

IS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL
RIGHT FOR
YOUR CHILD

?



Every good parent wants their child to receive the best possible education. However, today's dynamic world, where knowledge quickly gets outdated, has brought about a number of schools with different programmes, which makes it complicated to establish what kind of education is really the best, i.e. what to choose.

In Serbia, the options are really numerous and sometimes it is very hard for the parents to be sure when it comes to making the right choice of school for their child.



What kinds of schools are there to choose from?

There are several types of schools where parents can enrol their child in Serbia.

Of course, the parents can enrol the child into a public school (gymnasium or vocational), where the child acquires a national diploma which usually leads to continuing education in Serbia.

There are also schools that offer combined programmes. This means that their teaching unfolds partly according to an international curriculum, and partly according to the national curriculum determined by the ministry in charge. This mode of education allows students to acquire two diplomas (national and international) and choose where they would like to continue their education: in Serbia or abroad.



Besides these schools, there are many others, such as Russian, German and French, where the teaching follows another country's curriculum, mediated in a foreign language. They are chosen primarily by the citizens of these countries living in Serbia, but they can also be a good choice for those who are connected to a certain country or plan to continue their education there. The important thing is not to confuse these schools with international schools, because they implement the national curriculums of foreign countries, whereas an international school implements a specially designed international curriculum that blends the world's best teaching traditions and practices.

This leads us to this last type of school in Serbia – international schools. Since you are reading this guide, it is safe to assume that you are probably thinking about enrolling your child into a school of this type, and wondering whether it is the right choice for him or her.

We would like to help you find out what makes a good international school different from others and whether it is the right solution for your child's education.

15 things that make an international school stand out



Perhaps the main advantage of an international school compared to others lies in the fact that at these institutions, the students are taught according to an international curriculum.



WHAT DOES THIS ACTUALLY MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?

International schools bring a standardised programme, carefully designed at one of the global educational centres and recognised by universities, colleges and employers all over the world. This actually means an open door to the best international colleges, universities, and companies.

However, an international programme requires a specific, international approach to learning.

This primarily means learning adjusted to the open market and connected society, so that it brings global knowledge and skills, and nurtures multicultural values, which prepares the student to participate in an international environment in a creative and active way.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BEST AND MOST POPULAR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES?

The best international schools usually do not offer a single programme, and opt for allowing their students to choose among several high-quality, internationally recognised curriculums and decide upon the one that best suits their wishes, affinities and needs. Also, these programmes are continually enriched by the world's best teaching practices and the traditions of the national systems, which prepares the students for life and work in the dynamic global context without neglecting the knowledge of the values of their own original culture.

Among the best and most esteemed international curriculums are the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme and the Cambridge programme. The quality of knowledge, diploma and certificates acquired at any of these two programs should serve as a great stepping stone towards further education abroad.

2 INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES THAT OPEN THE DOOR TO THE WORLD'S UNIVERSITIES

International schools evaluate students' work according to the criteria of the international programmes they offer. In addition to being recognised almost everywhere in the world, this approach to assessment is often more contemporary, less stressful for the students, and, above all, more just.

We have already mentioned IB and Cambridge as some of the world's best programmes and most valued diplomas and certificates.

IB DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES



The International Baccalaureate Diploma programme lets students complete the last two years of secondary school (Year 12 and Year 13) according to the IB Diploma programme and acquire internationally recognised IB diploma and certificates.

Conceived as a blend of mandatory and elective subjects, the IB Diploma Programme offers comprehensive knowledge, providing guidance on the way towards the development of a complete personality. This way, the students implement a holistic approach to education by learning natural and social sciences and foreign languages, free to choose a subject that best suits their interests.

At the IB Diploma programme, students can acquire the globally prestigious IB diploma (The Diploma of the International Baccalaureate), which will open the door to the world's biggest and most successful universities.

The students of the IB Diploma programme can also acquire individual certificates for the subjects within the programme (Diploma Programme Course Results / DP Course Results).

