freedom of thought and expression, enjoyment of learning and personal responsibility.

Our mission is to provide students with an international education which seeks to develop their full potential and to foster understanding, respect for others, and a sense of community.
2 Our Mission
4 General Information
10 Hamburg: Gateway to the World
12 Student Voices
14 Early Childhood Centre
16 Junior School
18 Secondary School
20 Middle Years Programme
22 IB Diploma Programme
24 Student Life
30 Admission and Enrolment
32 Alumni Voices
Founded in 1957, the International School of Hamburg (ISH) was the very first of its kind in Germany. To this day it remains the only institution in Hamburg accredited by the Council of International Schools. For more than half a century, ISH has been fulfilling the needs of internationally minded parents who desire an excellent full day education for their children.
What’s our mission?

Our mission is to provide our students with an international education, which seeks to develop their full potential and to foster understanding, respect for others, freedom of thought and expression, enjoyment of learning and personal responsibility.

At ISH, our programs, our policies and our purpose are united in the shared values that put our students at the center of everything we do. As builders of an internationally-minded community, our faculty and staff strive to inspire and motivate every student while ensuring high academic challenge, the innovative use of technology, and a committed focus on the social, moral and emotional well-being of every child in our care. We forge strong partnerships with parents to create a learning environment, in which students respect and embrace an ever-growing, interconnected global society and to recognize the value of service to others.
The International School of Hamburg is a co-educational day school enrolling students from Primary (age 3) to Grade 12. The school was founded in 1957 as the first international school in Germany.

The new school building was completed in the winter of 2009 and on January 11, 2010 students returned from their winter break to a modern, brand new building. A new addition to the school was finished in the summer of 2015, and on August 29, the three-story West Wing, which features state-of-the-art facilities, was officially opened.
The school building was designed to offer the current 750+ students from over 50 nations a vibrant, nurturing, student-centred learning experience where they can foster as citizens of the world. It is a complex where the diversity of daily school life can be lived and fully developed. The school’s privileged location in Hamburg’s family-oriented green suburbs also contributes to the creation of a feel good environment.

Teresa, Grade 6

“The school is like one big family. Everyone comes from somewhere else and we all learn about something new.”
The Faculty
The school currently employs around 110 teachers, 90 of whom are full-time and 20 part-time. It is an experienced faculty with the majority having been at ISH for more than 10 years. It is also a well-qualified faculty and many have advanced degrees. They come from more than 12 different countries with North America having the highest national representation, followed by the UK.

The Students
The school’s enrolment is currently 760 students coming mainly from the business, professional and diplomatic communities in and around Hamburg. The students come from around 54 different countries with the most highly represented nations being the United States, the UK, the Netherlands, India and South Korea, as well as the host country, Germany.

Parent Teacher Association
Parents are encouraged to think of ISH as their community and for many the school does become a focal point in their life in Hamburg. Everyone is welcome at ISH and we are pleased that so many parents involve themselves actively as volunteers in support of both the academic and social life of the school. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) does much to enhance the extracurricular life of ISH and provides valuable practical and financial support. The PTA organizes many interesting and highly appreciated school events throughout the school year. The most popular and an absolute must is the International Fair in November.

WISH Team
Our committed WISH Team (Welcome to ISH) is comprised of parents from the Early Childhood Centre (ECC), Junior School and Secondary School, who will not only provide you with all the necessary information relevant to your children’s age and grade, but also assist you in successfully navigating your way through your first year at ISH. They share their experiences and cultural advice to help you adjust and acclimatize to a new culture.

Organisation
The International School Hamburg is a registered not-for-profit association and has the status for tax purposes of a state-recognised supplementary school. It is represented under the law by its Board of Directors.

The Board is elected by the members of the Association. The Board is responsible for the determination of the policies of the school and for the conduct of its financial affairs. The Board also appoints the Head of School who administers the affairs of the school within the limits of approved policies.
ISH is a member of the European Council of International Schools, the Northwest European Council of International Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Association of German International Schools, and the International Baccalaureate Organisation. Through these five organisations ISH is affiliated with over 600 international schools worldwide.

