



Berlin International School

Campus Dahlem – On the Doorstep of the Capital City



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OUR MISSION

Berlin International School is an IB World School and an officially recognized private school in the State of Berlin. We are a private, non-profit, non-denominational day school offering student-centered learning to international and local students from Grade 1 through university entrance preparation. We are a part of Stiftung Private-Kant Schulen gGmbH and play an active role in the life of this educational institution. We are committed to promoting the values and attributes of the 'IB Learner Profile' and the Bildungs- und Erziehungsziele in the State of Berlin, while facilitating an appreciation and respect of our shared humanity and diverse community.

We are student and learning focused.

GUIDING OBJECTIVES

1. Provide challenging programs that support students in realizing their academic and individual potential.
2. Offer a curriculum that is local and global, develops conceptual understanding, has a particularly strong emphasis on inquiry and encourages academic excellence.
3. Encourage the development of thinking, communication, social, self-management and research skills.
4. Cultivate multilingualism with an emphasis on English and German language acquisition.
5. Ensure that students are able to work independently and as part of a team, in addition to having the opportunity to gain leadership experiences.
6. Innovate with technology to further enhance teaching and learning.
7. Support learning and program development through effective, deliberate assessment practices.
8. Facilitate opportunities that enhance social, intellectual, physical and creative competencies inside and outside the classroom.
9. Create a safe, supportive environment where the physical and emotional integrity of each member of our community is respected.
10. Develop awareness of our individual and collective responsibility to live sustainably.
11. Foster a shared partnership between students, families and the school.

Mission Statement. Stand: 26. August 2016

BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

In 1998, Stiftung Private Kant-Schulen (SPKS) opened Berlin International School, or B.I.S., adding a new branch with a fully locally and international recognized curriculum to their group of private schools. Together, the independent schools of SPKS serve approximately 2200 students on three campuses. Today B.I.S. and Kita International comprise Campus Dahlem, where approximately 1000 students from early childhood to Grade 12 learn together.

We are a private, not-for-profit, non-denominational day school offering child-centered instruction to international and local children in a supportive climate of mutual respect and enthusiasm for learning. English is the primary language of instruction from early childhood through Grade 12, with individual subjects at some levels also being facilitated in German.

PRIMARY
Grades 1-5
(ages 6-11)

MIDDLE YEARS
Grades 6-8
(ages 12-14)
BBR/IGCSE/MSA

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME
Grades 11-12
(ages 16-19)



KITA INTERNATIONAL

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER**
(age 3-5)

Kita International specializes in early childhood education, sharing both a campus and a common curricular approach with B.I.S. It is part of the not for profit-organisation Kant-Kindergarten gGmbH.
Homepage: www.kita-international.de

STUDENTS & STAFF

The student body is representative of almost than 80 nationalities. We are fortunate to be considered a school of choice by Berlin's local and expatriate communities.

The B.I.S. team is also diverse, with each of the six inhabited continents represented. All teaching professionals hold university degrees and teacher qualifications that have been recognized in the State of Berlin. The school invests generously in professional development, and expects its faculty to be active learners and healthy, balanced role-models for young people.

ACCREDITATION

1998 Recognition by Berlin Department of Education

2000 IB World School (IB Diploma Programme)

2002 International General Certificate of Secondary Education, Cambridge University Exam Centre

2003 Authorization (IB) Primary Years Programme

2009 Accreditation by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
and Council of International Schools (CIS)



B.I.S. is a state-recognised 'Ersatzschule' in Grades 1-10, reflecting the content and goals of the Berlin curriculum (Rahmenlehrplan) in its programs. It is also a member of the Council of International Schools (CIS), and the Association of German International Schools (AGIS). Locally, SPKS and its schools are members of the Association of Independent Schools Berlin (AGFS) as well as the Verband Deutscher Privatschulen (VDP).

