges. Our bespoke Leadership Programme, Futures Programme and Personal Development Curriculum are designed to help you develop aptitudes and skills beyond the taught curriculum as well as thinking outside the box for personal and professional opportunities.



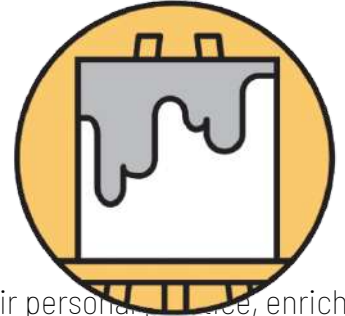
A Levels are academically rigorous; they are the stepping stones to the most prestigious universities in the world. So, in order to join us we ask that you have a firm foundation from previous studies. If you have studied IGCSEs, **our requirement is that you have obtained at least five IGCSE subjects at grade C or above.** If you have studied in a different local or international system, we ask for an equivalent level of study. Furthermore, we require that, for the subjects you are interested in at A-level, potential ISCS students have obtained at least a B or higher or the equivalent. We pay special attention to the recommendation of previous teachers and school referees who can send their references directly to our Admissions Department.

If you think you are ready to step up to the mark and excel in the next part of your academic journey, we would love for you to join us.

Mr Ryan Hopton

ART & DESIGN

Lead Teacher: Mrs R. Bradley
Subject Teachers: Mrs R. Bradley & Mr F. Santos
Awarding Body: Cambridge International



Course Description

Art & Design is a 2-year course that provides opportunities for learners to develop their personal practice, enrich their understanding of key concepts and improve their practical skills in a wide range of traditional and contemporary techniques.

The A Level involves both practical outcomes (50%) as well as a written Personal Investigation (50%) and it is important that students have a good level of English at Grade C or above.

Both outcomes are assessed on the following features:-

RECORD: This is making a record of initial ideas, mind-mapping and recording what is seen, imagined or planned for and can be done in many forms e.g. drawing, painting, printing, digital processes or mixed-media.

EXPLORE: This means formulating thoughts and ideas, techniques, styles and concepts and students can tailor their outcomes to suit their own personal interests and strengths.

DEVELOP: This means experimenting with media and techniques, methods and materials, and selecting those that are most appropriate to your own outcome.

PRESENT: This means making your own personal, polished and practised drawings, paintings, mixed-media pieces, sculptures and a portfolio of work that makes sense to the viewer.

Progression

Art & Design helps to equip learners with lifelong skills such as creativity, confidence, enthusiasm, adaptability and problem solving. This is a creative and enriching subject that promotes an overall innovative and ideas-driven approach that can be utilised in all professions. Some professions from the creative sector include graphic design, gallery & museum curation, architecture, publishing, advertising, game & software design, interior design, furniture design, fashion design and purchasing, set design & theatre production, beauty & makeup artistry, restoration, art dealing, forensic portrait making, web development, journalism and marketing.

Art combines well with all subjects and offers creativity to your set of qualifications. Creativity & innovation are the only skills required in every field!

BIOLOGY

Lead Teacher: Miss L. Predouli
Subject Teachers: Miss L. Predouli
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

A Levels Biology is a two years course clearly distinguished in AS topics studied during the first year and A Level topics studied in the second year of the course. The learners are going to sit five exam papers; three at the end of the first year and two at the end of the second year.

Course components/Exam styles

- Multiple Choice
- Extended Questions (for AS and A Levels)
- Practical Skills
- Planning, Analysis and Evaluation of experiments & experimental techniques

Example topics

- Cell structure & membranes
- Biological molecules & enzymes
- Mitosis & Meiosis
- Nucleic acids & protein synthesis
- Transport in animals & plants
- Infectious diseases & immunity
- Photosynthesis & respiration
- Hormones, neurons and muscle movement
- Inheritance and genetic technology
- Evolution & Ecology

Progression

Biology A Level will provide the skills to make associations and connections with all living things as well as provide a solid and clear understanding of the functioning of the human body. Although it is a wide-ranging subject, students will discover their area of interest. Biology is a facilitating subject which is required for entry in most leading universities in the world and unlocks the following professional opportunities to include:

- Medicine, Dentistry & Genetics
- Conservation & Marine biology
- Pharmaceuticals

Biology is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

BUSINESS

Lead Teacher: Mr R. Hopton
Subject Teachers: Mr R. Hopton
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level or 1 year AS



Course Description

The study of AS and A Level Business allows students to take the first step towards a career in private or public organisations or progress with confidence to a degree in business and management related subjects. We teach Business through the following themes:

- Change is the only constant.
- Management is relevant to every person in a business.
- Customer focus means a business will design and produce goods and services that people want to buy.
- Innovation enables a business to re-invent itself and stay ahead of the competition.
- Creating value is the core reason why any organisation exists.
- Strategy is about knowing where you are, where you want to get to and how you are going to get there.

Assessment at AS Level is through two examinations (1 hour 15 minutes and 1 hour 30 minutes), with a third taken to create the complete A Level.

Progression

A Level Business Studies is an excellent route to University courses or professional opportunities in the following areas:-

- Business Management & Administration,
 - Finance & Accountancy
 - Retail Management
 - Tourism
 - International Business
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CHEMISTRY

Lead Teacher: Miss L. Predouli
Subject Teachers: Miss L. Predouli
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

A Levels Chemistry is a two years course clearly distinguished in AS topics studied during the first year and A Level topics studied in the second year of the course. The learners are going to sit five exam papers; three at the end of the first year and two at the end of the second year.

Course components/Exam styles

- Multiple Choice
- Extended Questions (for AS and A Levels); including problem solving
- Practical Skills
- Planning, Analysis and Evaluation of experiments & experimental techniques
-

Example topics

- Physical & Inorganic Chemistry
 - Stoichiometry
 - Structure of the atom
 - Periodicity
 - Bonding
 - Energy changes & equilibria
 - Chemical reactions & rates of reactions
- Organic Chemistry
 - Nomenclature
 - Structural groups of hydrocarbons and organic molecules
 - Polymers & production techniques

Progression

A Level Chemistry is essential for the pursuit of progression in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science at University level. Zug is a huge employer of Chemists who can be employed in pharmaceutical companies, biotech, beauty & detergent companies, agrochemical companies, textiles & dyes as well as paints and cosmetics.

Zug is a European hub for such companies, which include Johnson & Johnson, Roche, AstraZeneca and Biogen.

Chemistry is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

COMPUTER SCIENCE*

Lead Teacher: Mr D. Alvarez
Subject Teachers: Mr D. Alvarez
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

In AS and A level Computer Science, students learn the principles of computation and algorithms, computer programming, machine data representation, computer systems (hardware and software), computer organisation and architecture, communications and networking, databases and the consequences of using computing.

Progression

Students who study Computer Science at A Level may go on to study a related course at University or may wish to progress to apprenticeship or employment where they can utilise the skills gained such as adaptability, coding and advanced computational skills.

Computer Science is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Lead Teacher: Mr J. Turner

Subject Teachers: Mr J. Turner & Mr R. Davies

Awarding Body: Cambridge International

Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Descriptions

Cambridge International A Level English Literature provides the opportunity to gain further knowledge and understanding of international poetry, prose and drama, with candidates studying all genres. Learners will study a range of inspiring set texts which is designed to encourage **stimulating classroom discussion** and build a **range of skills**. In the first year learners will study three set texts and prepare for one unseen text. In the second year of the course, they will study four further set texts. Throughout the course learners will be encouraged to practise their skills in close reading through the study of literary extracts and unseen texts; developing skills of analysis and interpretation of texts, alongside their expression of personal response to the texts studied. Learners will explore the conventions of genres of texts and the contexts in which works have been written, read and received. The skills gained in this course are highly transferable and can help learners in other subject areas, as well as equipping them for higher education and/or employment.

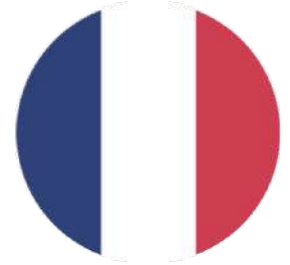
Progression

English is a highly regarded facilitating subject that is well received by all International Universities as well as businesses. English works well alongside most subjects and is an important element of careers based in Education, Journalism, Business, Human Resources Management, Law, Science, the Arts and many more.

