

TASIS The American School in Switzerland

Montagnola, Switzerland



Founded in 1956 as Europe's first American boarding school, perched above Lake Lugano with academic travel woven into the curriculum.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	56/100
Academic outcomes	60/100
University placement	58/100
Prestige & heritage	67/100
Alumni network	13/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Perched above Lake Lugano, TASIS trades on a setting few schools can match, but the stronger point is that it uses that geography for more than backdrop. Academic travel is built into the year, and that matters because this is a school founded in 1956 to marry an American education with direct exposure to European culture and languages. That original idea still drives the offer. TASIS serves more than ****700 students****, with about ****260 boarders**** on campus, and draws families from around ****60 nationalities****. This is not a quiet local day school with an international veneer; it is a **highly mobile**, **deliberately international** boarding-and-day community in which movement, exchange and cultural range are part of the daily experience.

Academically, the attraction is breadth rather than a single doctrinaire model. Students study in English and, in the high school, choose between Advanced Placement courses and the IB Diploma. That dual American-and-IB structure gives TASIS a clear lane in the market: it suits families who want US college preparation without giving up the wider currency of the IB. The school holds CIS, NEASC and IBO accreditation, which gives the operation proper external scrutiny. The campus is substantial too, with 25 buildings ranging from a 17th-century villa to the Campo Science Center opened in 2014. The average annual fee is **CHF 53,000** for day pupils and **CHF 106,500** for boarders, which places TASIS firmly in the *expensive*, *upper-tier* bracket even by Swiss international-school standards.

Why shortlist it? Because few schools in Europe offer this exact combination: American roots, IB access, full boarding, a large multinational student body, and a travel programme tied to location rather than bolted on as enrichment. The school will suit the student who wants a *cosmopolitan*, outward-facing education and can handle a socially and culturally mixed environment. It will also suit families targeting US universities but wanting Europe as the base. It will not suit children who want anonymity, a deeply local Swiss identity, or a narrowly exam-drilled culture. Recent destinations listed in the public record are modest rather than headline-grabbing — Alfred University, American University and Appalachian State University each with **1** student — so parents looking for published elite-placement theatre will not find it here. TASIS sells a formative experience first, and a *glossy but serious* international education second.

STRENGTHS

- IB and American curriculum in English
- Boarding and day options, ages 3-18
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio, average class 18
- Founded in 1956 with 60 nationalities

TRADE-OFFS

- Boarding fees reach CHF 120,000 annually
- Day fees reach CHF 55,000 annually
- Only about 260 students board on campus

ADMISSIONS

TASIS The American School in Switzerland admits day and boarding pupils from Pre-Kindergarten through Postgraduate, which in the listed age range means roughly 3-18. It is both a day and boarding school, with around 260 students living on campus and more than 700 enrolled overall. The academic offer is American with the International Baccalaureate also available in the high school, where pupils may choose Advanced Placement courses or the IB Diploma. Applications are considered throughout the year, and the school explicitly invites prospective families to visit campus and inquire with admissions.

What the school does not publish in the material provided is just as relevant: there are no stated application deadlines, no published entrance testing or interview format, and no clear account here of bursaries or financial aid. Families should therefore not assume a standardised selective process or scholarship scheme without checking directly. The distinctive point, insofar as admissions positioning goes, is the school's international make-up: about 60 nationalities each year, English-medium teaching, and a boarding model originally conceived to prepare students for American universities while exposing them to European culture and languages.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_d5953dc2e6.