**Accreditation**

ISH was one of the first schools in Europe to be granted accreditation by the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) in 1975. It has since been reaccredited by ECIS twice, jointly with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges on the last occasion in 2004. Accreditation is a continuous process of self-evaluation, forward planning and external review which ensures that high standards of curriculum, staffing and facilities are maintained.

Ralph, Grade 12

“The facilities and the activities program are very extensive. There is something for everybody and even if not there is always an opportunity to create your own initiative. As a twelfth grader, I find teachers very supportive and understanding. They help us cope with the stress and workload as much as they can.”
General Information

Campus Facilities

Performing Arts
In order to enhance the school’s strong traditions in the Performing Arts, at the heart of ISH is a Performing Arts centre which incorporates a 450 seat multifunctional auditorium, drama teaching spaces, music classrooms, music practice rooms and display areas. The emphasis on the auditorium is flexibility and portability thus enabling the facility to be used for a variety of purposes and to accommodate different theatrical genres.

Technology
At ISH, students use technology authentically to improve learning in each phase of our inquiry-based academic process. This is reflected in the facilities and services we provide, including interactive whiteboard facilities in every classroom, three technology-enhanced classroom laboratories, a modern media lab, and school-wide wifi. Laptops and iPads are available to all classrooms for teachers to incorporate into lessons. We also embed into our learning activities many educational and collaborative electronic services such as G-Suite for Education, Veracross, Prezi, and Seesaw, to name just a few. Student use these devices and services daily to research existing knowledge, construct new knowledge, and present their constructions to fellow students and their teachers.
Library
A well resourced and easily accessible library is an essential feature of our school. Centrally located, featuring large display and work areas and incorporating appropriate technology, the Saalfeld Family Library reflects the school’s overall commitment to student centred learning and to the provision of outstanding library services.

Science
The study of Science and its related disciplines is an integral component of the curriculum at ISH. The existence of contemporary and well-equipped science laboratories to support the curriculum is a must. Hence the Science Department facilities at ISH are modern and well resourced. There are five well-equipped laboratories, three preparation rooms, and a science seminar room. Naturally, the Science Department also benefits greatly from ISH’s significant technology resources.

Sports
An international school sports programme requires facilities of the highest order and the sporting facilities at our campus satisfy just that. Be it the three gym halls, the climbing wall, the fully equipped fitness studio, the 100m four-lane tartan running track, the full-size soccer pitch, the street soccer field, the long and triple jump areas, the permanent volleyball court, the facilities for high jump/discus/shot put/ball-throwing, or the two multipurpose areas for basketball, volleyball and soccer – it’s all there and in great condition. A nearby indoor swimming pool can be reached by bus within minutes. The facilities allow ISH to proudly host international sporting events and provide a facility for the wider school and local community.
Welcome to Hamburg, Germany’s northernmost and second largest city with 1.7 million inhabitants.

Hamburg is a very attractive place to live because 14 percent of the city is made up of parks and recreational areas. The rivers Elbe and Alster run through the inner city, providing beautiful walks and opportunities to enjoy sporting activities. The Botanical Garden, maintained by the University of Hamburg, is located directly next to our school.

Hamburg is a vibrant commercial centre, home to the third largest container port in Europe and to many highly specialized industries, including medical, biotechnology and aircraft construction. Half of all Germany’s newspapers and magazines are produced in Hamburg.

The city has many fine theatres, museums, cinemas and galleries. Three cinemas, Streits, Abaton and Zeise, regularly show movies in English. The English Theatre was established in 1976 and is the oldest professional English speaking theatre in Germany. Music lovers can enjoy performances in the Elbphilharmonie, one of the most modern and acoustically advanced concert halls in the world or a contemporary musical at other city-centre venues.

Hamburg is home to many sporting events, including the biggest marathon in Germany after Berlin, the cycling competition Vattenfall Cyclassics, tennis and ice-hockey tournaments and equestrian shows.

Hamburg is twinned with Chicago, Dresden, León, Marseille, Osaka, Prague, Shanghai and St. Petersburg. The city centre can easily be explored on foot and buildings of special interest include the Rathaus, the Deichstraße, which contains Hamburg’s oldest houses, and many imposing churches. One of Hamburg’s most spectacular landmarks is the Elbphilharmonie in the Hafen City which opened its doors in January 2017. Don’t worry if you can’t speak German; English is spoken in most of the shops, restaurants and bars and there is a large English-speaking community.
For further information on Hamburg and life in Germany in general, we invite you to explore the following websites:

**Official Website of the State/City of Hamburg:**
www.english.hamburg.de

**What’s on in Hamburg:**
www.hamburg-guide.de

**How-to-Germany in a nutshell:**
www.howtogermany.com

Please visit our website at www.ishamburg.org for more information about our history and timeline.
”I love ISH because...”

