



MYP ADMISSIONS POLICY

AIS VISION

A community fostering respect, leadership, and empathy through interculturalism and the joy of learning.

AIS MISSION

Through a rigorous, trilingual program, we fuel inquiry and inspire each other to develop critical thinking skills in a community where curiosity is valued, adventurousness is encouraged, and diversity is honored.

ADMISSIONS PHILOSOPHY

Austin International School (AIS) strives to attract motivated students from diverse backgrounds who are well-suited for our seamless MYP trilingual educational program. We actively seek students and families that share our school's vision, mission, and core values. Students admitted to the MYP in AIS are expected to be active thinkers, inquirers, and contributors to our local community and the world at large. As Austin International School grows, our admissions policy and procedures will continue to reflect this philosophy.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

Admissions procedures are administered by the Director of Enrollment. Families are required to complete an online application for admission and provide supporting documentation as needed. While initial application deadlines will be set for local applicants, AIS maintains a policy of rolling admissions for applicants outside of the Austin area. Best practices for international immersion education as well as standards set by AIS's accrediting and licensing organizations place restrictions on available spaces. Please contact the admissions office for current availability.

Students are invited to participate in a shadowing day that allows them to know the school environment and teaching system. During this day, teachers will evaluate the student's motivation, skills, and profile and submit a report to the Admissions Committee.

Once the application and all supporting documentation are submitted, the material will be sent to the Admissions Committee for review, consideration, and an admissions recommendation. The Admissions Committee is comprised of:

- Principal
- Admissions Officer
- Head of School
- MYP Coordinator

Students that are already enrolled in AIS and successfully complete the Elementary level will be automatically admitted to the MYP.

Middle Years Programme

Austin International School is an authorized IB World School for the Middle Years Programme. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Austin International School believes is important for our students.

The IB is a global leader in international education focused on inquiry bias to learning, and developing knowledgeable, confident, and caring young people. The MYP empowers middle-school students to take ownership in their own learning and help them develop future-ready skills.

Austin International School is the founder and leader in seamless trilingual education. We engage students in a unique academic course that builds on the success of the French national curriculum and combines with the MYP approaches to teaching and learning. French, Spanish, and English teachers work in teams to develop interdisciplinary seamless curricular units to ensure the continuity of conceptual learning while also maintaining a commitment to immersive language learning.

The AIS MYP allows current Elementary students to expand on the Lower School's rigorous curriculum and at the same time is an entry point for new students who will benefit from an immersive language learning experience in an international minded, reflective, and principled setting. Students admitted to the MYP will study core subjects in French and English, study one of the three Spanish levels, and continue their ELA studies. Students will develop their social, communication, thinking, research, and self-management skills through project-based learning, a community program, and an advisory program. Our MYP program maintains our dedication to seamless language learning while expanding our emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

At AIS, we are committed to multilingual education. Language gives power, connects people, and educates them. We encourage multilingualism by using a seamless teaching technique, offering a global education that prepares students to be compassionate, adaptable, and effective communicators in an ever-changing world.

At Austin International School, we have different language proficiency requirements at different entry points. For the MYP in Middle School these are the requirements:

MYP - Middle School • Cycle 4

- 6e - Sixième (6th Grade)
- 5e - Cinquième (7th Grade)
- 4e - Quatrième (8th Grade)
 - French: No requirement
 - English: Intermediate
 - Spanish: No requirement

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Austin International School maintains a policy of non-discrimination. We recognize, however, that our unique immersion setting cannot meet the needs of every student. For students with special education needs (SEN), limited accommodations are possible within the context of our SEN Policy as well as the student's individualized education plan (IEP), where applicable.

Students with special educational needs are considered if:

- There is a high degree of parental support for the school's program for the child.
- A valid evaluation conducted by a licensed educational psychologist, licensed neurologist, or school district is provided to the school by the family or the sponsoring government or agency.
- The AIS Leadership Team is confident that the school can meet students' academic, social, and emotional needs, and that those needs can be met largely, if not entirely, in a mainstream and trilingual immersive environment with standard differentiation of instruction and interventions by classroom teachers.
- The child's learning differences or needs do not impede achievement of the class's overall learning objectives.
- The child does not pose a threat to other children or the learning environment.
- Children who enter school with an IEP will be evaluated, and new IEPs will be developed at the expense of the family or the sponsoring government or agency.

AIS reserves the right to refuse admission in the following circumstances:

- It has been determined that the student will not benefit academically from the AIS program.
- The applicant's academic and/or behavioral records indicate that he or she is not a good fit for the AIS community.
- The school is unable to meet the student's SEN accommodations.
- The applicant fails to provide complete and accurate information about a student's SEN and/or behavioral history during the application process.

If, after admission, it is determined that AIS is no longer possible to accommodate the applicant's special educational needs, the school will recommend an alternative educational environment to the family and will provide transfer application documentation as needed.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Classroom placement is decided by the admission committee (composed of Admissions Coordinator, MYP Coordinator, Principal, and teacher feedback after shadow day.) Final decision is on Admissions Coordinator and HoS.

POLICY DOCUMENTATION

Review process. The AIS MYP Admissions Policy is a living document and will be reviewed periodically to reflect current admissions practices in the school, international best practices for admissions, and other practices required by the government or accrediting agencies. The policy was first drafted on February 12, 2024. Contributions to this policy include:

- Head of School (Ariane Baer-Harper)
- Director of Advancement and Communications (Nikl Burke)
- Admissions Officer (Mathilde Sonnier)
- MYP Coordinator (Claudine Escobar-Durand)