



# Academic Programs & Requirements

## Introduction and Overview

Since the establishment of the American International School-Salzburg in 1976, thousands of young people from all over the world have combined a challenging and rigorous academic program with the chance to live and study in Salzburg, Austria. While living abroad can be an education in its own right, the American International School-Salzburg offers a very solid, college-preparatory program which leads to the awarding of an American high school diploma with AP credentials.

The curricular program of the school is maintained and regularly evaluated by the school's administration, teaching faculty, and resident-care staff. It complies fully with AP-program guidelines and our policies, teaching materials, and approach to teaching remain consistent with most accredited independent schools in the United States and worldwide. The language of instruction at our school is English and most of the teaching faculty and resident-care staff members are US citizens and native English speakers. Given our historical and educational orientation, it should not be surprising that our students participate in a program which will provide excellent preparation for entrance to universities and colleges in North America.

Students interested in studying abroad upon graduation from AIS-Salzburg are also served by our curricular program and Advanced Placement Examinations. Graduates of AIS-Salzburg meet the requirements of and gain entrance to colleges and universities in Great Britain, continental Europe, the Far East, and all over the world. The key to equivalency with local school diplomas lies with the Advanced Placement Program of examinations which students may take each spring. The American high-school diploma plus a number of Advanced Placement® examinations with appropriate scores can open the doors to nearly any university program anywhere in the world.

What does distinguish the school from other American independent boarding schools is the fact that our students and setting are international. Given this, the school emphasizes English language and literature instruction throughout all grade levels and programs. Every student enrolled in grades 7 through 12 participate in two required, full-credit courses in English each year of enrollment. These two courses divide the regular college-preparatory English curriculum into two parts granting much more emphasis on the various objectives. All students are enrolled in a course which emphasizes fiction literature, composition and grammar as well as a second course which emphasizes nonfiction writing, vocabulary building, speech and listening skills, as well as other technical aspects of the English language including further composition skills. These English courses are for both native and non-native English speakers are required for credit at the high school grade levels. Students whose English proficiency is lower than the standard at each grade level may be evaluated for placement in small-group English tutorial instruction in replacement of one of the two regular English sections.

## AIS-Salzburg Statement of Mission

The American International School-Salzburg is a boarding and day school committed to the college-preparatory education of qualified and conscientious young people. The academic and boarding programs nurture the students' intellectual growth and creativity, as well as their social, physical, and personal

development within an environment that is secure and professionally safeguarded. The school community is guided by and dependent upon self-discipline, mutual respect, integrity, care and compassion. The school empowers students to succeed in further studies, to exercise informed judgment, and to become active and responsible members of society.







- (iii) have no major violations of the schools academic integrity policy, and
  - (iv) receive a passing grade on their senior project (elective grade and credit).
- e. earn the minimum number of academic credits in all subjects in grades 9 through 12. These academic credits must be earned in the following areas:

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4 credits

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4 credits for incoming 9th graders  
 3 credits for incoming 10th graders  
 2 credits for incoming 11th graders  
 1 credit for incoming 12th graders

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4 credits (credits earned in other foreign languages done at previous schools will be credited toward this German language requirement.)

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3 credits including Mathematics 9 and 10

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3 credits including Biology, Chemistry and either Physics or AP Environmental Science

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3 credits including World Cultures and US History or an equivalent or higher-level course in European or American History.

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1 credit in a mathematics or science course at least one level higher than the minimum requirement in each subject area (above).

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. 2 credits (0.5 credits per year of enrollment)

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2 credits (0.5 credits per year of enrollment)

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Students may have several choices of levels of study as long as all of the AIS-Salzburg promotion, graduation, and load requirements are met. For example, students may choose Advanced Placement® level coursework over a standard course for the grade level, provided approval has been granted and the appropriate background study has been successfully completed.

## Standard Schedules for Each Grade Level

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### Seventh Grade (ages 12-13)

Junior High Literature & Composition  
 Junior High Nonfiction & Communication  
 German (at an appropriate level)  
 Junior High Mathematics I  
 Junior High Science I  
 World Geography or World History (alternates annually)  
 Elective(s)  
 Healthy Lifestyle Requirement  
 Boarding Conduct (day students are excepted)

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Junior High Literature & Composition  
 Junior High Nonfiction & Communication

German (at appropriate level)  
Junior High Mathematics II  
Junior High Science II  
World Geography or World History (alternates annually)  
Elective(s)  
Healthy Lifestyle Requirement  
Boarding Conduct (day students are excepted)

English 9 Literature & Composition  
English 9 Nonfiction & Communication  
German (at appropriate level)  
Mathematics 9  
Biology  
World Cultures

# Worldwide Diploma Acceptance

The American High School Diploma offered by AIS-Salzburg is acceptable worldwide provided AP® Examinations and language proficiency standards are met. Here is a general breakdown of the requirements to be met graduates from AIS-Salzburg attending universities in the most popular destinations of tertiary study:

Minimum University Acceptance Requirements				
Location	Diploma Requirements	Application Requirements	AP® Examinations	Other Examination Requirements
United States	AIS-Salzburg Diploma recognized and required	Submission of an application for admission including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transcripts</li> <li>• grade-point average</li> <li>• letters of recommendation</li> <li>• English proficiency test</li> <li>• standardized test results</li> <li>• student essay</li> </ul>	Not required for admission for essential for acceptance to competitive institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAT Examination Score</li> <li>• English proficiency test score (TOEFL)</li> </ul>
Canada	AIS-Salzburg Diploma recognized and required	Submission of an application for admission including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transcripts</li> <li>• grade-point average</li> <li>• letters of recommendation</li> <li>• English proficiency test</li> <li>• standardized test results</li> <li>• student essay</li> </ul>	Not required for admission for essential for acceptance to competitive institutions.	English proficiency test score (IELTS or TOEFL)
United Kingdom	AIS-Salzburg Diploma recognized and required	Submission of an application for admission including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCAS application form</li> <li>• letters of recommendation</li> <li>• English proficiency testing</li> <li>• standardized test results</li> <li>• student essays</li> <li>• (possible) personal interview</li> </ul>	A minimum of 3 AP® Examinations with a mark of 3 or higher are required for admission. Individual universities may require more than three AP® exams and scores higher than 3. UK universities may also require that specific AP® Examinations be passed.	English proficiency test (IELTS)







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AP® World Language and Culture courses offered at AIS-Salzburg include:

- French Language and Culture
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Italian Language and Culture
- German Language and Culture
- English Literature and Composition

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AP Computer Science A

AP Statistics

Sciences

**AP Biology**

**AP Chemistry**

**AP Environmental Science**

AP Physics: Electricity and Magnetism

AP Physics 1: Algebra-based

AP Physics 2: Algebra-based

World Languages and Cultures

AP Chinese Language and Culture

**AP French Language and Culture**

**AP German Language and Culture**

**AP Italian Language and Culture**

AP Japanese Language and Culture

AP Latin

**AP Spanish Language and Culture**

AP Spanish Literature and Culture

## Commentary on the Advanced Placement® Program

The school's successful participation in the Advanced-Placement® Program since 1983, the widespread international recognition of AP scores, and the strength of the AP curricula have convinced the administration of AIS-Salzburg that the College Board's Advanced-Placement program provides AIS-Salzburg's





mester grade, and 25% for the score received on the appropriate portion of the cumulative final examination.

b . A 7th- or 8th-grade student enrolling at midyear after successful completion of a half-year at another accredited secondary school will receive 33% for the partial winter trimester grade, and 66% for the spring trimester grade.

c . A student enrolling in the ninth through twelfth grades at the beginning of the winter trimester after successful completion of a trimester of work at another accredited secondary school will receive 33% for the winter trimester grade, 33% for the spring trimester grade, and 33% for the appropriate portion of the cumulative final examination.

d . A 7th- or 8th-grade student enrolling at the beginning of the winter trimester after successful completion of a trimester of work at another accredited secondary school will receive 50% for the winter trimester and 50% for the spring trimester (grade average).

Within the guidelines listed above, the teaching faculty at AIS-Salzburg is free to create individual, course-specific standards of assessment for the subjects they teach. Most teachers will determine a percentage weighting for written tests, quizzes, homework, research assignments, participation, etc., for each trimester. These determinations will be made clear to all students at the beginning of the school year when the classes first meet . All students receive course outlines which include assessment procedures for the course. Parents may access this information by logging on to the Power- School® student information program with their valid password and login .

## Grade Point Average (GPA)

Grade-point averages are calculated at each grading period and a cumulative average is calculated at the end of each completed school year. AIS-Salzburg utilizes a weighted grade-point average formula whereby individual grade points for particular classes are multiplied by the potential credit of the course and then summed up and divided by the sum of the potential credits. Grade-point averages are expressed in three decimal places and are truncated (not rounded up). Grade-point averages displayed on the student's home page of the Powerschool® student information program are simple grade point averages and are not official as they are not weighted.

For promotion and graduation, AIS-Salzburg requires a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 1.500. A cumulative grade-point average for a school year or total enrollment period can play a significant role in gaining admission to universities following graduation. Most universities and colleges in the United States, for example, require a minimum GPA of 2.500 for admissions consideration with the majority of GPAs below 3.000 being turned down. Further, class ranking in the senior year as well as honors are determined by cumulative grade-point average.

## PowerSchool® Student Information System

The American International School-Salzburg utilizes the PowerSchool® online student information system for all marking, grading, attendance and all other student information record keeping. Upon enrollment, students and their parents or guardians are given access to this online program through a unique and confidential ID and password valid for the present school year. Within this online student information system, they are able to view all relevant and up-to-date academic grades and marks in all courses, at-







University of Illinois  
University of Maryland  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Miami  
University of Vermont  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
Yale University

**Canadian Universities and Colleges:**

Carleton University  
McGill University  
Puget Sound University  
Queens University  
University of British Columbia  
University of Victoria

**U.K. Universities and Colleges:**

Bournemouth University  
Coventry University  
Kings College  
London Kingston University  
Leeds University  
Queen Mary University  
Regent's College  
Suffolk University  
University College London  
York University  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Birmingham  
University of East London  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of Manchester  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Westminster

**Dutch Universities and Colleges:**

The Hague University of Applied Science  
Maastricht University  
Technical University Eindhoven  
Tilburg University  
University of Amsterdam  
University of the Hague

**Other Universities and Colleges:**

American University of Paris (FRA)  
John Cabot University (Italy)  
Bocconi University (Italy)  
Technische Universität Wien (AUT)  
Technische Universität München (GER)