

2023-
2024

Primary, Prep-Grade 5



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
BUDAPEST**

Smart Education.
Smart Life.

Informational Booklet

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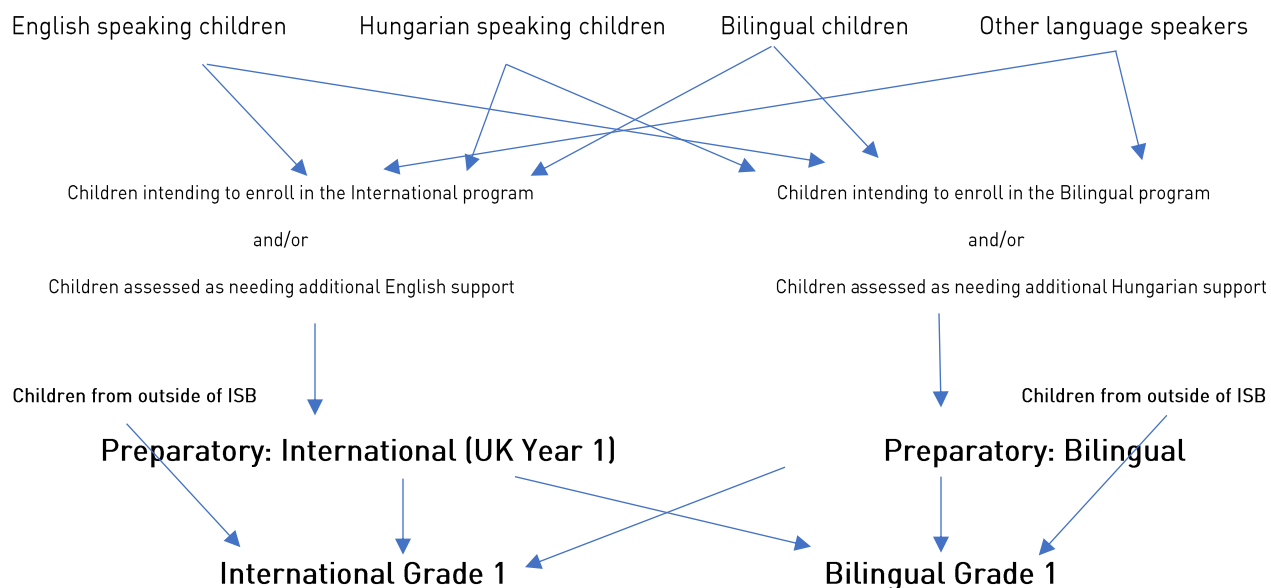
Welcome to ISB Primary!

We at ISB are actively creating a world-class educational community, and the Primary program is a vital part of that community. The world is changing rapidly, and we strive to provide our students with the best possible groundwork for their personal, social, physical, and academic futures through our Student Competencies program, which is extended in a relatable way from our preparatory classes all the way up to Grade 5, ensuring each child a strong footing as they move forward to our upper school programs. Here at ISB, our lower school has a history of academic success spanning over 20 years, and we are proud to provide a strong foundation philosophically as well as academically for our growing upper school.

Another major factor of our programming centers around the tremendous natural gifts belonging to the land on which the school is situated. A day-to-day appreciation of and focus on the environment, both experiencing nature and ways to take care of the planet, are central to our philosophical foundations.

How can my child enter ISB Primary?

Multiple pathways exist for entrance to the larger school at ISB. Children who do not attend any preparatory years at ISB are still eligible for entrance to ISB at any grade level, subject to an admissions procedure including skills evaluation and observations by ISB teachers. However, the preparatory classes will provide a tailored approach to support children in their transition to “big school” along personalized pathways.



As shown above, children can enter ISB Preparatory classes with any language background, and will be recommended to International or Bilingual preparatory classes based on their confidence in both languages and forecasted academic program. Our Preparatory students are assessed first for admission into Grade 1, however external candidates are also assessed in February of each year and on an ongoing basis. Strong language skills are vital to children's success in both international and bilingual programming, and developing these skills is a key component of every day ISB life.

Bilingual and International Preparatory Classes

Our Bilingual and International Preparatory classes are suitable for children aged 5 by September, who no longer need a nap during the day. The focus of the Bilingual Prep is on school readiness skills, conducted in Hungarian, while introducing and/or continuing the children's English language and literacy education. The International Prep class is conducted entirely in English, working on school readiness towards the standard of the UK national curriculum for Year 1. We strongly recommend where possible that native Hungarian-speaking students entering preparatory with low or zero English skills enter the school via international preparatory, in order to ensure their academic success in either our International or Bilingual programs from Grade 1 onwards.

Our preparatory classes are led by qualified native English teachers, or near-native English speaking bilingual teachers, together with teaching assistants. Our preparatory team works closely together to ensure a high standard between classes.

