



# Admissions Policy

The ISUtrecht offers primary and secondary education in an English-speaking environment. The school welcomes applications from students from all over the world, who can demonstrate a need for international education. The school is an International Baccalaureate World School, providing the Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme.

Admission to the International School Utrecht (ISUtrecht) is dependent upon the school programme being appropriate to the applicant's needs and places available. The assignment of a child in a particular grade level will be determined by the admissions team through past school records, personal interviews and where necessary contact with the previous school. Where appropriate, applicants will be required to take entrance testing.

ISUtrecht is a mainstream school, and for further details on the extent of support offered, please refer to the ISUtrecht Learning Support and Language Policies.

Students qualify for placement at the International School Utrecht when:

- A. The student has a non-Dutch nationality/is a foreign passport holder and one of the parents/legal guardians is temporarily employed in the Netherlands
- B. The student has a Dutch nationality and has lived and gone to school abroad for at least two years because one of the parents/legal guardians was stationed abroad.
- C. The student has a Dutch nationality and has a parent/legal guardian (with whom the student will be living) who will be stationed abroad within two years and for at least two years **this is to be proven by a written statement of intent by parent or employer.**
- D. Students from the Dutch educational system with a passing VWO 4 report, or HAVO diploma may apply for the Diploma Programme, grades 11 and 12. Students need to demonstrate sufficient fluency in English.

Admission to the Dutch International Schools is subject to conditions set in Dutch legislation.

## Student placement – in which grade will students be placed?

Students are normally placed in the grade appropriate for their age, with other students of the same age. This is the best place for students' social, behavioural and emotional development, and it enables children to thrive and best learn from the rich curriculum. Class level assignment is determined through past school records and where possible personal interviews.

We include the following useful table to help make sense of ages and grades at the ISUtrecht:

Age of student	Dutch system	Dutch International Schools			K-12	British system	ISH (the Hague)
4	Groep 1	1			K1	Foundation	Reception
5	Groep 2	2			K2	Key Stage 1	1
6	Groep 3	3			1	Key Stage 1	2
7	Groep 4	4			2	Key Stage 2	3
8	Groep 5	5			3	Key Stage 2	4
9	Groep 6	6			4	Key Stage 2	5
10	Groep 7	7			5	Key Stage 2	6
11	Groep 8	8	MYP 0	MYP 1	6	Key Stage 3	7
12	Klas 1	MYP 1		MYP 2	7	Key Stage 3	
13	Klas 2	MYP 2		MYP 3	8	Key Stage 3	
14	Klas 3	MYP 3		MYP 4	9	Key Stage 4	
15	Klas 4	MYP 4		MYP 5	10	Key Stage 4	
16	Klas 5	DP 1			11	Key Stage 5	
17	Klas 6	DP 2			12	Key Stage 5	

Source: <http://www.dutchinternationalschools.nl/about-dis/grade-indications/>

Exceptions to the age guidelines (for example acceleration to a higher grade) are made infrequently and only upon careful evaluation of the student by the team. The birth date guidelines for each grade level are September until August the following year.

While the school has an inclusive policy on admission, it is at the same time a mainstream school, offering limited facilities to students with learning support needs. Admission to the International School Utrecht is dependent upon the school programme being appropriate to the applicant's needs, and where the student is able to benefit from the curriculum.

## **Primary - Primary Years Programme Kindergarten (KG) to grade 5**

Where possible, dependant on space, the school can accept children soon after their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. This may mean we can only place the students after the summer vacation in the new school year.

### **Early Years**

Kindergarten at ISUtrecht starts at age 4 and continues to age 6. This means that four-year old students joining school after 1 September, will be in kindergarten for nearly three years.

### **Progression to MYP**

Admission into primary does not automatically lead to admission into the Middle Years Programme. This will be determined in the final year of the Primary Years Programme (grade 5).

## **Secondary**

International Baccalaureate Programmes are rigorous and academically challenging, and admission is open to students who can benefit from this academically demanding, international environment. The International School Utrecht guides its students towards the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Most students graduating from the Diploma Programme will enter colleges, universities or other educational training programmes.

### **Middle Years Programme grade 6-10**

In the lower years of secondary, MYP (Middle Years Programme) grade 6-10, programmes are structured to accommodate a somewhat wider range of academic abilities. In general, the school cannot offer programmes for students with significant learning disabilities who require specialist teachers, or for students who have substantial behavioural or emotional difficulties.

Enrolment is possible at any time during the school year providing space is available. In addition to providing the school with the school reports for the last two years of the previous school, and recommendations from the current school, students also may be expected to complete entrance testing, consisting of an English and Mathematics test.

### **Diploma Programme grade 11-12**

The DP (Diploma Programme) is for students ages 16-18, in grade 11 and 12. The Diploma Programme prepares students for university entrance. It is a two-year programme and it is not possible to start the programme in grade 12.

Students applying for the Diploma Programme courses will have to indicate through previous achievement their ability to cope with rigorous academic work and to demonstrate academic ability.

There is no automatic entry from the Middle Years Programme into the Diploma Programme in grade 11. All students are expected to provide evidence of eligibility for the Diploma Programme and a passing report in grade 10 is part of this. Admission will depend upon the student's academic ability and work habits.

### **Admissions of an English as an Additional Language (ELA) Student**

English is the academic language of the school. To ensure all students can benefit from the programme, the school makes provision for students whose first language is not English. ISUtrecht welcomes students with no English and it is taught at Language Acquisition level within the timetable for those with ELA needs up to grade 9.

In some situations, entrance testing plays a role in the admissions procedure, and testing may include mathematics and English. Acceptance into the programme is under the school's discretion.

ELA provision is more limited from grade 10 onwards, and before offering a place at ISUtrecht, the school needs to be sure students are able to cope with level of academic English required.

It can be advisable that ELA students undergo an additional year of secondary at ISUtrecht, giving time to acquire the necessary English language skills for success in the Diploma Programme.

### **Admissions of students with learning support needs**

The school is a mainstream school, with a clear academic orientation, in that the final years are geared towards university entrance (the Diploma Programme). The ISUtrecht is a school that strongly encourages participation for all students. It is vital to establish at an early stage whether the school programme offered is appropriate to the applicant's needs, and whether the student is able to benefit from the curriculum.

The ISUtrecht has an inclusive environment, where teachers work with each students' unique strengths and weaknesses, including those students with certain recognised learning support and medical needs. Students with mild learning support needs may attend ISUtrecht and receive support from the class teacher. However, ISUtrecht is not in a position to provide programmes for students with intermediate to severe learning support needs.

ISUtrecht has contact with specialists who can provide one-on-one support out of school and will stay in contact with class teachers in order to give advice on how to support the student in class. However, the school will carefully assess and monitor this in close collaboration with parents.

Applications for students who have received counselling, support, therapy, or who have diagnosed special educational needs should include all relevant diagnostic reports and evaluation documentation for confidential review.

This document is to be read in conjunction with:

- Learning support policy
- Language policy
- ISUtrecht Standard Terms and Conditions