



SWISS  
ACADEMY  
ZÜRICH

Strive. Achieve. Grow.

EN



STRIVE.

ACHIEVE.

CAREER.

Swiss Academy offers its students a top-tier academic education with a special emphasis on sports, music, dance and health. We aim to give students a well-rounded education, culminating in an internationally recognised further education qualification. Swiss Academy students are taught that even their most ambitious goals are within their reach as long as they work hard with a keen interest. The values we instil in our students, such as fair play, tolerance, self-esteem and diligence, will enable them to succeed at every stage of their lives in the future and prepare them to take on challenges with full confidence in their own abilities.

WORLD.

WORLD.





## Welcome



René Furrer  
Chairman  
Swiss Academy Group

'Here at Swiss Academy, we believe that every child is unique, which is why we give every student a well-rounded learning experience tailored to them and their skills. We believe that the simple 'head, hand, heart' model first espoused by Swiss pedagogue Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi remains pivotal to a holistic education. That's why our goal is to help our students develop over the long term, refining their academic and sporting abilities, promoting good health and encouraging personal growth. We believe that education continues beyond the classroom. Our students participate in a wide range of sporting, cultural and extra-curricular activities that reinforce what they learn through traditional teaching. This makes Swiss Academy the perfect environment for young people to fully develop their talents.'

Kind regards,



'Welcome to Swiss Academy! Here, we're firm believers in our students' unique potential and talent. Our top priority is to help them excel by encouraging them to approach their learning with zeal, commitment and a positive attitude. At the academy, we turn students into brilliant athletes, musicians and human beings. We want our students to discover where they want to go in life, and we're here to help them fulfil their potential through learning and hard work. Our excellent teaching and training staff give students a unique, positive and first-rate learning experience. Coming to Swiss Academy is the best decision you can make for your future.'

Kind regards,



Dr. Ludovic Allenspach  
CEO  
Swiss Academy Group



# Our values

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- We help shape highly qualified, culturally aware and globally minded people.
- We respect individuality and create an environment for open and rich dialogue.
- We aim to recognise our students' special talents and help develop their potential.
- We undertake future-focused learning and give prominence to our students' learning objectives.
- We stand for passion, excellence and competitiveness.
- We value innovation and critical thinking.

## A sports, dance and music upper secondary school (high school) that opens doors around the world

Swiss Academy Zurich is a sports, dance and music upper secondary school (high school) and offers a four-year programme in English that prepares students to take British A Levels, a globally recognised qualification. We give our students a stimulating learning environment that is tailored to them. They receive personalised support and are encouraged to reach their full potential. International A Levels (IAL) are the perfect qualification for a sports, music and dance -focused programme, as they are designed to promote excellence across the board while giving students the scope to excel in one particular discipline (sport, music or dance).

# Our objectives

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- Combine an internationally recognised academic education with a promising career in sports, dance or music.
- Ensure students are given targeted support according to their talents and their passion.
- Help students become tomorrow's top athletes in a wide variety of sports.
- Help students become professional dancers and world-class musicians.
- Teach students the importance of their health and physical wellbeing.





## What makes Swiss Academy Zurich unique

- No two sports or instruments are the same. That's why we cater to our students' different profiles and specific needs.
- Not all talents will come to the fore at once during adolescence. If in doubt, we will decide in the best interests of the candidate and will wait to see how they progress and improve.
- Something might not go to plan, or the plan may change, but this by no means puts the A Levels and the student's future at risk.
- Need more time? Exams can easily be staggered and spread across different exam sessions if required. Subjects and course units can also be repeated if necessary.
- Supporting students is our top priority; it's the only way they will be equipped to reach their goals. Our heads of department (Head of Sports and Head of Music) supervise and coordinate day-to-day school and sporting/musical activities and provide extra encouragement during the more difficult times. At Swiss Academy, having a positive attitude is paramount. We also put a premium on the effective holistic development of our students.
- We facilitate communication between the different stakeholders (sport clubs/music and dance schools; Swiss Academy; coaches/music teachers; family; teachers; students) and ensure processes run smoothly.
- Students can easily make up for absences as all of our lesson content is available on our online learning platform.
- Our sports and music-focused curricula have been specially designed for Swiss Academy and give students an engaging, in-depth and interdisciplinary understanding of the two subjects. We also provide students with an enriching, practice-based programme of supporting events ('Sports in practice' and 'Music in practice').

