



Foundation Prospectus

THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CRACOW





Global

Our students come from over 36 different countries on 6 continents, making us truly international.

Starting out right

The British International School of Cracow (BISC Kraków) was founded in 1995 to deliver a British-style education for the city's expatriate community and internationally minded families.

Small class sizes, inspiring teachers, wonderful surroundings and a wide range of facilities make for an excellent preschool experience. Our Foundation classes are a celebration of childhood, encouraging our students to explore their own enthusiasms, challenge themselves and discover in greater depth the world around them.

Our early years programme provides a challenging and stimulating environment for our youngest pupils. We are proud to provide every student with a rich and challenging programme both inside and outside the classroom with a wealth of opportunities to develop holistically.

As an integral part of our whole-school curriculum spanning 3 to 19 years, our Foundation students enjoy specialist art, sport, library and ICT facilities as a regular part of their weekly schedule. All stages of study at BISC Kraków are centred on the English National Curriculum, with our Foundation Unit following the British Early Years Foundation Stage.

With an individual approach to education, a dedicated learning environment for preschool-aged pupils and a team of passionate Early Years specialist teachers, the British International School of Cracow offers a truly unique, global and tailored start to your child's education.



Priorities for learning

At BISC Kraków, we care greatly about all our children's development in every area of learning - social and emotional, cognitive, and linguistic. Effective learning in all areas occurs at BISC as we hold the following core principles:

Positive relationships

Warm, trusting relationships with teachers are crucial if children are to feel confident to have a go, flourish and so reach their full potential. Therefore, every interaction is based on caring relationships and respectful acknowledgement of the feelings of children and their families.

Enabling environment

At BISC, we see the environment as playing a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. It gives children the opportunities and confidence to explore and learn in secure and safe, yet challenging indoor and outdoor spaces.

A unique child

Children develop in individual ways and at varying rates. We see every child as a competent learner who is capable, confident and willing to explore and try new things in their own way. Our activities and environments allow children to devise individual approaches to learning.

Learning & development

When our young children play with ideas in different situations, and with a variety of resources, they discover connections and come to new and better understandings. Our teachers are there to support this process, enhance abilities to think critically and ask questions.



Individual

Small class sizes mean every child receives personal attention and tailored teaching.

A rich and engaging curriculum

BISC follows the Early Years Foundation Stage, a dynamic phase of the English National Curriculum focusing on seven areas of learning and development.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Our first priority is to ensure that every child is safe and feels secure and happy within our school. To this end, we aim to help our youngest students grow into confident individuals who can manage their feelings and behaviour.

Children also need to learn how to build positive relationships and socialise appropriately with others. By providing playful activities that promote social and collaborative skills, children learn how to work and play together.

Physical Development

The children are given a variety of experiences to help them develop their gross and fine motor skills. Twice a week the children participate in sports lessons.

Playing with different materials, such as play dough, sand and using child-safe scissors aids the development of the finer hand muscles. Children are also given opportunities to use chinks, paint brushes, crayons, pencils and pens for mark-making which leads to early writing skills.

Communication and Language

Speaking and listening are, of course, hugely important to learning and living. Every day the children are given language rich experiences that aid their communication and English language development. During our circle times and many other activities, children are encouraged to develop good listening skills, pay attention and respond appropriately. We encourage the use of language and thinking skills by asking children 'what, how and why' questions about their activities and experiences.

Expressive arts and design

Children experience the expressive arts and design in a variety of ways. They safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.

We provide opportunities for the children to use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about their use and purpose. The children's own ideas, thoughts and feelings are represented through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.

Reading and Writing

Books and stories are an important part of our curriculum. Foundation has a cosy book corner where children are free to go most of the time. Story times are a popular part of our daily routine.

As the children develop, phonic sounds are introduced and are taught through a multi-sensory and fun approach to literacy.

Numbers, Shape, Space & Measure

Mathematical skills are learnt through investigation and playful activities and generally not worksheets. This is because pencil to paper activities have little relevance to young learners.

Children explore amounts by comparing and matching colours, shapes and size. During circle times, children enjoy singing songs and rhymes that help them to learn these skills.

Understanding the World, People and Communities, and Technology

We have a wide range of topics that help the children learn about our world and provide numerous opportunities to explore and investigate. Our diverse school community is a wonderful place to learn about people from all over the world. We enjoy special days learning about our cultural differences and traditions.



Physical & creative development

Our Foundation pupils have a rich and varied weekly schedule with a range of specialist subjects taught by fully qualified teachers in their fields and in dedicated facilities.

Every week, there are four hours of sports activities and Physical Education either outside on our playing field or in our indoor gymnasium during the colder months. Children also have two hours each of Music and Art, nurturing their creative abilities and providing them with engaging opportunities to develop in individual and expressive ways.

An early love of reading is fostered through weekly sessions in our

school Library – an impressive room with a wide selection of books for all ages. Children are encouraged to explore the books and we invite families to check out books on a regular basis to read together at home as part of our school-wide literacy policy.

In preparation for 21st Century life, every child at BISC Kraków receives weekly lessons in ICT. Our youngest pupils gain experience using computers in the ICT Laboratory, allowing them to explore technology and become comfortable using computers for a variety of purposes.





Exciting

Our students explore technology and the expressive arts in dedicated facilities.



Determined

Students at BISC Kraków experience the joys of aiming high and the rewards of achievement.

Your child's next steps

Our whole-school curriculum spans ages 3-19, with our Primary and Secondary schools housed on the same campus. As such, we have every expectation that our Foundation pupils continue their education at BISC Kraków transitioning to Year 1 in the September following their fifth birthday.

As valued members of our school community, our youngest pupils are already well acquainted with the facilities in the other buildings and already know many of our specialist subject teachers from their preschool years. As such, the transition to Primary School and ultimately secondary education is a seamless and stress-free experience. Likewise, the familiar faces of older siblings create a comforting environment in which to flourish.

We pride ourselves in having a family-atmosphere running throughout our school from Foundation to our most senior students. Our students' results across the school are truly excellent, beyond global averages for international schools and well in excess of UK school expectations. Further up the school in Secondary, our students sit external examinations from Cambridge and leave BISC with the International Baccalaureate Diploma, allowing them to progress to top universities across the globe.

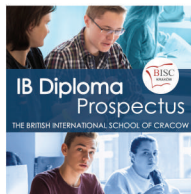
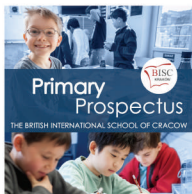
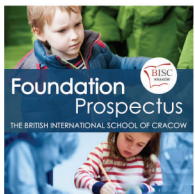
Our international community, engaging British curriculum and rich extra-curricular activities programme make BISC Kraków a truly wonderful school for children of all ages.



The British International School of Cracow provides a top-quality education for children between the ages of 3 and 19. Following the English National Curriculum, our school provides a wealth of opportunities for your child to develop both academically and beyond the classroom.

Our team of dedicated teachers deliver an excellent education, with results far above the average for international schools and surpassing expectations for schools in the UK.

We invite you to book a tour of our school and look forward to welcoming your child to the British International School of Cracow.



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