English is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

FRENCH

Lead Teacher: Mrs R. Bradley
Subject Teachers: Mrs R. Bradley & Miss R. Orford
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

The French A Level is an excellent opportunity to further your linguistic knowledge and develop an increased awareness of the French language and the Francophone culture in a Global context. A Level French concentrates on culture & contemporary society through an array of topics, an onus on communication, analytical skills and a research based assignment. Throughout the course, we will read 3 literary texts from traditional to contemporary.

Course components

- Speaking
- Reading & Writing
- Essay
- Texts (Literature)

Example topics

- Travel & tourism
- Law & order
- Pollution
- Technological Innovation
- Young People
- The Media
- Philosophy & Belief
- Patrimoine

Example literary texts

- No et moi (Delphine de Vigan)
- Un Secret (Philippe Grimbert)
- Bonjour Tristesse (Françoise Sagan)
- Les jeux sont faits (Jean-Paul Sartre)

Progression

A Language at Advanced Level is a facilitating subject which means it is always looked upon favourably by Universities and other Higher educational institutions and may assist entry for further language study as well as alternative academic courses.

The skills required to learn an additional language are highly desirable and combine well with a host of other subject specialisms, particularly Maths, Chemistry, Physics, English, German and the Arts subjects.

The need for a language in the professions of the future is extremely important. Every career path chosen by our International students will require the skills that learning a Modern Language offers.

French is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

GERMAN

Lead Teacher: Mr R. Nayman
Subject Teachers: Mr R. Nayman
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

The German A Level program is an excellent opportunity to further your linguistic knowledge and develop an increased awareness of the German language and German culture in a Global context. A Level German concentrates on culture & contemporary society through an array of topics, an onus on communication, analytical skills and a research based assignment. Throughout the course, we will read 3 literary texts from traditional to contemporary.

Course components

- Speaking
- Reading & Writing
- Essay
- Texts (Literature)

Example topics

- Family
- Travel & tourism
- Law & order
- Pollution
- Technological Innovation
- Young People
- The Media
- Food & Drink
- Philosophy & Belief

Example literary texts

- Tschick (Wolfgang Herrndorf)
- Demian (Hermann Hesse)
- Zweier ohne (Dirk Kurbjuweit)
- Homo faber (Max Frisch)

Progression

A language at Advanced Level is a facilitating subject which means it is always looked upon favourably by Universities. A Level German in particular is an entry requirement for native German speakers, who apply to University in Germany, Austria or Switzerland and is seen very favourably as a subject choice for non-native applicants to University, potentially replacing the need to submit a B2/C1 language diploma for entry to University in Germany, Austria or Switzerland. The need for a language in the professions of the future is extremely important and German in particular opens a lot of opportunities both in the German speaking world and beyond.

German is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

HISTORY

Lead Teacher: Mr R. Hopton
Subject Teachers: Mr R. Hopton
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level or 1 year AS



Course Description

AS and A Level History is an interesting and thought-provoking course covering modern history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research. In History, students develop an understanding of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and use historical evidence as part of their studies.

At ISCS, to reflect the wide variety of backgrounds that students bring, we study the International and European options.

As AS, this includes topics such as:

- Empire and the emergence of world powers
- The League of Nations and international relations
- China and Japan

In the second year of the A Level, this includes topics such as:

- Mussolini's Italy
- Stalin's Russia
- Hitler's Germany
- Churchill's Britain

Progression

History is known as an 'enabling' subject which means that it is a highly desirable course for University entrance requirements because it promotes independence of thought and questioning. It combines well with the majority of other A Level qualifications, particularly social and political sciences, law and humanities - it is a stepping stone to a range of future careers.

History is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

ICT

Lead Teacher: Mr D. Alvarez
Subject Teachers: Mr D. Alvarez
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

Cambridge International AS & A Level Information Technology encourages learners to meet the needs of Higher Education courses in Information Technology as well as employers. In a world where IT is constantly changing, individuals increasingly need technological and information literacy skills that include the ability to gather, process and manipulate data. The impact of IT on society is enormous and as the percentage of businesses and households connected to communication networks such as the internet grows, so does the need for individuals who understand these new technologies. This syllabus encourages learners to become effective and discerning users of IT. It helps them to develop a broad range of IT skills, knowledge and understanding.

