



Admission Policy

Al Faris International School



Al Faris International School believes in the ethos of joyful learning and meaningful pedagogy based on the most updated educational research. FIS promotes the free expression of feelings, thoughts and ideas, through verbal and nonverbal communication. It is a place where we give students tools to communicate through our unique multi-sensorial methodology and active learning pedagogy. Diversity here is a tool in the learning process and this diversity is reflected in the student and teacher profile, the range of teaching methodology and the use of resources. Our approach is holistic and student centered. We cater to individual needs and adapt to the background of each student through differential teaching and spiral learning.

Academic Program Overview

Al Faris International School offers the following International Baccalaureate (IB) programs:

Students enrolled in Grades PreK-5 will participate in the **Primary Years Program (PYP)**. Participation in PYP is mandatory and inclusive for all students enrolled at these levels. PYP students are required to present an exhibition by the end of the final year (Year 5).

Students in Grades 6-10 will participate in the **(MYP) Middle Years Program** (designated Year 1-Year 5 MYP). Participation in MYP is mandatory and inclusive for all students enrolled at these levels. Students are required to submit a personal project in MYP Year 5.

Students enrolled in Grades 11-12 have the option to continue a regular course of study (preparation for SAT) or to apply to either the **IB Course Program** or the **IB**

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Diploma Program (DP). Students enrolled for the IB Course Program will receive an IB course certificate listing the subjects completed. Students enrolled in the full Diploma Program must complete all core requirements (see below) and will be awarded with an IB Diploma upon graduation.

*Please see the *Academic/Curriculum* menu of the Al Faris International School website at www.alfarisschool.com for more information on the programs of the International Baccalaureate.

Admission Criteria:

New students are accepted after they successfully complete the admission test and satisfactorily pass the previous grade level. The school does not conduct any interviews or introductory sessions with the student before the admission is confirmed. This is to ensure that the student is spared from experiencing any sense of inadequacy in the circumstance that the school is unable to offer admission due to reasons beyond the scope of the parent or the student.

The following is a list of recommended eligibility criteria for screening applications for admission:

- Understanding the school philosophy:

FIS practices a unique pedagogy which is inclusive, holistic and is recognized as a pioneer of experiential learning. For the student's best learning experience, it is essential that parents understand this and agree to it. Therefore, parents are required to sign a declaration to this effect at the time of admission.

- Age:

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Admission to a grade is generally granted based on a child's calendar year of birth, i.e: for admission to a particular grade, the applicant should have been born during the stipulated year for that grade.

However, the statutory age (cut-off date) for admission to first grade is determined by the Ministry of Education at the beginning of each academic year.

- **Sibling:**

Siblings of students currently studying at FIS are given priority for admission, provided they fulfill the other eligibility criteria (eg. satisfactory academic level)

- **Diversity:**

FIS adopts a strong multicultural class atmosphere that enhances learning and builds tolerance, a value needed in today's global atmosphere. We encourage participation of children from diverse backgrounds such as nationality, social status, religion and culture. It allows the child to form meaningful social peer relations, and equally importantly, enriches the classroom in that students understand and appreciate the differences and internalize and emulate compassion towards each other. We are convinced that this is to the benefit of each member of the community and develops them into compassionate human beings. This concept is developed through the lesson plans and varied activities conducted at school.

General Admission Requirements

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➤ **Documentation**

Students who wish to apply to Al Faris International School must submit the following documents:

- Completed FIS application form, including photo of the applicant
- Evidence that the student has successfully completed the previous year attended at a former school
- Applicants enrolling in Grades 7 to 12 should submit a personal statement explaining why they wish to enroll. For grades Pre-K to 6 the guardians should submit this statement.
- A copy of this admission policy signed by the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s). (Available in *Downloadable Documents* on the school website)
- Medical documentation in the case of a medical condition that may affect learning

*Please see the *Admissions/Documentation* menu of the Al Faris International School website for a complete list of documents required for registration as well as information about document certification for students transferring from other regions within the Kingdom as well as abroad.

