

The International School of Helsinki is an independent, co-educational, international school in Helsinki, Finland. It was founded as the British Preparatory School in 1963.[1] ISH is an International Baccalaureate World School, with IB programs offered from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The school was first authorised to offer the IB Diploma program in 1993. Instruction is in English, with the school divided into a Lower School (Kindergarten through Grade 5) and Upper School (Grades 6-12).

The school has a full-day program. Its school years run from early August to early June.

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Accreditation and Authorisation[edit]

Accreditation[edit]

In addition to the International Baccalaureate, the school is also accredited by the following organisations:

New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Council of International Schools

Authorization[edit]

ISH became the first school in Finland fully authorised to offer all three of the International Baccalaureate Programme: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and the Diploma Programme in November 2005.

The school's strategic plan, the philosophies of the International Baccalaureate[2]

Programmes, along with the Finnish education regulations and the standards set forth by the accrediting agencies mentioned above all contribute to the structure and operation of ISH.

Structure[edit]

The school has approximately 415 students of whom some 28% are Finnish nationals. The rest of the school's population is made up of different nationalities. The school is divided into two sections:

ISH Lower School[edit]

1 Programme: Primary Years Programme (PYP), 4 years old - 11 years old.

ISH Upper School[edit]

2 Programmes:

Middle Years Programme (MYP), 11 years old - 16 years old.

Diploma Programme (DP) 16 years old - 19 years old.

All three programmes share the same campus.

Administration[edit]

The school is administered by a Board of Governors elected by the ISH Parents Association to two-year terms.

Facilities[edit]

ISH moved into its purpose-built structure in the Ruoholahti district of Helsinki in 1996.

The school's facilities include ICT labs, a gymnasium, sports field, library, and media centre as well as classrooms equipped with Smart-Boards and other media devices. The school also has a combined cafeteria/auditorium.

Extracurricular activities[edit]

The International School of Helsinki offers a variety of activities. The After School Activities(ASA) Programme is divided into three seasons: Autumn, Winter and Spring. The intended goal of the ASA Programme is to offer students both competitive and non-competitive activities and athletics options. The school is a member of CEESA which allows older students to take part in events alongside students from other international schools in central and Eastern Europe. These include various sports events including soccer, basketball, and volleyball tournaments.

Lower School students have a variety of clubs to choose from, which include arts, comics, dancing, drama, games, music, and various sports.