The key concepts for Cambridge International AS & A Level Information Technology are:

- **Impact of IT:** The application of technology to process information impacts all aspects of our lives. The enormity of the impact can be seen in industry and commerce, transport, leisure, medicine, in the workplace and the home. Communications using technologies have made the world seem smaller.
- **Networks:** Computer systems can be connected together to form networks allowing them to share data and resources. The central role networks play in the internet, mobile and wireless applications and cloud computing has rapidly increased the demand for network capacity and performance.
- **The internet:** The internet is a global communications network that uses standardised communications protocols to allow computers worldwide to connect and share information in many different forms. The impact of the internet on our lives is profound. While the services the internet supports can provide huge benefits to society they have also introduced issues, for example security of data.
- **New technologies:** As the information industry changes so rapidly, it is important to keep track of new and emerging technologies and consider how they might affect everyday life.

Progression

Students who study ICT at A Level may go on to study a related course at University or may wish to progress to apprenticeship or employment where they can utilise the skills gained. The adaptability of the course and strengths such as heightened problem solving and logical thinking combine well with other A level courses and lends itself to professional opportunities in the workplace.

MATHEMATICS

Lead Teacher: Miss B. Pike
Subject Teachers: Miss B. Pike & Mr J. Eid
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

During these two years students study a variety of topics from mathematical approaches and methods to more applied mathematics that involves the study of mechanics and probability and statistics. The first year encompasses pure mathematics where foundation knowledge such as algebra, coordinate geometry, derivation and integration are taught. Furthermore, in this year we also go through mechanics, which connects mathematics with the mechanical world. Topics such as motion, energy, collisions are part of the syllabus. In the second year we come back to theoretical knowledge involving a more in depth study of derivation integration and trigonometry and we explore new topics such as complex numbers. To finalise the programme we address probability and statistics, where students learn about topics such as interpreting data, permutations and combinations, and the normal distribution, to mention some.

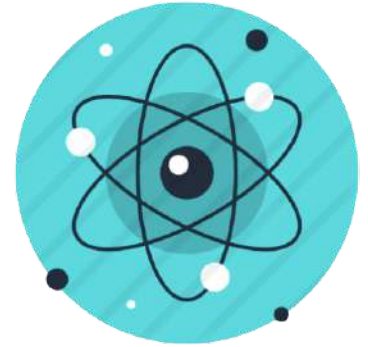
Progression

Mathematics is a facilitating subject that is highly regarded for entry to universities around the World. It is a valuable supporting subject for most other academic areas and related professional choices include:- Engineering, Economics, Architecture, Accountancy, Medicine, IT, Teaching & Design.

Physics is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

PHYSICS

Lead Teacher: Mr M. Evison
Subject Teachers: Mr M. Evison
Awarding Body: Cambridge International
Course duration: 2 year A Level



Course Description

During the first year of this course, students will obtain the basic knowledge of the subject. Natural phenomena such as motion, waves, magnetism, electricity, and atomic physics encompass this year. The second year delves into more specific topics that will require previous knowledge and at the same time show the applications in different fields such as industry, medicine, astronomy and energy production. It is indeed a comprehensive programme that shows students the different fields of application so they can have a sound understanding of the different topics the subject encompasses, including nowadays activities.

Progression

Physics is the study of the universe and influences many things in our daily lives from Scientific breakthroughs to the development of mobile technology. As a result, Physics has many transferable skills that provide a pathway to countless professions. These can include:-

- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Medicine
- Veterinary Science
- IT
- Other Science specialisms
- Medicine

Physics is a facilitating subject that is recognised by the leading universities in the World.

Our pathway to University...



Swiss Local School



IB School



IGCSE



Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International School



ISCS
THE BRITISH
SCHOOL OF ZUG



SWISS
UNIVERSITIES



INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITIES

WHERE TO FIND OUR ALUMNI...



Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi

M UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN



M Manchester
University



University of
Zurich^{UZH}



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT



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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

VU

VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM

