



INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL of
BOLOGNA

Whatever the future
brings, our students are
ready to thrive in it.



Welcome to the International School of Bologna



isbolgna.com

Welcome to ISB



Our Commitment to Sustainability

At the International School of Bologna, environmental responsibility is at the heart of our mission and core values. To minimize waste and reduce our ecological footprint, we have embraced a fully digital approach:

We do not print and distribute documents such as our School Brochure, School Fees, or Calendar. Instead, these resources are easily accessible online.

Our entire admissions process is 100% paper-free, reflecting our commitment to sustainable practices.

We know it's a small gesture, but it counts. By choosing digital solutions, we actively reduce paper and ink consumption, helping to protect the planet for future generations.



Welcome From Our Head of School

At ISB, we offer a holistic, future-focused International Baccalaureate (IB) education in English for learners from 3 to 18 years of age. Our diverse community celebrates global citizenship and multiple perspectives, fostering compassionate, open-minded, self-directed and reflective learners.

Our goal is to offer a transformative approach to education, where learning is intentional and has impact. By modelling life-long learning we inspire those we serve to reach their fullest potential!



We harness a culture of continuous inquiry, critical thinking, and real-world application across all grade levels.

Janecke Aarnaes
Head of School





Mission Driven & Vision-Led School

High Standards - Holistic - Learner Centered



Our vision is to develop learners who are compassionate and open-minded global citizens, equipped with skills for lifelong learning that enable them to take action to create a just and sustainable world. We understand that each child is unique and we prepare them for a global future with infinite possibilities.

Learning Space and Time

Our school is an authorized IB Continuum school located in a medieval building from 1644 in Bologna, Italy. We are the city's only truly international IB Continuum school. Our small, yet charming, campus is strategically placed within the old city walls, making it easy for families to walk or cycle to school.

Our curriculum is designed to promote deep understanding, essential competencies, and transferable knowledge and skills that students can apply to various real-world contexts.







Our School Community

ISB is small and a vibrant international community, with around 300 from diverse cultural and linguistic students backgrounds.

Approximately **55%** of our families are expatriates from all corners of the world, living in Bologna for work, pleasure, or by choice.

45% are local families with at least one Italian guardian.



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

We foster a deeply inclusive environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute and to be recognized for who they are, and want to be.

We celebrate, and actively support the diverse needs, identities, and interests of our learners.

Through our admissions process, we take thoughtful steps to identify needs of neurodiverse learners. Before enrollment, we engage in conversations with families to ensure whether we can adequately support each child. We believe that an open dialogue and respectful exchanges of viewpoints are essential for creating an informed, dignified, and welcoming environment.

At ISB we ensure that every learner feels safe, valued, and connected.







Grade Level Equivalency Across Countries

Age	ISB	Italy	UK	USA	Austrailia
3	Reception	Scuola dell'infanzia	Nursery	EC 1	Pre-Kindergarten
4	Kindergarten	Scuola dell'infanzia	Reception	EC 2	Kindergarten
5	Transition	Scuola dell'infanzia	Year 1	Kindergarten	Kindergarten
5-6	Grade 1	1° Elementare	Year 2	Grade 1	Prep
6-7	Grade 2	2° Elementare	Year 3	Grade 2	Year 1
7-8	Grade 3	3° Elementare	Year 4	Grade 3	Year 2
8-9	Grade 4	4° Elementare	Year 5	Grade 4	Year 3
9-10	Grade 5	5° Elementare	Year 6	Grade 5	Year 4
10-11	Grade 6	1° Media	Year 7	Grade 6	Year 5
11-12	Grade 7	2° Media	Year 8	Grade 7	Year 6
12-13	Grade 8	3° Media	Year 9	Grade 8	Year 7
13-14	Grade 9	1° Liceo	Year 10	Grade 9	Year 8
14-15	Grade 10	2° Liceo	Year 11	Grade 10	Year 9
15-16	Grade 11	3° Liceo	Year 12	Grade 11	Year 10
16-17	Grade 12	4° Liceo	Year 13	Grade 12	Year 11
17-18		5° Liceo		Grade 12	Year 12



The IB Curriculum Framework

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers a continuum of international education that encourages both personal and academic growth.

