



**EVERY STUDENT IS A SUCCESS STORY**

## **Admission Policy**

## IBO Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop **inquiring, knowledgeable and caring** young people who help to create a better and more **peaceful world** through **intercultural understanding** and **respect**.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to **become active, compassionate and lifelong learners** who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## AIS Mission Statement

**Al Ruwad International School** prepares its students to be **responsible global citizens** with international mindedness and the strength of character to make **positive contributions** in our ever-changing world.

We are a **safe, caring, and diverse community of learners** that works to inspire a passion for **knowledge and lifelong learning**, instills **respect** for self and others, develops the whole child, and strives for academic, artistic, and athletic excellence.

## AIS Core Values



Care



Respect



Excellence



Identity and Citizenship



Responsibility



## **Admission Requirements**

Al Ruwad International School provides a quality international dual language education (English and Arabic), with English being the language of instruction. Students are encouraged to honor their cultural identity, religion and respect diversity.

AIS students will become confident, creative, caring, responsible citizens prepared to use their education to contribute toward improving society, both locally and internationally.

AIS admits students where their academic, personal, social and emotional needs can be met by the programmes and services offered by the school, and when a child can be successfully integrated (as decided by the school) into a mainstream classroom.

## **Admission Process**

The application process begins in January of each year. Students must submit the school application and other required documents in December. The school placement assessment begins in January; the school will call the applicant when an appointment is scheduled. All final decisions regarding student acceptance are made and communicated to the families by March. Students that qualify for acceptance but may not attend the school because there aren't enough openings are placed on a waiting list. These students and their parents are informed that they have been placed on the waiting list and will be notified when an opening in their grade becomes available.

## **Admission Committee**

AIS has an admission committee that studies every application thoroughly and advises the school regarding the admission of the applicant. The committee is comprised of the IB Coordinator, Support Staff, and three teachers "selected on an annual basis".

## **Student Knowledge of English**

As English is the main language of instruction of the school, it is vital that children acquire fluency as quickly as possible. AIS will accept children with no previous experience of speaking English up to and including Grade 1. Beyond this, students will be expected to pass the English entrance exam.

## Age Criteria

Grade	Initial Age		Maximum Age	
	Year	Month	Year	Month
KG1 – PYP	3	2	4	5
KG2 – PYP	4	2	5	5
Grade 1 – PYP	5	2	7	2
Grade 2 – PYP	6	2	9	2
Grade 3 – PYP	7	2	10	2
Grade 4 – PYP	8	2	11	2
Grade 5 – PYP	9	2	12	2
Grade 6 – PYP	10	2	13	2
Grade 7 – MYP	11	2	14	2
Grade 8 – MYP	12	2	15	2
Grade 9 – MYP	13	2	16	2
Grade 10 – MYP	14	2	17	2
Grade 11 – DP	15	2	20	2
Grade 12 – DP	16	2	23	-

## Special Needs

AIS welcomes students with a wide variety of skills and abilities. However, students with specific physical, academic, emotional and/or behavioral needs will be carefully considered before admission as AIS has limited resources to devote to children with special needs. A child may not be admitted for any of the following reasons:

- It is determined that the student would not benefit educationally from attending the school.
- The student has a negative scholastic or behavioral record.
- The school cannot meet the educational needs of the student.
- A student may have counseled out, if, at a later date, it is apparent that educationally significant information was withheld from the school during the admission process.

## **Primary Years Program – PYP**

The admissions process starts with the presentation of a completed application form, support teacher and homeroom teacher recommendations, report cards (depending on grade level), medical forms, copies of passports, photographs and the application fee. Once a file is complete, the applicant and parents will be invited to a personal interview with the head of school or principal while the applicant sits for placement exams.

During the same interview, students will meet with interviewers (Teacher and Support Teacher) who will assess the prospective student's

- English literacy skills (verbal, reading, comprehension) and
- Mathematics skills (including age appropriate computation, problem solving, reasoning, and analysis);
- A Psychometric Test will also be conducted by the school's support staff.