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# Swiss Academy sports programme (and dance)

Sports and dance challenge students more than any other subject, helping to round out their skill set. Swiss Academy offers students a variety of sporting and exercise activities. In addition, our specialist trainers and coaches help us to create the perfect learning environment that enables each student to unlock their potential.

The sports and dance programme at Swiss Academy Zurich is modular, allowing our students to tailor their learning for optimal development.

Our sports and dance programme takes a comprehensive yet nuanced approach to refining the students' motor skills and teaches them the fundamentals of fitness, nutrition and the importance of looking after your health. Ambitious athletes have the option of training in a specific discipline (including dance), and the main elements of their programme are then adapted to the training schedule and career development for that particular discipline.

- International A Levels – study in Switzerland and around the world
- Learn about health and exercise as part of a well-structured programme
- Gain greater awareness of the importance of your physical wellbeing
- Learn about healthy eating and having the right diet
- Daily exercise or sports lessons with a variety of activities
- Daily slots for personalised training sessions
- Regular feedback about your fitness level
- Extra athletics training
- Sports homeroom (with Head of Sports)
- Regular one-to-one training (with Head of Sports)
- Sport-specific mentoring programme, internship
- Sports in practice (12 events a year)

In addition to honing students' motor skills, Swiss Academy places special emphasis on developing the fundamental personal, mental and health skills needed for sports.

## Sports in practice (examples):

- Trips to see sporting events (games between professional teams, tennis matches, athletics competitions, dance performances etc.)
- Trips to see training sessions (see how professional teams or specific athletes train)
- Joint training sessions in a different discipline (cross-learning)
- Trips to sports-focused rehabilitation and preventive healthcare clinics
- Talks by (former) professional athletes, trainers and sports officials
- Nutrition and cooking workshops
- Mental training workshops (e.g. with sports psychologists)





## Swiss Academy music programme

Music has the ability to enrich academic and social development unlike any other subject. If students want to have a successful career in music, their talents need to be recognised, nurtured and given targeted support as early as possible so that they have the maximum time to hone their skills. Musically gifted students should have their talents, dedication and enthusiasm encouraged, which is why we teach and continue to strengthen musical skills and knowledge at all levels and in different disciplines.

The music programme at Swiss Academy Zurich is comprehensive and modular, allowing students to incorporate music into their career planning as best as possible.

Our music programme offers a comprehensive foundational music education, giving students the opportunity to experience a variety of musical activities and providing them with a solid understanding of the fundamentals. Ambitious musicians have the possibility to be tutored in a specific instrument, and the main elements of their programme are then adapted to the lesson and practice schedule for that particular instrument.

- International A Levels – study in Switzerland and around the world
- Daily music lessons
- Interdisciplinary music projects
- Chamber music, choir and other activities (e.g. drama)
- Music homeroom (with Head of Music)
- Instrument-specific mentoring programme, internship
- Preparation for entrance exams (degree programmes)
- Regular one-to-one training (with Head of Music)
- Music in practice (12 events a year)

### Music in practice (examples):

- Orchestras and operas: Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, Zurich Opera House, The Basel Chamber Orchestra, Basel Theatre
- Festivals: Lucerne Festival, Lucerne Festival Academy, LIEDBasel, Zurich Festival
- Theatre: Schauspielhaus Zürich, Schauspielhaus Basel, Zürcher Theater Spektakel
- Talks by musicians, composers, artistic directors and agents
- Trips to see rehearsals
- Baroque music (e.g. La Cetra Basel) and contemporary music (e.g. Collegium Novum Zurich and Ensemble Phoenix Basel)
- Arts-related TED Talks

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## Who is the ideal candidate for our sports, dance and music upper secondary school?

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Motivated, globally aware and highly skilled athletes, musicians and dancers who want to obtain globally recognised IALs, giving them a passport to enrol at university while continuing to practice and hone their skills.

Globally aware students with a keen interest in sports, dance and/or music who want to enjoy a high-quality further education in those disciplines, giving them skills and knowledge to take forward and obtain globally recognised IALs that entitle them to enrol at university.