Adriana, Grade 4

“Growing up in such a vibrant environment gives a great sense of community, of different cultures and helps us establish future relations.”

Ji-Ho, Grade 11

“It is great growing up in such a multicultural world. Later, I will have friends from all over the world.”

Anagh, Grade 12

“It is the best! The classrooms are spacious with lots of books to read and with the help of teachers we get to decorate for Christmas or Halloween.”

Joyle, Grade 1

“I like ISH because you can play with lots of friends on the playground, the soccer pitch and on the swing.”
I love ISH because...
Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) at the International School of Hamburg is comprised of our youngest students in Primary 1 (age 3), Primary 2 (age 4) and Primary 3 (age 5).

Since 2010, the ECC has its own purpose-built section of the school building with direct access to a separate, developmentally designed playground area.

Pierre, Primary 2

“I like ISH because we have fun at the playground, I have lots of friends and I like my teachers who teach me how to respect others.”
As learners in the ECC, children are encouraged to become confident and motivated learners, risk takers and explorers. They are encouraged to understand that mistakes are part of the learning process and to find solutions to problems. Our small class sizes allow children in the ECC to develop their imagination and creativity through following their own discoveries and explorations. They develop self-efficacy and develop interdependence and independence. ECC teachers build a positive relationship with children based upon respect and kindness. ECC teachers provide an environment that promotes trust, respect, safety, tolerance, risk taking and kindness.

In Primary 1, children are introduced to the routines of the school day and through the medium of play, explore the world around them and develop a strong foundation in early concepts of language, number, and social interaction. Children in Primary 2 are introduced to number concept through Little Duck’s Adventureland, pre-literacy awareness through play-based methodology, and science/social studies topics through our International Primary Curriculum such as “Friends and Family”, “Treasure”, and “Changes.” Our Primary 3 program introduces students to a more structured approach to phonological awareness and writing through Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop, as well as number concept and problem solving through the Math in Focus program.

All ECC students experience a cross-curricular program that includes Music, Physical Education, Library Skills, and in Primary 3, Information and Communication Technology as well as English as an Additional Language support. All ECC teachers provide differentiated tasks that are both practical hands on activities and teacher directed activities, reflecting visual, kinesthetic and auditory learning styles.

Play based learning is integrated into all areas of the ECC curriculum, during which teachers observe, offer support, nurture, assess and extend learning.
The Junior School at the International School of Hamburg provides a comprehensive, student-centered learning environment for all students Grades 1 through 5. Our students are active participants in a challenging and balanced English-language curriculum with an internationally-minded focus.

Adele, Grade 4

“The building is beautiful and spacious, warm and cozy inside. We get to celebrate many events like The International Fair, which is the highlight of the year. I never want to leave!”
As learners in the Junior School, children experience true enjoyment of learning and are encouraged to think critically and solve problems individually and within learning groups. Following the International Primary Curriculum, students learn to ask questions, reflect on their learning, celebrate diversity and reach a high standard of academic achievement. Our teaching staff is committed to building a learning community that fosters creativity, leadership, kindness and a life-long love of learning.

Students follow an established and research-based program of study that includes Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop, the Singapore approach to Mathematics, and the International Primary Curriculum, which integrates inquiry-based units in Science, History, Geography, Art, Technology, and International Understanding. Students learn to utilize state-of-the-art integrated technology with confidence and responsibility, and build rich connections to the Hamburg community through local trips and outdoor education. All Junior School students experience a cross-curricular program that includes specialist lessons in Music, German, Physical Education, Library Skills, and Information and Communication Technology. An extensive English as an Additional Language program provides our student who are new to the English language with support both in small groups as well as in the context of the classroom. Our Student Support Services Team undertakes screening of children with particular learning difficulties in order to ensure their unique needs can be supported and developed.