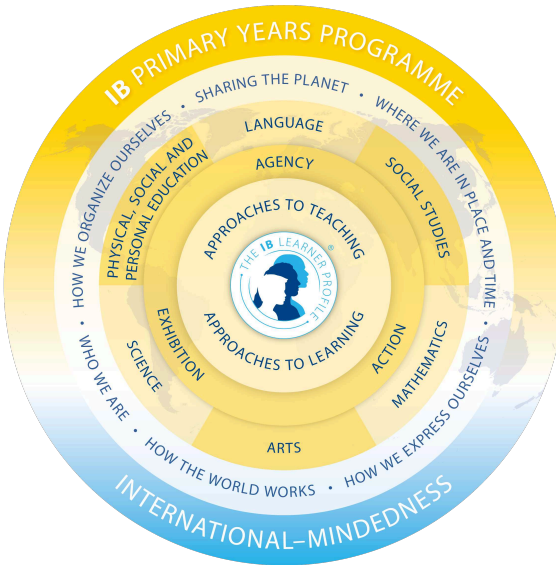
The International School of Bologna (ISB) offers three of the four IB programs: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the Diploma Programme (DP).

All IB programs at ISB share a core based on the IB Mission Statement, the IB Learner Profile, and Programme Standards & Practices.



The IB Programmes at ISB

IB Mission Statement
IB Learner Profile
Programme Standards & Practices



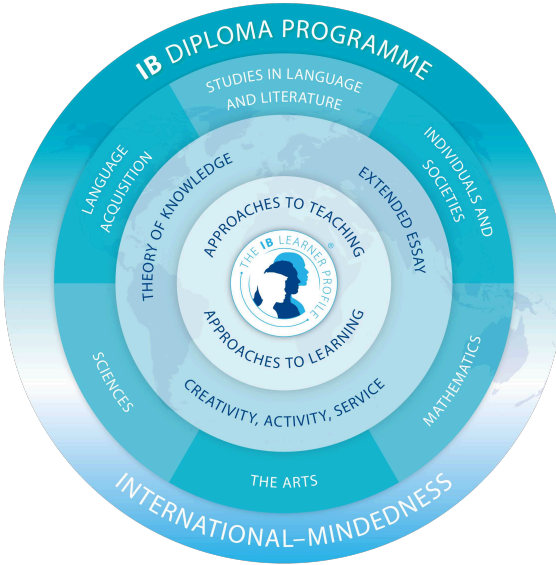
Primary Years Programme

At ISB since 2009



Middle Years Programme

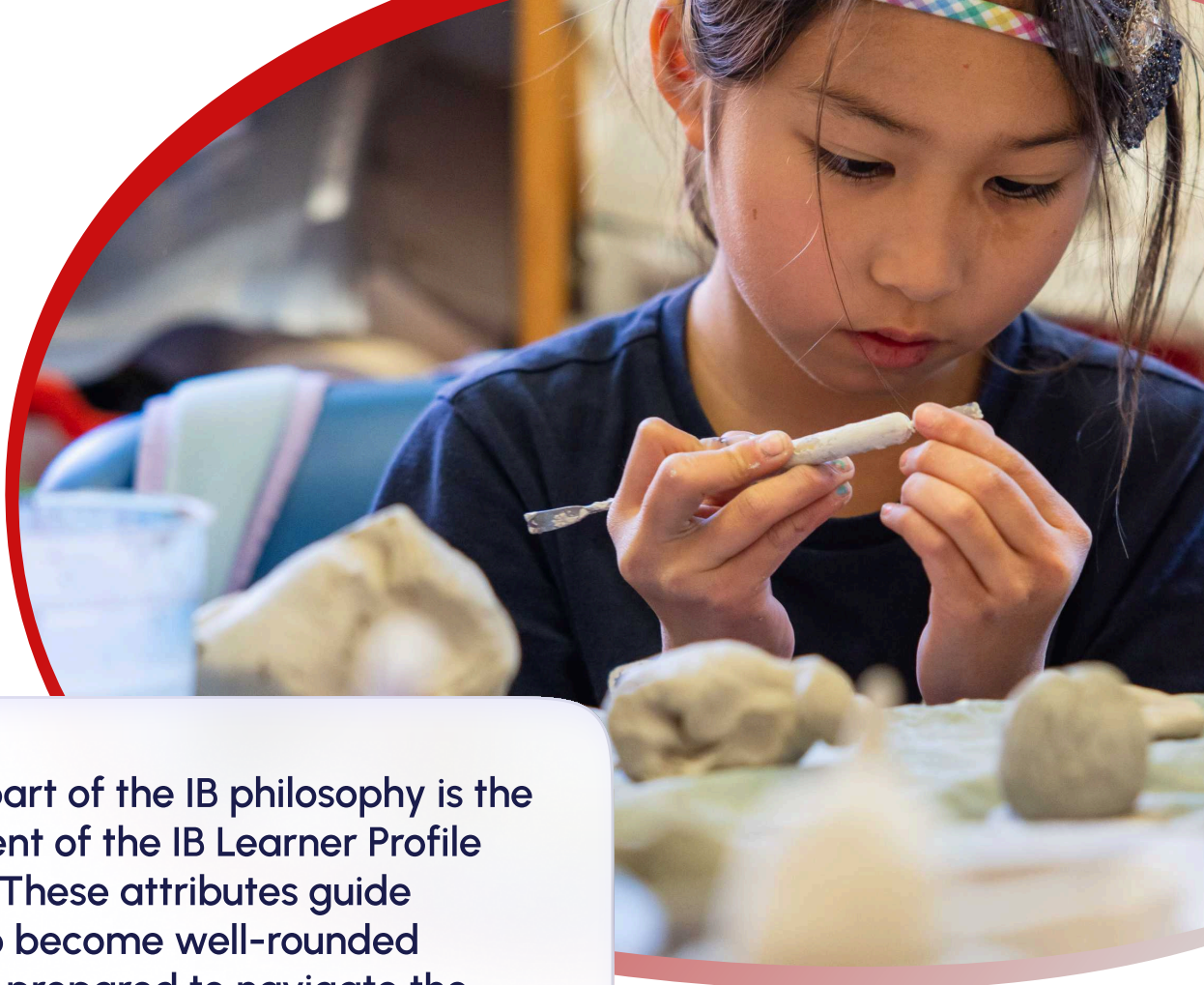
At ISB since 2012



Diploma Programme

At ISB since 2015





A central part of the IB philosophy is the development of the IB Learner Profile attributes. These attributes guide students to become well-rounded individuals prepared to navigate the complexities of an evolving world. The IB Learner Profile attributes are:

-  **Inquirers**
-  **Knowledgeable**
-  **Thinkers**
-  **Communicators**
-  **Principled**
-  **Open-minded**
-  **Caring**
-  **Risk-takers**
-  **Balanced**
-  **Reflective**