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

GRADES 1 - 5

The Primary curriculum at B.I.S intends to develop internationally-minded students who will be able to think critically, knowledgeably, and respectfully about the world around them. To this end, we implement an internationally recognized curriculum framework, the IB Primary Years Programme, or PYP. The PYP embraces a progressive, learning through inquiry approach, which offers students opportunities to be active participants in and out of the classroom.

The curriculum framework consists of five essential elements: concepts, knowledge, skills, attitudes and action. The programme design is transdisciplinary. Different subject areas are integrated through units of inquiry, which develop understanding of themes which are globally significant, thus making learning relevant for students. Subjects are also taught as distinct learning areas, primarily in English, with an integrated German-English approach presently facilitated in select subjects.

The homeroom teachers deliver the core curriculum, while specialists offer Art, Music, Dance, Library, and Physical Education. German is taught at different levels (Beginner to Native) in all grades. In the PYP, Information Communication Technology is also integrated into many aspects of the curriculum.

In B.I.S. Primary, our students learn in a cooperative, caring environment that promotes the development of each individual's potential. Our teachers are committed to ensuring that students are motivated, safe, and secure throughout these important years.

Our programme builds upon the diversity of experiences and backgrounds in our community.

Our aim is to nurture globally-minded citizens who are:

communicators • thinkers • inquirers • risk-takers • knowledgeable • balanced • principled caring • open-minded • reflective

MIDDLE YEARS

GRADES 6 - 10

In the Middle Years we embrace adolescence as a time of rapid intellectual, as well as personal change. Students strengthen their independent learning skills and begin to pursue individual interests while simultaneously balancing new physical and emotional challenges associated with moving closer to adulthood.

Our curriculum is balanced to address this unique time in life. It draws on our interpretation of international programmes and the Berliner Rahmenplan to provide a smooth transition from Grades 5-6, while delivering content that progressively prepares students' in both knowledge and skills for entry into the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP). A strong academic foundation promotes intercultural awareness and supports the physical, social and emotional development of each child. It allows students to develop incrementally, while taking increased responsibility for their learning. We believe challenge and feedback aids students in become increasingly independent learners.

Through our Homeroom/Advisory programme we provide a nurturing environment. We guide our students in the exploration of a range of issues related to their health and personal development, while encouraging them to look beyond themselves.

In the Middle Years, we go beyond preparing students for the IBDP, college and/or university. We facilitate the development of intellectual and inter-cultural confidence, which we believe will contribute to their success beyond school.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (IGCSE)

GRADES 9 & 10

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is a 2-year Cambridge programme designed for Grade 9-10 students, which culminates in a set of standardized examinations at the end of Grade 10. The results of this programme's exams are recognized widely across the globe, offering a certificate respected by academic institutions and employers worldwide. According to the Cambridge website:

‘Cambridge IGCSE is the world’s most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success. Developed over 25 years ago, it is tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide.’

The courses offered at B.I.S. and their IGCSE examinations offer an appropriate preparation for the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12 at our school. The IGCSE assessments include written, oral, and practical examinations.

BERUFSBILDUNGSREIFE (BBR) MITTLERER SCHUL ABSCHLUSS (MSA)

From School Year 2014-2015 students in Grades 9 and 10 must also take the state BBR (end of Grade 9) and MSA (end of Grade 10) examinations. These tests are relevant to local German students and students who have been in Germany for over two years. Due to the alignment between our Grade 9 and 10 programmes and the Berliner Rahmenlehrplan we have been able to prepare our students for these tests using the B.I.S. curriculum. The addition of these exams will enhance the educational opportunities we provide for German students whilst maintaining the quality and relevance of the B.I.S. curriculum for our international students.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

In Grades 9 - 12 students take courses that can lead to the B.I.S. High School Diploma. As a school, accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), our school Diploma is recognised as equivalent to a high school diploma in the USA or Canada.

In order to graduate with a high school diploma a student must attend Grade 12 at B.I.S. and have successfully completed four years of Senior School (Grades 9-12), fulfilling the minimum requirement of 22 credits. In conjunction with SAT/ACT exams, this diploma qualifies students for entry to North American & Japanese universities.