Together, the Junior School is a community of students, teachers, parents and friends who support the development of learning, the culture of caring, and the celebration of everyone’s potential!
Secondary

The Secondary School at the International School of Hamburg consists of our Grade 6-12 students. We offer the IB Middle Years and Diploma programs. Our faculty and staff mirror the international make-up of our student community and include IB examiners, workshop leaders and accreditation team members.

Timothy, Grade 10

“Not many schools have such a great variety of Extra-Curricular activities. I really like the Art department with all its facilities.”
Our faculty consists of 65 dedicated and experienced teachers, including school Counsellors, a majority of whom have advanced degrees. They come from 15 different countries, with most from the UK and North America.

The Secondary School curriculum at ISH is guided by the ISH mission and philosophy as well as by the principles of the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile. And because the social and emotional aspects of education are as vital as the academic ones, ISH has a rich pastoral care programme, with each student assigned to a tutor group that meets regularly to engage in age-appropriate discussions and activities.

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme offered to students in Grades 6 to 10, is a student-centered programme which encourages our students to draw connections between eight subject groups and the world in which they live. The curriculum is linked together by five areas of interaction, which form a natural bridge between disciplines and offer differing conceptual perspectives. ISH students constantly benefit from the added value of this cross-curricular approach. Their learning experiences are enriched through, for example, social service or environmental projects in the local community. Throughout grades 6-10, additional support classes are provided for students for whom English is not a first language. The purpose of these classes is to enable the student to profit fully, and as quickly as possible, from instruction in other subjects and in more advanced classes in English.

Students in grades 11-12 may enrol in the two year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) upon departmental recommendation. (Details of the IB DP can be found on pages 20-21.)
At the International School of Hamburg, the MYP consists of eight subject groups: language acquisition, language and literature, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical and health education, and design. In grades 9 and 10, students have the option to take courses from six of the eight subject groups, which provides greater flexibility.

Our MYP teachers organize the curriculum with appropriate attention to:

**Teaching and learning in context**
Students learn best when their learning experiences have context and are connected to their lives and the world that they have experienced. Using global contexts, MYP students explore human identity, global challenges and what it means to be internationally minded.

**Conceptual understanding**
Concepts are big ideas that have relevance within specific disciplines and across subject areas. MYP students use concepts as a vehicle to inquire into issues and ideas of personal, local and global significance and examine knowledge holistically.

**Approaches to learning (ATL)**
A unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups, approaches to learning provide the foundation for independent learning and encourage the application of their knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Developing and applying these skills help students learn how to learn.

**Service as action (community service)**
Action (learning by doing and experiencing) and service have

“The NECIS programme and the MYP is very useful, and the school is multicultural”
always been shared values of the IB community. Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service-making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. Service as action is an integral part of the programme, especially in the MYP community project. At ISH ‘Service as action’ is highlighted through our successful Sri Lanka and Ghana projects where students have been fundraising and volunteering to help rebuild communities.

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Language and identity – MYP students are required to learn at least two languages
MYP students are required to learn at least two languages. Learning to communicate in a variety of ways is fundamental to their development of intercultural understanding and crucial to their identity affirmation. At ISH we do this through offering classes in German and English as well as supporting students mother tongue.

Service at ISH
Service is a significant component in our Middle Years Programme, providing our learners the opportunity to engage in our local and global community and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. Service activities at ISH evolve beyond doing for others to engaging with others in a shared commitment towards the common good. Service activities at ISH are interesting, challenging and fun for our learners. Learners are able to engage in experiences that meet the requirements of the Service Programme. Our Service Programme is an avenue to fulfil ISH’s mission statement and work with learners to pursue service activities that they are passionate about.

ISH has a variety of service activities operating including many student-led activities. Our service activities are showcased twice a year in our Service Expo, held in conjunction with the Diploma Programme. Students are able to join new activities and to see the progress and success of our service projects.
The general objectives of the IB are to provide students with a balanced education; to facilitate geographical and cultural mobility; and to promote international understanding.