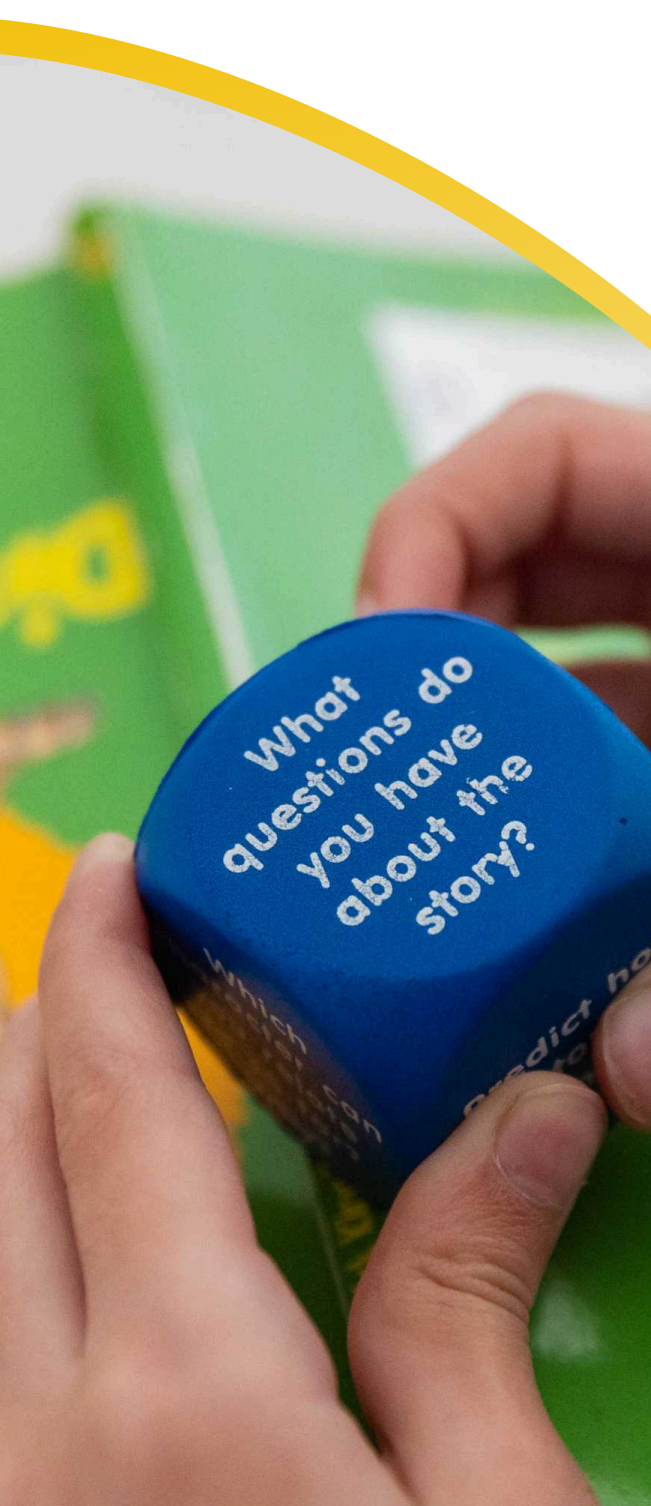
Early Years - PYP



The Primary Years Programme starts in our Early Years classrooms. Children are offered a variety of learning engagements that encourage them to wonder and ask questions about their world. Through play based inquiry and a Reggio Inspired approach, children grow and build on what they already know and understand.

The PYP is built around eight key concepts that are used across all subject areas. These concepts help children view topics and issues through various lenses. Students begin to make connections between their learning and make generalizations about the world.

The eight key concepts are:



Form

What does it look like?

Function

How does it work?

Causation

Why is it this way?

Change

How does it change and transform over time?

Perspective

What are the points of view?

Responsibility

What are our obligations?

Connection

How is it linked to other things?

Elementary - PYP



The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is designed for learners from 3 - 11 years.

The PYP curriculum includes an inquiry into six themes (four in the Early Years): Who we are, Where we are in place and time, How we express ourselves, How the world works, How we organize ourselves, and Sharing the planet.

PYP learners follow an inquiry cycle to explore each of the themes through a different topic and subject lens. For example, 'How the world works' has a Science focus.

Elementary - PYP

Through an inquiry approach learners have the opportunity to ask questions, find out, make connections, reach conclusions and finally take action as a result of new understandings. Throughout the inquiry cycle, learners are required to reflect on what they have learnt and how they learn best.



Secondary - MYP & DP



Learning in the MYP and DP focuses on identifying the knowledge, concepts, skills, and attitudes that will be developed over time. It promotes awareness of individual, local, national, and world issues and incorporates relevant experiences for students.

Learning in these programs fosters the development of the IB learner profile attributes and provides opportunities for students to make connections across their learning.

Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The MYP, Grade 6 to Grade 10, is a five-year program for students aged 11–16, focusing on a holistic, interdisciplinary education. It encourages students to connect their studies to the real world through global contexts. The program develops critical thinking, communication, and intercultural understanding, preparing students for the academic challenges of the IB Diploma Programme.



Diploma Programme (DP)

- The IB Diploma Programme (DP), Grade 11 and Grade 12, is an academically challenging and balanced program for students aged 16 to 19.
- The program is designed to address students' intellectual, social, emotional, and physical well-being.
- Students participate in external exams set by the IB at the end of their Diploma studies.