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

The Work Experience Programme is a 2-3 week non-paid internship at the end of Grade 10. Students construct their own CV's and cover letters with the support of German and English language

teachers. The objective of the programme is to offer students the opportunity to go through the search, application, and interview processes connected to employment. It is also a chance for students to get exposure to a workplace of choice, navigate professional communication and responsibilities, and to reflect on their school and work experiences.

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IBDP)

GRADES 11 & 12

The IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) is an academically focused curriculum for students aged 16–18 (Grades 11–12). It prepares them to enter university. Completion of the IB Diploma is a harbinger to admission to universities worldwide. For North American universities, successful completion of IB exams can also lead to the awarding of university course credit and/or advanced university standing. In Germany, when appropriate courses are selected and scores earned, the IBDP is recognized as equivalent to the Abitur, which is offered in a bilingual setting at our sister schools, Kant-Oberschule and Internationale Schule Berlin.

B.I.S. employs an IB Diploma Coordinator to administer all aspects of the programme. Part of this role is to advise students in making their subject choices. Our track record of excellent achievement is directly related to the high quality and experience of our teachers, and the hard work of our IB Diploma Coordinator. With the support of our faculty, students function in a student-centered academic learning community, which stimulates them to explore and excel. The IB Diploma Programme is structured to accommodate every motivated, sincere and serious student, while personal abilities and future goals determine course choices.

The following courses are currently offered at B.I.S. as part of the Diploma

Programme: All courses are offered at Higher (HL) and Standard Level (SL), with the exception of Self-taught Language A, German Ab initio and Environmental Systems and Societies, which are only offered by the IB as Standard Level courses.

GROUP 1 - STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

English A Literature • English A Language and Literature • German A Literature • German A Language and Literature • Self-taught A Literature course (for more details, please contact the IB Diploma Coordinator)

GROUP 2 - LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

English B • French B • German B • Spanish B • German Ab initio

GROUP 3 - INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

Business Management • Economics • History • Geography • Psychology (offered as an online course through Pamoja – for additional fees)

GROUP 4 - SCIENCES

Biology • Chemistry • Environmental Systems and Societies (can also be used as a Group 3 subject)
• Physics

GROUP 5 - MATHEMATICS (there are three mathematics levels which students can choose from, depending on their proficiency). Mathematics HL • Mathematics SL • Mathematical Studies SL

GROUP 6 - THE ARTS

Film • Music • Visual Arts • Or additional subject from groups 1-4

***The school reserves the right to add or delete courses according to student demand and staff availability.**



THE IBDP HAS FOUR COMPONENTS:

1. **STUDY OF SIX SUBJECTS:** students study three courses at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). At the end of Grade 12, students sit externally moderated examinations.
2. **EXTENDED ESSAY:** students are introduced to and guided in university-level research through the Extended Essay process, culminating in the writing of an approximately 4,000-word essay.
3. **THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK):** a foundational course that all DP students must take, helping them to explore and understand the problematic and holistic nature of knowledge.
4. **CREATIVITY, ACTION, SERVICE (C.A.S.):** a programme designed to help students develop their creativity, well-being, and commitment to serve the local and global community.



SUPPORT SERVICES

COUNSELORS: The school employs a counselor in each section of the school. Together, they support students, parents, and teachers to reflect on their positive learning experiences, ensuring B.I.S. is a safe, healthy environment. They also provide proactive, in-class guidance workshops for B.I.S. students, as well as individual and small group counseling support for students with specific social or emotional needs. Regular parenting workshops are also part of community life at B.I.S.

EXTRA SUPPORT: We recognize that some students require special programmes and services. The EAL (English as an Additional Language) programme assists students whose first language is not English. The overall aim of the EAL programme is to offer additional help in building language skills to develop confidence in English as rapidly as possible. With German being part of some aspects of our curriculum, the GAL (German as an Additional Language) programme supports non-German speaking newcomers to Berlin, and others who need help accessing the curriculum through the host language. We also offer the option of Learning Support – in and outside of class – for students who require it (additional costs may apply). In addition, we offer the option of services provided by our whole school psychologist and an in-house speech and language therapist (additional costs may apply).