The IB is based on two straightforward but important ideas. The first is that students need to have a broad general education which will equip them for further education or immediate pursuit of a career, and secondly individual students should have the opportunity to follow a programme which conforms to their interests and capabilities whilst giving them a properly balanced education. The IB has an additional advantage – it is portable. Students moving from ISH to other international schools in other parts of the world offering the IB Diploma Programme have the opportunity to continue their studies with a minimum amount of interruption.
IBDP in Grades 11 and 12
There are two ways in which students can follow the IB curri-
culum at ISH. They can become IB Diploma candidates and
attempt the full programme or they can choose to study
individual subjects and take IB examinations (courses) in these
subjects. Students may enrol in the two year IB Diploma
Programme upon departmental recommendation. To qualify
for the IB Diploma, the full IB course of study must be
followed. This entails passing examinations in six subject
areas, three at higher level and three at standard level, com-
pleting an Extended Essay which is an independent research
study, a course in the Theory of Knowledge and participation
in CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) activities.

The International School Hamburg has been offering the
International Baccalaureate (IB) since 1979. It is recognised as a
pre-university course and is designed to facilitate the mobility
of students, and to promote international understanding.

University Recognition
The IB Diploma is a transferable recognized qualification that
helps provide access to education beyond High School.
At ISH we provide specialized support through our College
Counsellors to enable students to successfully find the right
course and institution for them.

We are proud of the consistently high academic achievement
of our students in the Diploma Programme, our aim is always
to enable students to reach their full potential. This means
our graduates attend a range of
universities around the globe and
we are proud of the variety of study
paths followed by graduates of the
International School of Hamburg.
Institutions range from the elite
research based universities to
those with a more vocational range
of courses.
Our Extra-Curricular Activities Programme (ECAP) is the portal through which our students gain access to a myriad of opportunities for self-development, new skills and just plain fun! Through this programme, a younger person can learn a new musical instrument; play a team or individual sport for the first time; make a new friend; or discover a hobby that can become a life-long interest.

Our school Mission statement refers to developing potential, fostering understanding, showing respect toward others, enjoying learning and taking personal responsibility. All of these critical attributes of a well-rounded learner are nurtured through the spirit of teamwork and cooperation which come with being part of a group that shares a common objective and a common set of values.

At ISH we seek through our extra-curricular activities to encourage not only skills and interests, but also to develop ethical decision-makers who are able to place the needs of the group ahead of those of any single individual. Our activities programme allows students to make mistakes, take risks, and maybe even step outside their comfort zone – all while being supervised by caring and skilled adults.

In the pages that follow, you will learn much more about the possibilities that await you. Take advantage of the opportunity to make your school experience as dynamic and rewarding as possible!
Performing and Visual Arts at ISH
The International School Hamburg lays claim to a fantastic Arts Programme which provides students with an opportunity to showcase their talents visually, dramatically and musically both in and outside of the classroom.

The Theatre and Music departments work cooperatively throughout the school year. Two major productions are performed each school year. A musical takes place in November in which students from grades 6-12 may participate. A Spring Play, open to grades 6-11, is usually performed in March. There is a tech crew consisting of students who apply and are accepted from grade 6-12.

The tech crew is responsible for all sound, lights, sets and backstage management for the musicals, drama productions, talent shows, dances and assemblies. There is a stage design team that creates and makes the set pieces for the school shows.

Wanjiru, Grade 7

“Our school musicals and drama clubs are so much fun. We learn how to sing, dance and act, experiment with makeup and costumes. I feel that it prepares you to be a professional artist.”
Our ISH mission statement includes a commitment to provide a complete educational experience for our students, one which encourages academic excellence but which also recognizes the importance of a holistic approach if the potential of our students is to be developed to the maximum. As such, students are actively encouraged to engage themselves in extra-curricular activities which include the ISH School Band, intramural sports, Model United Nations and many more.

CAS
CAS takes education beyond the classroom and gives students the chance to devise their own Creativity, Activity and Service projects. In doing so, students challenge themselves whilst helping others. CAS is a fundamental element at the core of the IB Diploma. Emphasis is placed on the experiential learning and students should be involved in a balanced challenging range of activities. The IB defines CAS as:

Creativity: exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance.
Activity: physical exertion contributing to healthy lifestyle.
Service: collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need.