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# Timetable

**Monday - Friday**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 8 am - 9 am     | Sports/Music |
| 9 am - 10 am    | Sports/Music |
| 10 am - 11 am   | Lesson       |
| 11 am - 12 noon | Lesson       |
| Lunch Break     |              |
| 1 pm - 2 pm     | Lesson       |
| 2 pm - 3 pm     | Lesson       |
| 3 pm - 4 pm     | Sports/Music |
| 4 pm - 5 pm     | Sports/Music |

# What are A Levels?

At our sports, dance and music upper secondary school, we prepare our students to take International A Levels (IAL). IALs are a British further education qualification, giving students a passport to study at universities and higher education institutions in Switzerland and beyond. A Levels issued by Cambridge Assessment International Examinations and Pearson Edexcel are accepted at more than 10,000 institutions in 166 countries, making them the most widely recognised further education qualification across the world.



## It usually takes four years to study for A Levels.

| Years           | Qualification  | Subjects               | Provides access to   |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Year 1 - Year 2 | IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) | 6-8 subjects; general  | study at further education colleges (UK) and junior colleges (US)  |
| Year 3 - Year 4 | International A Levels (IAL)                                     | 3 subjects; specialist | study at universities and higher education institutions worldwide* |

\*Restrictions may apply depending on the university and degree programme (numerus clausus; subjects requiring certain A level qualifications).

A major benefit of the British system is that students can fully concentrate on their strengths in the last two years of secondary education. They can take just the subjects that really interest them or ones they want to continue studying later and base their future career on. As a result, they are more motivated and perform better.

IALs focus on teaching specific subjects in depth. Content is taught in a project-oriented manner, encourages critical thinking skills and helps students develop the ability to incorporate and apply new knowledge.

## A Level recognition

In Switzerland and abroad, IALs are noted for preparing students well for further academic study. Many British universities consider them the gold standard for admissions. The qualification is accepted in over 500 US universities, most notably at the Ivy League universities Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale.

The umbrella organisation swissuniversities sets the criteria for university admissions in Switzerland. Admission to a Swiss university or university of applied sciences usually requires you to have three A Levels graded BBC or higher, as well as three IGCSEs grades of 5 to 9. The combination of subjects studied at Swiss Academy Zurich allows our students to study courses in any field in Switzerland.



# Enrolment

## How to secure your child's place at our sports, dance and music upper secondary school

We are a small academy with places for around 100 students. If you want to benefit from the high quality of a small institution combined with the excellent international reputation of the British school system, you should apply early.