Grades 1 through 5

Grade Equivalencies

At ISB, we use the Hungarian numbering system for our grades, though our Cambridge International English-language curriculum follows the UK national curriculum based on the children's age. See below:

<u>Children's age</u>	<u>ISB Grade/class</u>	<u>Hungarian Grade</u>	<u>UK Year</u>
5-6	Preparatory: Int'l	Ovoda (nagycsoport)	Year 1
6-7	Grade 1	1. osztály	Year 2
7-8	Grade 2	2. osztály	Year 3
8-9	Grade 3	3. osztály	Year 4
9-10	Grade 4	4. osztály	Year 5
10-11	Grade 5	5. osztály	Year 6

International Program

Within the International program in grades 1 through 5, children are placed in a homeroom together with Bilingual program children. They will have a native or near-native English speaking homeroom teacher, and a bilingual Hungarian homeroom teacher, who will be the primary points of contact for the class for the year, taking care of the children's needs through the day, organizing class events, going on field trips, and of course, teaching core subjects.

Starting in Grade 3, students will sit twice-yearly exams -- one benchmark, one formal exam -- on the Cambridge International curriculum. All students receive a progress report at the end of semester 1 in January, and a final report card at the end of semester 2 in June. International program students do not receive the Hungarian "blue book."

Subjects Offered

Together with their Bilingual program classmates, children in the International program will study the Cambridge International Science, Social Studies, and English curriculums with their English speaking homeroom teacher or another English teacher in a small group setting, as well as art, music, and PE with specialist teachers. Then, while the class's Bilingual program students travel to Hungarian maths and language classes, International program students work with specialist teachers on the Cambridge International Maths curriculum, as well as extension International English Literature & Comprehension, Library, Cambridge Global Perspectives. We also offer international students Hungarian as a Second Language lessons, in an effort to enable them to access their new home fully.

Bilingual Program

Bilingual program students are placed in a homeroom either together with International program children, or exclusively with other Bilingual program students. They will have a native or near-native English speaking homeroom teacher, and a bilingual Hungarian homeroom teacher, who will be the primary points of contact for the class for the year, taking care of the children's needs through the day, organizing class events, going on field trips, and of course, teaching core subjects.

Subjects Offered

Bilingual program students will study the Cambridge International Science, Social Studies, and English curriculums with their English speaking homeroom teacher or another English teacher in a small group setting, and the Hungarian state-mandated curriculum in maths and Hungarian language and literacy with their Hungarian speaking homeroom teacher, as well as art, music, and PE with specialist teachers.

As with students in the International program, starting in Grade 3, Bilingual program students will sit twice-yearly exams -- one benchmark, one formal exam -- on the Cambridge International curriculum. They will also sit Hungarian exams in accordance with the Hungarian

national curriculum. All students receive a progress report at the end of semester 1 in January, and a final report card at the end of semester 2 in June, as well as the Hungarian “blue book” (kék bizonyítvány).

Example Daily Schedule – Prep through Grades 1-5

Registration
Lesson 1
Snack
Lesson 2
Outdoor break
Lesson 3
Lesson 4
Lunch
Lesson 5
Snack
Lesson 6
Lesson 7 (grade 5 only)

ELL and EAL in Primary School

In Primary school, as outlined above, we expect a number of students to enter the school each year with limited or no preexisting English language skills. In Grade 1, this typically represents a significant portion of the class in September, so our English Language Learning class groupings are differentiated in order to support those students in reaching the level of their classmates and allowing them to access the Cambridge curriculum materials as quickly and easily as possible through small group work and extra teacher support. These differentiated groups appear on the students’ report cards as EAL (English as an Additional Language), ELL Foundations (approaching grade level), and ELL Standard (grade level native English) in grades 1 and 2. From grade 3, all students are in mixed ability ELL groups as it is at this point in their studies that students who started school at ISB Preparatory are expected to be fluent enough in English to access the full curriculum together.

Grade 1 EAL support is provided at no extra cost to parents, however support for students continuing in the program or entering the school with limited preexisting English language skills in Grades 2 through 5 comes through our EAL – English as an Additional Language – Department and is governed by the school’s current EAL policy.



An EAL student is someone whose native or home language is not English and therefore requires some support in order to succeed in an English-speaking school. Typically, these students fit one of the following profiles:

- *A complete beginner in English*
- *A student with some experience in English but who is not yet fluent and has not yet reached social proficiency*
- *A student who speaks English fairly fluently but is not yet achieving his or her full academic potential in an English speaking environment.*

Entering ISB in grades 2 through 5, students may be conditionally accepted into our Bilingual or International programs with mandatory additional EAL support, totaling 4 or 8 hours per week on a needs' basis determined by the EAL department's evaluation. Their skills are periodically reevaluated, and when they have reached a level of confidence and academic performance in English as determined by our EAL department specialists, this condition is removed from their studies and they fully reenter regular English Language Learning groups with their peers.

While in the EAL program, students in grades 2 through 5 benefit from pull-out and/or push-in lessons with an EAL specialist teacher, as well as modified homeworks and in-class work where required.

What's Next?

Upon completion of Grade 5 at ISB in the Bilingual or International programs, students move to Grade 6, which is part of ISB's Secondary School. This transition involves gaining more responsibilities and freedoms, studying new subjects, and working with a larger variety of specialized teachers who are focused on helping students maximize their academic and personal potential through this next stage of their school life. Adolescence is a very tumultuous time for parents and students alike, and our Secondary team is excited and ready to support them in this transition from "big" kids to "little" adults.