



St. Gilgen  
International  
School

SALZBURG | AUSTRIA

Application pack for the post of

# Teacher of Science

Biology / General Science

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ST. GILGEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, AUSTRIA  
START DATE: AUGUST 2018

The 'path of excellence'. Together with our dedicated staff, student and parent community we are building one of the finest international education institutions in the world, that will inspire generations of students to develop a lifelong love of learning.

## Introduction

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St. Gilgen International School (StGIS) seeks a lively, committed, and inspirational TEACHER of SCIENCE (with a Biology specialism, preferably up to IB Diploma level) to be part of our growing and happy school.

St. Gilgen International School is a co-educational boarding and day school for students aged 9 to 18. The school was founded in 2008, and since then has grown steadily. The founder of St. Gilgen International School envisaged a unique school with members drawn from the local and international community sharing a high quality academic and personal education in beautiful surroundings.

On the 17th of May 2016, ownership of the school passed to a foundation of parents of the school community (Privatstiftung). This foundation acts solely in the interests of the school and school community. It undertakes to secure the school's future. As such, all profits are reinvested back into the school. The new ownership harnesses our community spirit and drives us to work together in a continued effort to improve our already exceptional school.

## Our Vision:

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The 'path of excellence'. Together with our dedicated staff, student and parent community we are building one of the finest international education institutions in the world, that will inspire generations of students to develop a lifelong love of learning.

## Our Values:

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### Excellence

We always look for ways to improve and set new educational standards.

### Integrity

We encourage our students and staff to be people of integrity – to be true to their beliefs, but also prepared to challenge themselves.

### Passion

Our goal is to build a vibrant and enterprising learning community of students with passion, curiosity and a strong desire to learn. Passion fuels their imagination, drives thinking across uncharted territories, and remains fundamental to their success in life.

“At St Gilgen International School, we expect our students to be prepared to grow and, through honest reflection, to strive for excellence in everything that they do; we expect the same high standards and approach to learning from our staff”

*Martina Moetz, Head of School*



## Our Location

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Austria is a beautiful country which is both safe and nurturing. A unique feature of our school is its idyllic setting in the village of St. Gilgen on Lake Wolfgang.

The beauty of our environment allows us to enjoy exceptional opportunities for outdoor adventure, including mountain biking, rock-climbing and hiking as well as sports such as skiing, sailing and horseback riding. Indeed, in the winter months students (and staff) can ski and snowboard every weekend. Our staff and students benefit from a healthy lifestyle with fresh, clean air, away from the pollution of towns and cities.

Our proximity to the rich cultural centre of Salzburg offers our community the opportunity to experience top-class music and theatre. In addition we can enjoy weekend visits to the art galleries and museums of the beautiful cities of Vienna and Munich. StGIS is located in the village that was home to Mozart's mother.

Transportation links via the international airports in Salzburg, Munich and Vienna mean that access is straightforward from global destinations; in addition, Salzburg is served by an excellent European rail network.



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OUR BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL AND VILLAGE

## Learning at St Gilgen International School

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St. Gilgen International School aims to offer a world-class international education. Our school combines the traditional charm, security, and cultural heritage of a small village, with a dynamic and modern teaching and learning environment, and an ambitious and globally minded school community. StGIS is a friendly and purposeful place to work, with HIGH STANDARDS and low stress.

Our unique proposition:

### **Excellence in Care**

Our students will be happy at StGIS and cared for as if they were our own.

### **Excellence in Education**

Our students will be in the best environment possible, with the most dedicated teachers, to thrive academically and become confident learners and critical thinkers. We find and nurture the strengths and talents of each of our students.

### **Excellence in Opportunities**

Our students will be on the journey of a lifetime, and they will grow exponentially as they experience the outstanding range of opportunities available to them.

StGIS is an IB World School, and is fully accredited by the IB to offer the IB Diploma Programme; this is preceded by a carefully targeted pre-IB year in Grade 10, and a broad and balanced Primary (Grade 5) and Middle (Grades 6-9) school curriculum.

StGIS is accredited by CIS and is a member of ECIS and SGIS, as well as meeting the standards of the UK Independent Schools Inspectorate.



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OUR FRIENDLY AND RESPECTFUL STUDENTS

## Science Department Information

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Science at StGIS is a thriving and innovative curriculum area, with a strong focus on developing students' connections to the important role Science plays in our global society, as well as the core skills and knowledge needed to access higher level thinking within each subject. As a team, we always look to promote international mindedness and enhance students' passion for Science both within the classroom and beyond.

