

FAQs

How do A Levels work?

An A Level is comprised of two parts - AS and A2. AS + A2 = A Level. Students usually take the AS exams at the end of Year 11 and continue to take the A2 exams at the end of Year 12, though sometimes, a student may take their AS and A2 exams in the same session.

Are A Levels recognised everywhere?

Yes, A Levels are recognised in universities worldwide. Universities like A Levels because the depth of study and the autonomy required means that they are well-prepared for university.

Can students enter Swiss universities with A Levels?

Yes because A Levels are recognised worldwide and highly regarded. In Switzerland, specific subjects are required and French or German are needed depending on the location, so careful planning is crucial to ensure students make the right subject choices.

What about Service Learning?

Many people like the IB because of the Service Learning it offers. However, at academia international students can get fully involved in Service Learning and it is a choice, not something imposed upon them. Service is an integral part of our Duke of Edinburgh Award. This might involve volunteering your time to teach others a skill you are good at, getting involved with fundraising or working in conjunction with Amnesty International.

What about cross curricular links, learning to learn and critical thinking?

These aspects depend on the school. At academia international we have carefully and purposefully introduced changes to our curriculum to include a high level of cross disciplinary work and focus on metacognition. Each year departments follow their syllabus requirements and make links with overarching themes. This year the theme is 'growth'. Students produce creative pieces often using Art, Design and film to situate their curriculum-based learning into a wider and more creative context.



IGCSE & A Level
Curriculum

IGCSE

Benefits of IGCSEs

The UK International system offers IGCSEs that students take, mainly, in years 9 and 10. Students will study a broad range of subjects including Double Science, Maths, English language and literature, German, French, Geography and History. IGCSEs have several advantages over other international programmes in years 9 and 10:

1) They are highly structured with clear schemes of work and direction. This benefits students who may struggle academically and students with neurodiversity.

2) Yet the IGCSE curriculum pushes all students with top grades demanding that students are already demonstrating Advanced level knowledge, application, and critical thinking.

3) IGCSEs are stand-alone academic currency. Recognised as being the equivalent to a Fach- or Wirtschaftsmittelschulabschluss in Switzerland, students can leave (with a sufficient level of German) and enter into a HF (Höhere Fachschule) with an excellent level of English. It also opens the door to demanding vocational training combined with a Berufsmatura.

Students wishing to enter our programme in YR10 (3-year programme) must show a minimum level of Maths and English (with our in-house tests). All students must start in Science YR9 as we cover 3 sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). In exceptional situations students can enter science in YR10 or 11 but this is subject to entry assessment

A Levels

Benefits of A Levels

A Levels offer students flexibility and choice.

In the IB, the programme is fixed and students have to study a range of subjects, including those which they may not enjoy. With A Levels, students get to choose three, four or even five subjects, which they can study in depth. They can focus on subjects they like and enjoy and not be pulled down by having to study subjects they don't want to study.

A Levels prepare students for university

A Levels are recognised all over the world. Universities will specify the grades and the subjects required to enrol in their degree programmes. A Levels are so highly regarded that in the USA, good A Level grades will mean students get credit and can directly enter the 2nd year of study. The depth of study and the autonomy that students take for their learning, prepare them for university study.

Videos outlining the benefits of A levels



<https://vimeo.com/162376568>



<https://vimeo.com/146101454>

Our Subjects



Academic Subjects

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- Physics
- Geography
- History
- English 1st / 2nd / Literature
- French
- German
- Art
- Music
- Further Subjects*

Admission and progression requirements

Entry into YR10 requires proof of English, Maths and all 3 sciences (Entry test). Progression into year 11 requires a minimum of 6/9 at IGCSE.

Academic Subjects

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- Physics
- Geography English
- History
- Economics
- Psychology
- English
- French
- German
- Further Subjects*

Admission and progression requirements

Students can take between 3 to 4 subjects at this level. Students must have a minimum of 6/9 to take Sciences and maths. Students need a proven level of English to take humanities at this level.

Electives

- Computer Science
- Drama and Literature
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Football Squad
- Gardening
- Prom and Event Management
- STEAM (Inventions)
- Student Council
- Wellbeing

Remark

Non examined electives.

*Further subjects, such as Italian, Russian or Chinese as well as the Advanced Level subject Edexcel Extended Project are offered on request.