Door Opener to the Future

The IB DP is recognized as the "gold standard" for entry into higher education and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

We are proud to say that our graduates have gone on to study a wide range of disciplines at universities of their choice.



Learning Technology

In our learning environment we consider both time and space as elements that enhance learning and student well-being. We optimize learning with the adoption of advanced technology.

We are proud to be the first Google Reference school in Italy, which makes us a pioneer in the field of assistive technologies that empower future-focused learning and teaching.



Google for Education
Reference District

ISB is the first Google
Reference school in Italy



Approaches of Teaching and Learning

Traditional Approaches	We believe in Impactful Learning
Teacher-directed	✓ Student-led, teacher guided
Teacher decides what's important to know, transmits knowledge to students	✓ Learners are given opportunities to explore authentic, real-world issues and challenges
Teachers impart knowledge for students to remember and regurgitate	✓ Learners construct meaningful understanding through inquiry, problem solving, design-thinking, and experimentation
Risk-taking is discouraged as students pursue moments-in-time grades, students are conditioned to avoid failure	✓ Risk-taking is incentivized as learners are rewarded for developing novel ideas; students embrace failure as learning
Learning is compliance-oriented; driven by grades	✓ Learning prioritises curiosity and rewards student agency
Learning focuses on product or outcome, not on process	✓ Learning focuses on process, confident that product or outcome will follow
Teachers are subject area specialists	✓ Educators combine passion for subject disciplines with deep interest in transferable skills, as well as metacognition and how human beings learn
Learning is siloed in traditional subject areas	✓ Learning is inter-connected and embraces transdisciplinary opportunities
Competences are considered soft skills that students acquire without explicit instruction or guidance	✓ Competencies - the IB Learner Profile attributes - are prioritized through experiences and explicit instruction that allow learners to develop skills embedded in each learning progression
Learning is impersonal	✓ Learning connects meaningfully to student interests
Intelligence viewed as the ability to remember	✓ Intelligence viewed as the ability to analyze, think critically, rethink, unlearn, iterate, and problem-solve

Perspectives On Learning

Learners at ISB are challenged to consider multiple perspectives, developing the understanding that there is not just one truth. Our learners confront challenges that encourage deep thinking and foster new learning methods. They view mistakes as opportunities for growth and new learning. They adapt their approach when acquiring new knowledge, and contemplate ideas from various perspectives.