The Science facilities consist of four well-equipped laboratories, doubling as teaching classrooms, and three preparation rooms. Our staff currently comprise: two Biology teachers (one is also IB Diploma Coordinator); two Chemistry teachers (one is also Head of Department), one Physics teacher, a Primary Science specialist, and one full-time Senior Laboratory Technician.

Science is taught for four periods per week in Grades 5 to 9 and each period lasts for 50 minutes. Often, two periods will be scheduled back-to-back to allow for an extended session for experiments. Grades 5 and 6 are taught Science by their classroom teacher. Grades 7 and 8 are taught general Science skills bridging each of the main disciplines within the curriculum area. Grade 9 is taught by subject specialists and students cover each of the three core Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for one term (10 weeks). Grade 10 students select between one to three Science subjects and are taught each of these for three periods per week for the whole year. IB Diploma Classes are taught for three periods per week at standard level and five periods per week at higher level. Each of the four Science subjects we offer for the IB Diploma are available at both Standard and Higher levels. Class sizes in Science are usually no larger than twelve students.

Students do not currently sit any external examinations until their IB Diploma examinations at the end of Grade 12. Thus, whilst the core skills, knowledge and understanding must be covered, teachers have considerable autonomy to develop the specifics of the programme in their own subject. There is much scope for creativity and innovation in Science teaching, with plentiful opportunity for practical work and in-depth study of topics. Given the top-end facilities and resources, most Science teachers deliver over 50% of the course through in-class and individual experiments.

"The science department are a closely-knit family of learning enthusiasts who want all our students, no matter what they go on to do, to recognise themselves as participants in the ongoing cultural process of Science. We believe what our students learn with us will help them think for themselves, empower them to participate effectively in democracy, evade quackery, understand their place in the universe, and make the world a better place in which to live."

Declan Fleming, Head of Department



## General Science and Biology at StGIS

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The General Science curriculum at StGIS centres on the development of core skills and abilities essential for success at IB Diploma level and beyond. These are taught following a thematic structure, and content is delivered through an inquiry-based approach, nurturing independent study skills to establish a life long love of learning. Students examine essential questions, use learned skills to foster critical thinking, and develop rigorous evaluative responses while mastering safe laboratory and experimentation skills. We aim to provide students with the opportunity to research and experiment topics of their own interest throughout every year level in each of the separate disciplines.

Science is highly valued within our community, and the importance of enthusiastic and engaging instruction coupled with a team-focused approach cannot be stressed enough.



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STATE-OF-THE-ART LABORATORIES

## Science Teacher (Biology specialism): Overview of role

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1. Teach General Science (including Biology) to groups of students across the age range, including up to IB Diploma level, as determined by the curriculum needs of the school (up to 21, 50-minute periods out of 33 per week).
2. As required, act as an IB Diploma Extended Essay supervisor for Science.
3. With agreement, to teach an additional subject as required and appropriate.
4. Work collaboratively with colleagues to plan and prepare conceptually driven units of study in-line with departmental and whole school curriculum aims and objectives, and design and implement effective and coherent learning activities, using a range of teaching methodologies and approaches.
5. Plan appropriate opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do and provide regular formative feedback to support learning, including through constructive self- and peer- assessment, and maintain accurate records (in-line with the school's Assessment and Reporting Policy).
6. Incorporate relevant out-of-class learning into the curriculum whenever possible.
7. Report on student progress to parents as required by the whole-school Assessment and Reporting Policy.
8. Ensure that the health and safety requirements of the Science department, and whole school, are adhered to, securing a safe working environment for staff and students.
9. Promptly pass information to Mentor Tutors, House Parents and other relevant staff (and parents) when a student's effort or achievement is praiseworthy or giving cause for concern.
10. Contribute to whole-school duties as necessary, and provide cover for absent colleagues when asked to do so.
11. Act as a Mentor Tutor for a small group of students, have oversight of the students' academic and pastoral needs, provide necessary guidance, and liaise with relevant parties as appropriate.
12. Play a full role in the wider learning opportunities and care required of a 7-day-a-week boarding school, including co-curricular activities, and support in Boarding houses; this will entail weekend commitments
13. Any other reasonable duties at a level commensurate with the post, as directed by the Subject Leader and/or Senior Leadership.