Students need to take part in activities in each of these three strands. Students can choose from the range of activities offered in school and supplement them with other projects outside of School. They are to reflect on their interests and the personal challenges they would like to set themselves. They are to keep an up to date portfolio that documents their planning, evidence and reflections. Students are advised to start participating in their projects as soon as possible and need to be involved with CAS for at least 18 months. Throughout the eighteen months students will have three compulsory interviews with the CAS Coordinator.
The Music Enrichment Programme (MEP)
The ISH Music Enrichment Programme provides extra-curricular, practical and theoretical instruction for students from grades 1-12. It offers instruction, both individual and ensemble, on the school premises. The Instructors are all English-speaking, local musicians, with high educational commitment.

**Instruction**
Weekly individual instruction is currently available on the following instruments: piano, violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, guitar, bass guitar, percussion, and voice.

**Ensembles**
The MEP offers the following ensembles:
- Junior Choir (grades 1-3)
- Junior Pop Choir (grades 4-6)
- Junior Rock Band (grades 4-5)
- Beginners’ Orchestra
- Senior Orchestra (by audition)

**ABRSM**
As part of the MEP, ISH offers students the opportunity to prepare for and take the practical and theoretical exams of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). The exams, which are based on international standards and administered by a professional adjudicator, help students to set goals, give them the chance to evaluate their work, and reward them with positive reinforcement for their practicing. The MEP faculty helps students to prepare for the practical exams. In addition, MEP offers afternoon preparatory classes in music theory, ear training, and musicianship.
The Mother Tongue Programme supports both students who cannot be provided with formal tuition in their mother tongue during school hours as well as those MYP and DP students who wish to take a mother tongue language course as part of the curriculum.

Research shows that the development of the student’s mother tongue or first language (usually the language spoken at home) is critical for their cognitive development; children who have not fully developed a first language can experience language-based cognitive difficulties later on.

Students may be fluent in their mother tongue, however, it is essential that they are also provided with the opportunity to become literate in their first language. The level of linguistic competence a student can achieve in their second language is directly dependent on the extent to which their literacy in the mother tongue has been developed. The student’s sense of cultural and personal identity, and their self-esteem, is also greatly strengthened by mother tongue instruction.

ISH helps organise Mother Tongue classes outside the school curriculum using school facilities at the end of a regular school day and within the school curriculum for MYP and DP students.

The lessons are taught by experienced private teachers with whom the parents enter into an agreement about participation and payment. The Mother Tongue Coordinators also assist in finding suitable teachers for these courses. Some programmes, such as Swedish and Dutch, follow the national curriculum of their country.

When students reach IB Diploma level, they have the opportunity to study Literature or Language in their mother tongue. There are two options. Provided there is a qualified teacher available, students can study at higher or standard level. This option is funded privately by the parents of the student. Alternatively, students can choose what is called the “school-supported” programme which means students can study their mother tongue at standard level and without a teacher.

The students should ideally study the language and literature of their first language prior to entering grade 11. To facilitate and encourage students to choose the above options, the Mother Tongue Programme is offered to both Junior School and Secondary School students. There are currently mother tongue programmes for the following languages: Chinese, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish.

Mother Tongue Programme
At the International School of Hamburg, we are aware of the importance of learning the individual mother tongue. Our Mother Tongue programme encourages and provides the opportunity for students to continuously develop their home or native languages alongside their daily school curriculum.
Athletics

Our Sports Programme at the International School Hamburg offers a wide range of sports activities for girls and boys. Students can take part in the Northwest European Council of International Schools (NECIS) Sports Programme or our Intra-mural Sports Programme.

NECIS Sports
The International School of Hamburg is a leading member of the Northwest European Council of International Schools (NECIS) Sports Council, a group of eleven international schools that provides opportunities for our students to meet in specified tournament activities on a competitive basis with each school working toward a common aim to achieve a well-balanced programme that promotes healthy competition, sportsmanship and full participation. Each athlete is given the opportunity to demonstrate athletic ability while maintaining a spirit of respect and cooperation with fellow athletes from various international backgrounds.