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING: The University & Careers Counselor helps engage students in – and supports them with – the rigorous college application process. From Grades 10 – 12 there are programmes and activities that help students identify their abilities, interests and aptitudes on the pathway to career development and further education.

THE LIBRARIES: The libraries play an important role in our educational programmes by helping teach the skills students need to be information literate in the 21st century. In their time at B.I.S., students will learn library and information retrieval and processing skills – and how they can use the library to enhance their classroom learning experience.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: At B.I.S. we create an atmosphere that encourages enjoyment of motion and sporting competitions, while fostering awareness of healthy lifestyles. Physical Education lessons are part of the curriculum for all students from Grades 1–10, including psychomotoric classes for Grades 1–2, swimming classes for students in Grade 3, and dance for Grades 4–5. Berlin International School is also a full member of GISST (German International Schools Sport Tournaments).

ART & MUSIC: Art education at B.I.S. is child-centred, transdisciplinary and inquiry based in Primary. Students will inquire into the arts in order to become creative, independent, knowledgeable, cooperative and reflective learners. As students move through the programme they will experiment with progressively more diverse materials and varied techniques as well as expanding their knowledge and skills. Local and international field trips comprise an important part of the programme. Student artwork is highly valued and appreciated in displays throughout the school.

Music features prominently in the B.I.S. curriculum from Grade 1 – 12. In Primary, children develop their listening skills, learning the role of rhythm and beat, while exploring sound and movement. They also have the opportunity to learn to play recorder and xylophone. In Grade 6, all students learn to play a musical instrument provided by the school. These lessons are taught by visiting specialists and take place within the school curriculum. There are also Primary and Secondary Choirs.

We give our musicians and singers opportunities throughout the year to play regularly in school events and at local venues in and around Berlin. In addition, on an annual basis, singers and instrumentalists have the opportunity to participate in a Berlin International Music Project (BIMP) with other international schools from Berlin and Brandenburg. A number of students continue musical instrument tuition through our activities programme.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE (ASC): ASC is available for those families in Primary who, as a result of work or professional commitments, are unable to pick up their children at the school finishing times. Children who need to stay in ASC need to be enrolled beforehand (except for cases of emergency). Contact the Primary Office for more information.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (ASA) AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECA): There is also an extensive range of ASAs and ECAs at B.I.S. See the ASA/ECA Handbook for more information: <http://bis-asa.weebly.com/PW:school2014>. Some additional fees may apply.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: Students are encouraged to make the most of the leadership opportunities provided by our Primary and Secondary Student Council. The school constantly seeks other avenues for students to be involved and discover their leadership potential, including student assemblies, clubs, artistic performances, and international public speaking events, business competitions, as well as local and global service projects.

B.I.S. PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA): B.I.S. is more than a place where children spend their school day. It is a place where teachers, staff, and parents work collaboratively to create an environment in which students can thrive academically and socially. To this end, the aim of the PTA is to promote opportunities for each member of the B.I.S. community to participate in, benefit from, and contribute to the exceptional advantages given by a community consisting of various nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. The PTA achieves this by providing a structured forum for communication between administration, faculty, and parents. This includes, but is not limited to helping to integrate new families into B.I.S. and supporting special programmes. Their goal is to strengthen connections within the B.I.S. community. This includes a mentoring and buddy program for new parents.

THE FRIENDS OF B.I.S.: The Friends of B.I.S. is a group of dedicated parents and community members who, through various activities, such as our annual Silent Auction, and our expanding Alumni network, raise funds in order to support school enrichment. Monies have been raised to purchase, among other things, ITC, musical instruments, and professional stage equipment.