Ultimately, by exploring cultures and life experiences beyond their own, our learners become internationally-minded as they gain a richer understanding of the world around them.





We cultivate a learning environment where students and educators explore complex topics, develop original ideas, and test innovative solutions based on research and collaboration.



Our educators recognize the importance of developing learners' sense of responsibility toward their environment and global community, ensuring that learning experiences encourage critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and action-oriented learning.

We welcome you
to find your place in the ISB
community!

"Don't educate your children to be rich, educate them to be happy.
So when they grow up, they will know the value of things and not the price"

(Steve Jobs)

Admission Process



Olivia Cremin
Admissions Director

1

Get In Touch

Contact Us

at admission@isbologna.com or fill out the **Inquiry form here**.

2

Document Submission

- Completed Inquiry Form
- Previous School Final Reports (Preferably From The Last 2 Years)
- Confidential School Reference Form
- Student Statement (For Applicants To Grade 6-12)
- ID Documents (Students And Parents / Guardians)
- A Head-Shot Of The Child (To Be Used In The School Database And Student ID Card)
- Vaccination Record
- Learning Support Document (Where Relevant)

3

Interview / Campus Tour

Contact The School To Arrange An Interview And A Campus Tour. This Can Also Take Place Via A Video Conference Call.

4

Decision

We Inform About The Enrollment Decision. If Successful, We Send Out The School Contract And The Admission / Registration / Tuition Fee Installment Plan.



ISB Does Not Accept Requests To 'anticipare' Students As Per The Italian Education System (Moving A Child Up One Grade Outside The School's Grade Promotion Requirements).

Frequently Asked Questions

When Is The Application Deadline?

As spaces are limited early inquiry in January/February is recommended for September entry. However, as we are an international school, applications are accepted year round, and applications made throughout the academic year will be reviewed on an individual basis.

What Is The Birthday Cutoff Date For Entry?

Birth date entry is by December 31st for each class level. For example:

To enter Reception a child must be three years old by December 31st.

To enter Kindergarten a child must be four years old by December 31st.

To enter Transition a child must be five years old by December 31st.

What Is The School Year?

The school year runs from early September to late June. Check out the calendar on our website.

What Are The School Hours?

The school runs Monday through Friday and the hours are:

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM for Early Years classes

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM for Grades 1-5

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM for Grades 6-12

Do You Offer After School Activities?

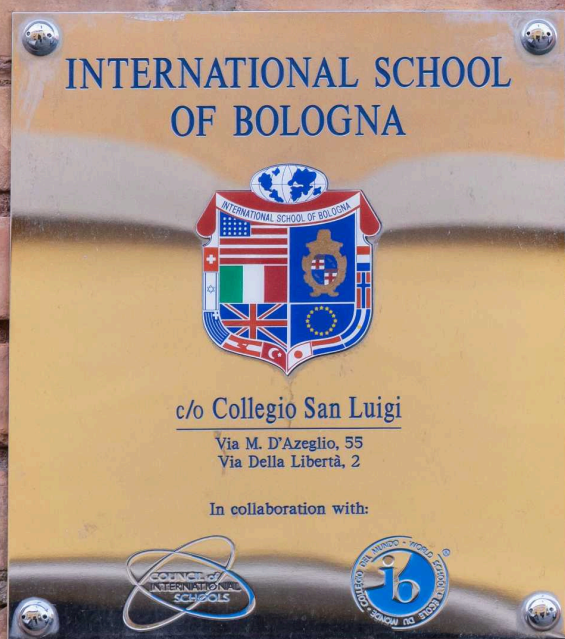
We offer on campus afterschool activities every day from Monday to Friday from 3:35 PM to 4:35 PM. Contact us at info@isbologna.com for more information.

Is Italian Taught?

Italian is taught from Grade 1 upwards, either as a language acquisition or at a mother tongue level depending on the student's background. All other classes are taught in English. Starting in Secondary School, students also choose a foreign language to study, selecting between French and Spanish.

Where Is The School Situated?

ISB is situated near Porta San Mamolo in the historic center of Bologna.



 info@isbologna.com

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(International Baccalaureate®, 2016)

The vision and mission statements of ISB are aligned with that of the International Baccalaureate.