CAMBRIDGE DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES



The Cambridge curriculum was designed directly at the Cambridge centre for international examinations and meets the highest educational standards. It was carefully formulated and adjusted to the students' different levels of knowledge, needs and abilities. The Cambridge International curriculum is structured so that the students can complete two levels in four years: IGCSE and A Levels, and acquire two international Cambridge diplomas: ICE and AICE, which will clear the way toward the world's most renowned universities and companies.

The students who choose to attend the Cambridge International programme attend lessons exclusively in English and thereby perfect it to an almost native level, which will make studying abroad considerably easier.



3 LEARNING DIFFERENT LANGUAGES (BILINGUALISM) FOR MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

At international schools, lessons are usually fully in English, which means a great opportunity for the students to master this language almost to a native level. Quality international schools also offer foreign language lessons such as French, Italian, German, but they also let students attend some of the lessons in their mother tongue (IB programme) and thereby stay in touch with it.

In today's world, very good knowledge of at least two languages is considered necessary. Students who would like to study abroad must master the English language or the language of their destination country.

The traditional language lessons at an ordinary school are rarely sufficient in order for a student to master a foreign language. However, at international schools, where the entire teaching, as well as the communication between lessons, unfolds in a foreign language, the child always has a chance to keep using the language and thereby adopt it most comprehensively. The use of a foreign language at an academic level acquired at these schools is exceptionally important for further education.



4 ADOPTING MULTICULTURAL VALUES FOR GROWING UP WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS IN AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Among the greatest advantages of international schools are the multicultural values embedded in their foundations and the global citizenship skills the students acquire there. Today's world is dynamic and global, and these things are crucial for functioning well in it.

International schools are real oases where one can not only encounter students with different origins and different cultural backgrounds but also be educated in a way that provides a wide perspective and build respect toward differences. Due to all this, they are en route to becoming authentic leaders of the future.

This is one of the greatest benefits of attending an international school, as has been confirmed by polling the students. Namely:

76% of the responders said that the greatest quality they have gained from international education has been the respect and understanding of other cultures, which enabled them for a successful further education, life and career development anywhere in the world.



5 GREATLY IMPROVED PROSPECTS AT THE JOB MARKET

Students who graduate according to an international curriculum not only rank better when applying to the world's best universities, but also have better prospects later, when looking for work:

A good international programme is a guarantee that the student has relevant, applicable knowledge, skills and abilities that let them easily adjust to different cultural environments and face the challenges of working in teams made of people with different backgrounds.

This is especially true for IB and Cambridge programmes. They are especially valued with employers as they are directed toward providing global knowledge leaning on science and technology developments, STEM subjects and mastering modern technology. Above all, these programmes provide a wide range of transversal skills, such as communication, flexibility and problem solving, in high demand at the globally transformed job market.



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In addition to offering modern international curriculums, international schools have a rich extracurricular activities programme, which includes drama and art clubs, sports teams, IT clubs...

These activities, of course, help students explore and develop their talents, and perhaps discover their future profession or hobby, but they are also very useful and valuable when it comes to applying to many faculties abroad, especially in the USA.

When we talk about extracurricular activities at international schools, this especially includes volunteering campaigns that make a creative and tangible contribution to the society, as well as apprenticeships and internships. When it comes to selection for US colleges, these activities are a highly valuable item in any student's record.



7 ACQUIRING APPLICABLE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Research conducted by ACS International Schools has shown that students who acquire international education leave school better prepared for the challenges that their academic and professional future has in store. This research has also shown that these students have better mastery of soft skills such as time management, critical assessment and independent thinking than their peers who attended the national programme.

Namely:

60% of children from international school confirmed that they have acquired skills that help them manage their obligations and their time through this type of education;

58% of the subjects claimed that they have improved their communication skills thanks to international education;

57% of the students emphasised that international education helped them develop a curious, inquisitive mind.