➤ **Entrance Tests**

Students are required to complete entrance tests in the following subjects:
English, Mathematics, General Sciences

Native Arabic speakers will also be assessed on the level of their Arabic language skills.

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Time and Venue of Entrance Tests

Entrance tests are administered at FIS in the second half of April. It is also possible to make individual arrangements for students with special needs to take their exams on a specific date.

Students with special needs who wish to apply to the school are interviewed by the school counselor to assess their case prior to the entrance test. The counselor then recommends the required time for the student to finish the test based on the evaluation and accompanies the student to the evaluation.

Interview:

In certain cases, FIS may request that the prospective student attend an interview with the school Admission Committee. This is an opportunity to present his/her educational background and explain any inconsistency in the test result.

Admission Committee:

An Admission Committee consists of one representative of the Administrative Department, the Coordinator and/or Head of Department for the program applied to, and the school counselor. The roles of each of these members are as follows:

Administrative Officer:

Ensures that students applying for admission meet the basic eligibility criteria listed in this document.

Head of Department/Program Coordinator:

Conducts an introductory session along with the class teacher. They ensure that parents understand the school pedagogy and concur with the school philosophy.

School Counselor:

The School Counselor participates to assess any special education needs of the prospective student.

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IB Program Admission

As previously stated, all students in Grades PreK-10 will be automatically enrolled in either the PYP or MYP program.

After evaluation of test results, students applying to the High School IB program will be admitted to either the full Diploma Program (DP) or advised to follow a course program that is tailored to their needs and ability.

- A good command of the English language is essential for student success at Diploma level; therefore, students must demonstrate that their level of English is sufficient to enable them to complete the program successfully. A diagnostic test in Math and English will be administered before a student is admitted to the Diploma Program. A student achieving a high score in English will be advised to take Language and Literature. A student achieving a passing grade will be advised to take Language Acquisition. A student achieving a high score in Math will be placed in Math (SL, HL). A student achieving a passing grade will be placed in Math Studies. Along with teachers' recommendations and parents' input, the student will be approved/enrolled in the course.

IB Programs

Primary Years Program:

Students being enrolled by their guardians to Pre- 5 should be aware that PYP is inclusive and mandatory to all students at these levels.

PYP students are required to conduct an exhibition by the end of last year of the primary years programme.

MYP Year 1 to Year 5 (Grades 6 to 10)

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Subjects offered in the MYP program are:

- Language and Literature (Arabic & English)
- Language Acquisition (Arabic or French)
- Sciences
- Math
- Individual and Societies
- Physical & Health Education
- Design
- Arts

Students are required to submit a personal project in Year 5 of the program.

IB/DP Course Program

- At least 5 students are required to open and IBDP class.

Students accepted into the full Diploma Program or into the IB Course Program are requested to indicate their subject preferences by completing the Subject Preferences Form (available in from *Downloadable Documents* on the school website). Students should bear in mind that there is no guarantee that they will be able to attend all of the selected courses. FIS will try to meet the needs of as many students as possible, however, for timetabling reasons, some students may be asked to choose a different subject.

Students will choose 6 subjects from the following groups:

- Group 1: Language & Literature (English A)

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Language & Literature (Arabic A)

- Group 2: Language Acquisition (English B)

Language Acquisition (Arabic B)

Language ab initio : French or Arabic for non-native speakers

- Group 3: History

Business

ITGS

- Group 4: Biology

Chemistry

Physics

- Group 5: Math HL, Math SL, Mathematical Studies

- Group 6: Visual Arts

- Self-taught upon request

DP Core Components:

The three core components of the DP - Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Extended Essay (EE) - are compulsory for students following the full Diploma Program. Students wishing to join the DP Program must agree to complete the CAS, TOK and EE components and submit them in a timely manner based on an internal assessment calendar (IC) set by the DP coordinator and subject coordinators.

IB Course students not taking the core requirements will receive an IB Course certificate listing the subjects the students completed.

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