TEACHING TIMES

Primary School, Grades 1-5

08:00 - 12:00 Lessons 12:00 - 12:50 Lunch 12:50 - 15:10 Lessons.

Fridays: School ends at 13:45.

Secondary School, Grades 6-10

08:45 - 12:50/13:35 Lessons 12:50 - 13:35/14:20 Lunch 13:35/14:20-15:45 Lessons

Fridays: School ends at 14:20.

Secondary School, Grades 11 & 12

08:45 - 12:50/13:35 Lessons 12:50 - 13:35/14:20 Lunch 13:35/14:20-16:35 Lessons

Fridays: School ends at 14:20.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

CAN I IMMEDIATELY ENROLL MY CHILD AT B.I.S.? Parents can enroll their children anytime during the school year by using the application form, which can be downloaded from the B.I.S. homepage: www.berlin-international-school.de

DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO TAKE AN ENTRANCE EXAM? In Primary, we usually invite potential students who are (already) in Berlin for trial days. Admission is then decided on the basis of this visit. For students not physically in Berlin, we require documentation from their previous school. In all cases, the admissions officer and/or the principal meet the parents, or speak with them over the phone, to determine whether B.I.S. is the right school for the child. If yes, then this discussion is also used to determine which grade level the child will enter. Secondary students will need to sit an entrance exam. Before admission, IB students will also need to meet with the IB Diploma Coordinator.

CAN CHILDREN WHO COME FROM BERLIN OR BRANDENBURG ENROLL IN THE SCHOOL? Yes. International schools are ideal for parents who want their children to grow up in international and multicultural environments. The certificates/diplomas that are offered by B.I.S. (IGCSE, BBR, MSA, High School, and IB Diploma) are recognized by the German educational system and the State of Berlin.

WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION? English is the primary language of instruction, with select courses in Grades 7-10 being required to be taught in German. German language skill development is supported for those in need. Students who have been in Germany less than two years are tracked into a supportive and differentiated programme to ensure they can cope with the courses being taught in German.

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A CHILD WHO DOES NOT YET SPEAK ENGLISH OR GERMAN TO LEARN SUCCESSFULLY AT B.I.S.? Learning in a second language for academic purposes takes time. However, at B.I.S. we have a supportive environment that enables students, whose first language is not English or German, to acquire the social and academic language needed to participate fully in all aspects of school life. Each teacher supports language learning by providing a language rich environment, integrating language development with content instruction and by involving the students actively in meaningful learning tasks.

HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT MY CHILD'S MOTHER TONGUE IS MAINTAINED? In B.I.S., we are supportive of linguistic and cultural diversity. We celebrate the variety of languages and cultures within our school. We encourage parents to continue to develop their children's mother tongue(s) through, for example, talking to them about experiences at school and discussing what they are learning. In our activities programme we offer multiple language courses, some at mother-tongue level.

IS LUNCH PROVIDED? B.I.S. considers a healthy lunch to be an important part of the school day. Students have the option of bringing a packed lunch from home or taking part in the hot lunch programme provided by the school (included in the school fees). Both of our cafeterias are fully certified in Germany by DGE (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ernährung).

SCHOOL TUITION FEES: See attached paper.

USEFULL WEBSITES & EMAIL ADRESSES: **Berlin International School:** www.berlin-international-school.de • **B.I.S. After School Activity Programme:** asa@berlin-international-school.de • **Kita International:** www.kita-international.de • **Bus-Service:** info@fahrdienst-ostkreuz.de • **International Baccalaureate Organisation:** www.ibo.org • **International General Certificate of Secondary Education:** www.cie.org.uk • **Council of International Schools:** www.cois.org



LEADERSHIP

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Private Kant-Schulen Berlin

FULLY ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS (CIS) • THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES (NEASC)

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Officially recognised by the Berlin Department of Education • Member of CIS, IB, NEASC, AGIS & VDP

Stiftung Private Kant-Schulen gGmbH • Träger staatlich anerkannter und genehmigter Schulen