We have mentioned that these skills are especially important for future education and – even more – for their future career; therefore, it comes as no surprise that almost all respondents confirmed that international education prepared them well for an international career. These skills enable students to do well in all professional, social and personal situations that the time might bring. Therefore, they, above all, prepare students for their entire future.



Quality international education is always in tune with the latest social, business and technological trends. The curriculums of these schools have to, on the one hand, provide all the knowledge and tools necessary in order to do well in the future and, on the other, ensure that they become ideal candidates for the job market, by specialising them to master the precious skills that are missing.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has brought about the need for a new education, dubbed 4.0. In this educational framework, children can adopt four groups of skills crucial for success and contribution in the context of the future economy; the first group comprises the global citizenship skills.

International schools are the right place to acquire global citizenship, where children learn several languages, have a chance to meet students from different countries and cultures and, above all, obtain a global outlook and approach to problems. This way, if your child is attending a good international school, you can be sure that they are receiving an education that is in accordance with the latest global standards.



Thanks to their globally recognised programmes, international schools offer the option of spending one or more years abroad. Many of the best international schools are involved in student exchange programmes such as Erasmus.

Staying and attending school abroad for a while lets your child acquire, in addition to international knowledge and skills, a priceless experience of living in different parts of the world and different cultures. Such an experience is not only something that stays with them all their lives, but also allows the child to embark upon the process of becoming independent and to truly start feeling as a world citizen who will be able to do well in different global contexts.



In their approach, international schools use contemporary teaching methods that let students realise their full potential. One of them is a personalised approach to each child through mentorship. This means that each student has their own mentor, who adjusts the teaching process to the student's needs and affinities, i.e. their predominant way of learning. At the same time, the mentor steers the student towards research and encourages them to strengthen other talents and possibilities, and at the end of their time in school, the student is a complete person, a versatile individual.

International programmes such as Cambridge and, to a somewhat lesser extent, the IB, let students partly create their own curriculum by choosing the subjects they would like to study and getting an education in accordance with their interests and wishes for the future.



Today's world is marked by technology. Business, health care, social life and education – all these are areas that have undergone considerable transformation due to the developments in the realm of information (and) technology.

However, in many countries and schools, education has fallen behind when it comes to introducing technology into teaching. The experts agree that without it, any education is simply incomplete.

Innovative international schools' curriculums dedicate due attention to educational technology. It is an integral part of teaching: children adopt knowledge using tablets, 3D printers, interactive whiteboards, smart tables and many other educational gadgets. International schools also dedicate attention to programming using modern applications, enabling students to manage technology in a creative way, rather than merely consuming it.

Technology savvy not only greatly enhances the learning process – it ensures that students master technology in a creative and safe way, and learn to use it constructively.



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STUDENTS GET READY TO DO WELL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

When you view the knowledge that you gain, the skills that you acquire and the problems you solve from a wider, global perspective, which allows you to perceive how one's approach to things changes depending on the cultural context, you become able to find your way in any part of the world. This is something only a good international education can give.

Simply put, international education covers a wide range of different perspectives, it is exquisitely sensitive to differences and specificities, and provides a number of flexible approaches that the student can implement depending on context. Therefore, education at these institutions, from the very start, counts upon a widely set perspective that will introduce students to variety and differences at an early age, and ensure that they do not fall into the trap of narrow local thinking.



Research has shown that many international schools have responded to the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic better than ordinary schools. It has been reported that international schools have shown:

- more resilience,
- pronounced creativity and
- uncompromising dedication.

Thanks to this approach, these schools kept providing quality education to their students even in lockdown conditions.

International schools have also successfully responded to a number of other challenges brought about by the pandemic. Thanks to an encouraging, warm atmosphere of international schools, the students found it easier to overcome stress, anxiety, as well as the fear of knowledge assessments, which became more common in online teaching conditions.

Good international schools have a number of resources, and an assortment of tools and important procedures that help them respond to different global and local challenges we face as a society.



An internationally recognised curriculum, accepted by the world's universities and global employers, guarantees that, upon graduation from an international school, students will have equal chances for success as their peers from highly developed parts of the world.