### Requirements:

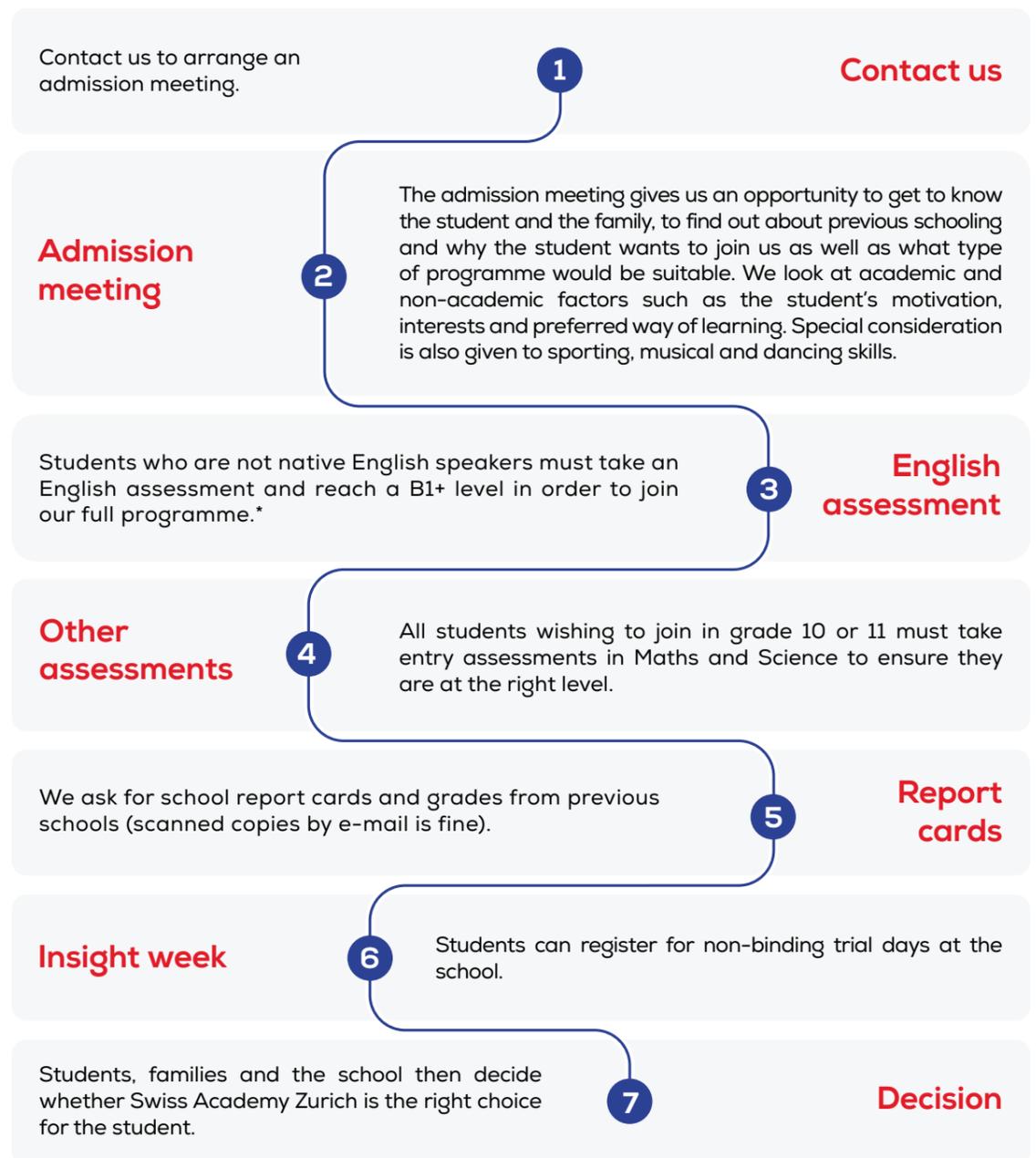
- Secondary education qualification after completing either year 8 with a top grade or year 9 with an average grade.
- B1+ proficiency in English or higher.\*
- Keen interest in music, dance and/or sports, or exceptional talent in a sport (including dance) or in a musical instrument.

We check for each of the requirements during an initial interview. As part of this interview, we may make a decision based on a trial training session or musical audition and on any external references submitted.

Late entrants may complete an abridged programme; to help us verify their suitability and entry level, such candidates must take short assessments in English, maths and science.

The well-structured IGCSE and IAL systems allow students to be graded clearly so that they all can start their studies with ease and begin developing their potential.

## Enrolment process



\*Our academy is open to candidates whose native language is not English. Candidates who have not yet reached the B1+ proficiency level may start by taking a reduced curriculum so that they can develop and expand their vocabulary. We will regularly monitor their progress in English during their first year to ensure that they are acquiring the level of language skill required.

# Zurich





## About us

Swiss Academy Group is a Swiss provider of high quality academic education and internationally valid and highly valued certifications that enable students to study anywhere in the world. Swiss Academy meets the highest standards and enables outstanding performance and excellence in science, sports, dance and music. Swiss Academy Group is located in Zurich, Switzerland and is a joint venture of Academia Group Switzerland AG and Sport Academy Zurich GmbH.

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academy  
zurich**

business  sport  
education

 **academia**  
Your Home of Learning

### Contact us

Swiss Academy Zurich  
Heinrichstrasse 267m  
8005 Zurich, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 44 341 82 01  
[info@swissacademyzuerich.ch](mailto:info@swissacademyzuerich.ch)



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A school of  
Swiss Academy Group AG

Heinrichstrasse 267m  
8005 Zurich  
Switzerland

Phone: +41 44 341 82 01  
info@swissacademyzuerich.ch  
swissacademyzuerich.ch



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