*A full job description, and terms and conditions are available on request.*

## Science Teacher (Biology specialism): Person Specification



### Essential

- You have a relevant Bachelor's degree, and excellent subject knowledge and passion.
- You have a recognized teaching qualification / qualified teacher status.
- You have at least 2-years of teaching experience.
- You are creative and innovative, and excited by the opportunities for curriculum development.
- You habitually model the characteristics of a lifelong learner for your students, through your approaches and attitudes to education, Science, and extra-curricular interests.
- You are enthusiastic to be a part of our school's diverse co-curricular program, including our termly cross-curricular Science evenings, and the wider evening and weekend care needs of a 24/7 boarding school.
- You are a collaborative 'team player' with a warm, caring personality, a good sense of humour, and the ability to balance the demands of HIGH STANDARDS with a low stress approach.
- You are highly organised, pay close attention to detail, and are able to convey some of these essential characteristics by referring to our local Nobel laureate, or his work, in your cover letter.

### Desirable

- A postgraduate degree (preferably in the field of Education).
- Ability and willingness to teach an additional (second) subject and/or contribute to our English support program.
- IB Diploma experience and alignment with the IB mission.
- Experience of teaching or supporting the IB Diploma Theory of Knowledge or Extended Essay.
- Experience working with students from different language and educational backgrounds (particularly international school experience).
- Previous experience working in a boarding school (or similar residential) environment.
- Current, clean drivers license valid for use in Austria.

### We offer

- A 'close-knit' school community where teachers, students and parents work together in a productive and purposeful environment.
- An amazing location, excellent facilities and stunning natural surroundings; simply a wonderful place to live and learn.
- A strong focus on professional development and growth within a collaborative atmosphere of HIGH STANDARDS - low stress.
- Small class sizes with well-behaved and respectful students.
- Great holidays.
- Lifestyle benefits such as subsidized meals, support with German lessons, skiing opportunities and use of school facilities as available.
- The chance to live in a safe country with excellent public health care and other significant social benefits (including a good state pension scheme).



## Application Process

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The appointment is for August 2018 and the initial contract will be for a period of two years (renewable by mutual consent). The salary will be in the range € 39,923 to € 55,682 depending on qualifications and experience. An additional allowance of € 2,101 is paid for a higher degree e.g. MA, MEd, MBA, EdD, PhD.

Please apply to Natascha Lohse (Human Resources) by email (n.lohse@stgis.at) and include the content listed below (preferably in one combined PDF document with the following filename format, 'lastname\_firstname\_position\_submission date'; for example: 'blog\_fred\_History-Teacher\_24thJan2018'). Please ensure the email subject is the post being applied for:

1. A completed StGIS Application Cover Sheet (please download, x1 side of A4)
2. A covering letter (max x2 sides of A4 Arial 10-12 font) explaining how you would be particularly suited to this position at St Gilgen International School. Please ensure your letter directly addresses the job description, and the essential and desirable characteristics detailed above, as well as any other aspects you consider important.
3. A full Curriculum Vitae including complete employment history (x2 sides of A4 excluding references)
4. Details of three referees including postal address, email address and telephone number (please ensure they know they may be contacted and will respond promptly). Note that we reserve the right to contact any of your previous employers.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. All applications will be acknowledged, and those being called for interview will be contacted with more details. **Early applications are very much encouraged, and we reserve the right to appoint before the closing date if an exceptional candidate is found.** Long-list first round interviews will take place via Skype with the relevant Head of Department and the Deputy Head (Academic).

Short-list / second round interviews will involve an interview with the Head of School and may also include a visit to StGIS in Austria if this is considered necessary.

Following the interview process, we aim to make a decision quickly and inform all short-listed candidates of the outcome as soon as possible. A 'verbal' agreement will be expected at this stage, to be followed by contractual arrangements. Any offer of employment is subject to our safe recruitment practice which includes:

1. receipt of satisfactory references
2. identity verification
3. satisfactory police check
4. confirmation of qualifications

*By agreement and as applicable, all reasonable expenses for interview travel and accommodation will be covered by the school upon presentation of receipts.*

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW THESE DETAILS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR APPLICATION. WE KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND EFFORT THIS ENTAILS, AND CAN ASSURE YOU WE WILL GIVE EACH APPLICATION RECEIVED CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND ATTENTION.



## St. Gilgen International School

SALZBURG | AUSTRIA

Ischlerstrasse 13 | 5340 St. Gilgen, Austria  
Tel +43 6227 202 59 | Fax +43 6227 202 59 10

[www.stgis.at](http://www.stgis.at) | [info@stgis.at](mailto:info@stgis.at)

