



THE IICS ADVANTAGE



CHECKLIST FOR CHOOSING AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We recommend you research all possible schools and make sure you set up an appointment in order to be able to ask all the necessary questions and tour the facilities. Well thought out questions will help you decide if it is the right school for your child. Here are some helpful questions to ask with our answers on how IICS stacks up.

YOU MAY FIND DETAILED INFORMATION ON OUR RESOURCES PAGE ON THE SCHOOLS WEBSITE!



✓ 1. Does the school offer the IB curriculum at all grade levels? Is the school fully accredited by IB*, CIS** and NEASC***?

IICS offers all the IB Curriculum (PYP, MYP, DP) and is fully accredited by IB, CIS** and NEASC. IICS has been fully authorized for all three IB* Programs and globally accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS**) since 1997, and globally accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) since 2002.



Our IB* Accreditation can be viewed here on the IB* World Schools Directory:
<https://www.ibo.org/school/000938/>

Our CIS Accreditation** be viewed here on the CIS** Membership Directory:
<https://www.cois.org/page.cfm?p=1884>

Our NEASC* Accreditation** be viewed here on the NEASC*** Accredited Schools Directory: <https://cie.neasc.org/institution/istanbul-international-community-school>

✓ 2. Does the school publish university acceptances for the past 5 years year-by- year and what are they? Do they publish how they compare to other international schools?

IICS publishes a Secondary School Profile yearly which includes university acceptances, IB* results, IB* grades attained, SAT scores, faculty and student composition and IB* Diploma Program pass rates for the past 5 years.

✓ 3. What are maximum class sizes in primary and secondary? What is the teacher-to-student ratio?

The maximum class sizes at IICS is 20 students per class and the teacher-to student ratio is 7:1. Our class sizes are small enough to allow for individual attention for a diverse range of abilities. IICS teachers excel at differentiating in the classroom.

✓ 4. What is the composition of the student body? How many different nationalities are represented?

IICS has a truly diverse student population over 62 countries. The four largest nationality groups are US, Germany, UK and Korea

✓ 5. How does the school provide English language support for students who are not native speakers of English? Is other Learning Support also available?

IICS provides English support classes for children up to Grade 10 and admits students with minimal English proficiency up to Grade 7. Learning Support is offered to students however before admittance the accommodations need to be identified in order to understand if it can be provided.

✓ 6. How are technology and computers used in learning? At what age are computers introduced into the classroom? How is technology integrated into the curriculum?

IICS is a technology oriented school. iPads are used from ages 3-6, from Grade 2-5 MacBook laptops are provided for all students. From Grade 6-12 students need to have their own MacBook laptops. The IT program is integrated into the curriculum.

✓ 7. What is the average teaching experience of the teachers? What percentage hold advanced degrees?

IICS' teachers have on an average of 16 years of teaching experience. Over %60 of the teachers have a masters and PhD degree.

✓ 8. What are the nationalities of the teachers? Are they native English speakers?

The majority of teachers are native English speakers who are recruited from abroad. The majority of the teachers are from the US, Canada and UK. More information on our World Class Faculty:

✓ 9. What types of professional development programs are offered to teachers?

IICS being a not-for-profit school reserves a large budget for teachers to attend seminars and conferences in their specialty area. IICS also offers Professional development in-house training in many areas.

✓ 10. What extra-curricular and athletic activities are available for Primary and Secondary students? Does the school organize field trips, class trips and compete in international athletic and academic tournaments?

Primary students from age 5 to Grade 5 are offered a wide range of activities 4 days a week. The activities offered are changed over 6 weeks. As for Grade 6 and Secondary students the activities run in 12 week sessions ranging in areas of athletics, arts, activities and service. IICS is a full member of CEESA (Central and Eastern European Schools Association) and our students also have the opportunity to travel to Eastern European cities for tournaments with other international schools.

✓ 11. What Foreign Languages are offered? How does the school support the Mother Tongue?

IICS offers French (Grades 2-6) and Turkish Culture & Language (EY5 – Grade 6). In Secondary School French and Spanish are offered as a second language.

✓ 12. What is a typical day like? How much time do they spend outside? How much homework is generally given to students?

School starts at 8:30am and ends at 3pm. Primary students have 2 recesses: morning 20 minutes and 30 minutes after lunch. Secondary students have 2 breaks (one 5 mins. and another 15 mins) and lunch is a total of 50 minutes. The amount of homework given to students depends on the grade. In primary school the maximum of 45 minutes is given.

✓ 13. Is the school a profit or not-for-profit school? Are the fees all inclusive?

IICS is a not-for-profit school founded in 1911. The fees include most of the costs including lunch, class trips, extra-curricular activities, school supplies, books, 8% VAT, and Yearbook.

✓ 14. Can the school provide some current parent contacts for further information?

IICS has a very supportive Parent Teacher Association. They publish an updated list of ambassador parents for many languages every year. Parent Ambassadors are IICS parents who are willing to guide and support prospective parents when contacted.

Observations during the school visit:

Try to meet with teachers, counselors, principals and Head of School.
Are the students cheerful? Do the students seem engaged?
Ask the students about the activities taking place.

Additional Suggestions:

Take a tour of the school when school is in session if possible.
Places to see other than classrooms: Playgrounds, gyms, libraries, science labs, technology labs, music and art rooms, cafeteria, common areas.
Cleanliness, spaciousness.

***IB:** ibo.org. The International Baccalaureate is a not-for-profit educational foundation offering a unique educational experience to students from age 3 to 19 through four international education programmes that challenge and motivate students, academically and personally.

***CIS:** cois.org. Council of International Schools is a global non-profit membership community that works collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals.

***NEASC:** neasc.org. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges is an independent, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization which connects and serves over 2,000 public and independent schools, technical/career institutions, colleges and universities in New England plus international schools in more than 65 nations worldwide.