## **Middle Years Program – MYP**

The admissions process starts with the presentation of a completed application form, support teacher and homeroom teacher recommendations, report cards (depending on grade level), medical forms, copies of passports, photographs and the application fee. Once a file is complete, the applicant and parents will be invited to a personal interview with the head of school or principal while the applicant sits for placement exams.

During the same interview, students will meet with interviewers (Teacher and Support Teacher) who will assess the prospective student's

- Literacy (English and Arabic verbal, reading, writing and comprehension) and
- Numeracy skills (including age appropriate computation, problem solving, reasoning, and analysis).
- A Psychometric Test will also be conducted by the school's support staff.

A complete application file, along with 2 years of past report cards must be submitted.

## **Diploma Program – DP:**

Admission to the school is selective and is based, as appropriate, on previous school records, academic testing, a personal interview with the applicant and his/her family, and availability of

places. Conditional entry is designed to support academic success, to ensure that students are placed into courses which are both challenging and manageable, and to allow access to the diploma program for students coming from other educational systems.

The school reserves the right to contact an applicant's previous school(s) and request confidential references.

Conditions for entry:

At AIS students begin the Diploma Program upon successful completion of their fourth year of MYP in school. If they are new to school they should have completed their MYP, IGCSE subjects or approved equivalent.

External Students:

- Academic and Behavioral Recommendation Letter from his/her School Principal
- A copy of the students End of Year Report Card for the last two years
- Recommendation Letters from two of his subject teachers
- To achieve a minimum of "B" (80%) grade in both English and Math in their admissions exam.
- A signed copy of the "Academic Integrity Contract" by both student and parent

### **External MYP Students**

1. A minimum final achievement score of 4 in each of the following subject groups: language & literature, language acquisition, individuals & societies, science and math (an average score will apply if a student is enrolled in multiple subjects within a subject group).
2. Completion of personal project and community project as action requirements
3. One teacher recommendation addresses behavior, attendance, motivation and self-discipline

### **External non-MYP Students**

1. Students must achieve 5+ A\*-C grades in their IGCSE subjects, including Mathematics, Science and English, upon the official release of results in August
2. Students must achieve at least a C grade at IGCSE in order to pursue that subject, or another subject in the related IB subject group at IB Standard Level
3. Students must achieve at least a B grade at IGCSE in order to pursue that subject, or another subject in the related IB subject group at IB Higher Level

### **Internal MYP Students**

1. A minimum final achievement score of 4 in each of the following subject groups: language & literature, language acquisition, individuals & societies, science and math (an average score will apply if a student is enrolled in multiple subjects within a subject group).

2. Completion of personal project and community project as action requirements.

Interview (internal and external students)

All applicants will be interviewed to determine their level of commitment and ability to take personal responsibility for their learning, as well as their level of oral English fluency. The primary purpose of the interview is to consider the applicant's potential to succeed not only in their individual subjects but also in the core components of CAS, theory of knowledge and the extended essay.

Transfer students

Students who transfer from other IBDP schools are welcome. AIS will work closely with parents and other DP coordinators to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Where appropriate subject or level is not available at AIS, parents may need to pay the cost of tutoring or of an online course.

For some students the full IB Diploma is not the most appropriate course of study. In these circumstances AIS will advise them to follow a bilingual program.

Academic Probation

Where a student is accepted into the IB Diploma Program when they have not met the above requirements they will have to complete a period of academic probation (3 months) at the end of which the IBDP Coordinator and Head of School will approve their status as a Diploma candidate.

**Under exceptional circumstances students ( a pandemic situation/natural disaster)**

Under guidance of the MYP, DP coordinators and SLT, interviews will be conducted, academic history reviewed and social performance considered in making the final decision to admit to IBDP program.

In all admissions cases, the head of school makes the final decision.

**Note:**

**This Policy will be reviewed each 2 school years by the Pedagogical Leadership Team.**