Other member schools include:
- The International School of Amsterdam (ISA)
- The American School of The Hague (ASH)
- The American International School of Rotterdam (AISR)
- The Antwerp International School (AIS)
- The International School of Luxembourg (ISL)
- The International School of Düsseldorf (ISD)
- The Copenhagen International School (CIS)
- The International School of Stavanger (ISS)
- Sigtunaskolan Humanistiska Läroverket (SSHL)
- Bonn International School (BIS)

Our ISH ‘Falcons’ teams practice twice a week and during the soccer/volleyball/basketball seasons play weekend games as well as the main NECIS tournament. Students are selected for these teams on the basis of attendance at practice, effort and ability. Home games require our students to host visiting students and this hospitality is reciprocated when our students travel to away games. During the main NECIS tournaments the students are accommodated in hotels.

Other teams (swim team, track and field team, tennis team, golf team) work towards competing in the main NECIS Tournaments and may also play in local friendly games.
Admission and Enrolment

With more than 54 nationalities among our student body, we have formed a family-orientated school, always ready to welcome and support new members into our community. Our welcoming committee, formed by a group of mothers, ensures that all our new families feel at home as soon as they arrive. With the expansion of our purpose built campus for students aged between 3 to 18 years, we are happy to welcome you to our bright and modern facilities.
For new students and their families, the Admissions Office is usually the first point of contact with ISH and in some cases, with Germany. We enjoy answering the enquiries that come in from around the world and will do our best to advise you on any questions that you may have, from how to initiate the admissions process, talk to you about the IB Diploma Programme, or to what the weather is like in Hamburg and to where you should live!

We look forward to speaking with you personally, and hope that we can have the chance to introduce you to the vibrant and caring international community that makes up ISH.

Enrolment Policy
The International School Hamburg exists to provide a high quality international education in English for children in Hamburg. In general, admission is open to all students who can profit from such an education. The school cannot accept for admission students who: require a self-contained programme of special education separate from the mainstream; cannot cope with the physical limitations of the buildings; have a poor previous scholastic or behavioural record. In the event of a waiting list being necessary, qualified applicants will be admitted on a “first come, first serve” basis, giving due consideration to alternative choices of schools available in Hamburg and the international background of the family. Priority will be given to international students who would be unable to cope in the local German school system, and whose parents are on an international assignment in Hamburg for a limited time.

Enrolment Procedure
Families who are interested in sending their children to ISH should first contact the Admissions Office. Where possible, an appointment should be made for an interview to discuss the transfer and to see the school.

The complete Application Form should be completed and sent in with the application fee and previous school records. Online options to complete the application process are currently in development.

Upon receipt of the above documents, an appointment will be made with the relevant member of the Administration to arrange a placement. Previous school records are important to all decisions in the admissions process and, where possible, should be submitted with the application.

Students are accepted throughout the year but will be placed in a grade or class according to the assessment made by the administration, and after placement testing in Mathematics and in English.
What do our Alumni say about us?

“When someone asks me “What does the International School of Hamburg mean to you?” I answer automatically “My second home.” Having been a member of the school for 15 years transformed me into a strong critical thinker and an open-minded individual. ISH introduced me to cultural diversity and taught me to apply the virtue of determination and enthusiasm to everything I do. I highly recommend the international education at this school as it is run by experienced teachers who undoubtedly constantly extend their passion in teaching, to all students. The fact that the International School of Hamburg additionally extensively focuses on student life makes it even more unique, allowing students to expand their talents in all directions.”

Giorgios-Stavros Pagonis  
Student University of Warwick

“My teen years at the ISH were great and unforgettable, mainly because they shaped my understanding of internationality. This inspired me to branch out globally, be it as an author, parliamentarian or social entrepreneur. Furthermore, I developed the self-confidence to do the things that I felt were right for me, including the founding of the Alternative Nobel Prize and the World Future Council.”

Jacob von Uexküll  
Founder of the World Future Council,  
Co-Founder of the Alternative Nobel Prize

“As the son of a diplomat, it wasn’t easy changing schools and adjusting to new environments throughout my childhood. I’m pleased to say that the ISH was a big exception – I have nothing but the fondest memories of my time there. Whether it was the welcoming community, the great long-lasting friendships that were created, the many extra-curricular activities that were available or the encouraging teachers that I had, it all added to an incredible experience there and it offered the best foundations to prepare me for the next stages of my life.”

Pambo Palas  
Director Aeguana Information Services and Technology
Our mission is to provide students with an international education which seeks to develop their full potential and to foster understanding, respect for others, freedom of thought and expression, enjoyment of learning and personal responsibility.