Namely, the diploma that the child acquires from an accredited international school is just as valuable as a diploma acquired in a western country. Thanks to this, a child from Serbia has the same starting position when applying to university as his or her peers from America, Europe or anywhere else in the world.



International schools also mean an international, centralised evaluation of standards and quality. For instance, if your child is attending an IB school or a Cambridge school, this means that their institutions will make sure that the school fulfils the high IB and Cambridge standards at all times. At the same time, it is a guarantee that your child continually receives top-quality, world-class education.

The programme, the personnel, the premises and the approach to students – it must all be at the required international level in order for the school to keep calling itself an international institution.





WHAT IS THE BEST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD?

It would seem that there are no two ways about it: an international education is the best choice for your child. However, a resolution of one dilemma sometimes leads to another dilemma: case in point – is there an international education option that meets these high standards in our country?

This dilemma is easier to solve: there is. It is the International School.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD

At the truly different International School, your child can attend the best international curriculums – the IB and the Cambridge programme. As you have probably gathered, both of them are prestigious curriculums, highly valued by the world's best universities and employers.

Besides acquiring internationally recognised diplomas and certificates that can be presented at colleges and universities all over the world, your child acquires a wealth of modern, global knowledge which will make them stand apart from the competition and prepare them for a great academic and professional career.

In accordance with its international orientation, the International School places the emphasis on STEM subjects, held in high regard in the USA and Europe. Students who have knowledge in this area find it easier to enrol at universities and land jobs, because these skills are in high demand.

Teaching at the International School is enriched by the use of state-of-the-art educational technology, which means that your child will be using the same devices as their peers in the USA and Europe, and helps students achieve better academic results, teaching them to use modern technologies responsibly and creatively.

Modern technology – more precisely, the Distance Learning (DL) platform – was exactly what the International School used for online teaching during lockdown, which enabled the students to – unlike their peers from other schools – attend their own teachers' lessons and keep in touch with them, as well as with each other, daily, utilising the wealth of options that the DL platform brings. Therefore, the quality of teaching they received was at least as good as in regular circumstances.

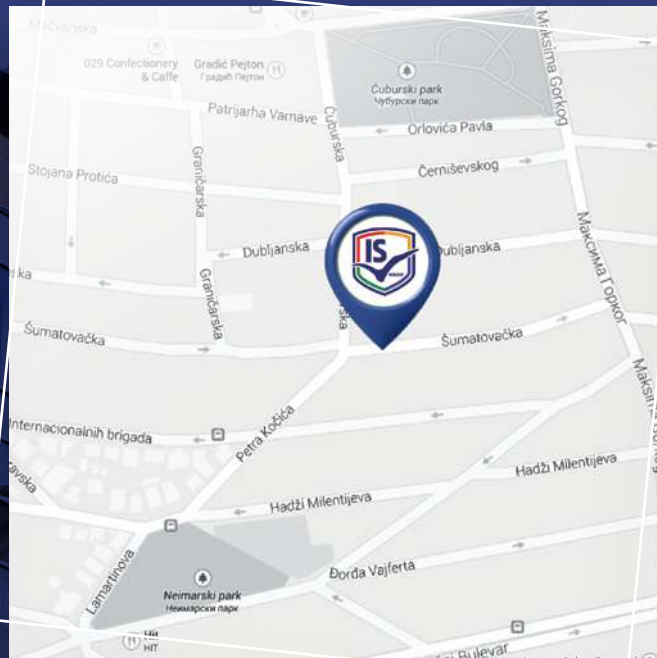
Moreover, International School's students participate in international student exchange. Through the Erasmus programme, they visit and attend schools across Europe, gaining invaluable experience of international living and learning.

If you want the best international education for your child, the International School is the right choice. Apply now.





International School



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School address: 45 Šumatovačka Street, Belgrade
Telephone: +381 (0)11 4011 220
info@iss.edu.rs
www.international-school.edu.rs