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Headline News

Corporate Accreditation Renewed through 2019

SABIS® recently received formal notification of the renewal of its corporate accreditation by Accreditation International (Ai), a global accrediting body that seeks to enhance the educational dynamics of the 21st century and increase effective student outcomes. Notification of the successful renewal came on the heels of a site visit which was the culmination of a lengthy corporate accreditation process.

On October 14-15, 2014, a 3-person team from Ai met with a SABIS® corporate review team, listened to presentations from key individuals in charge of IT and Academic Development, and reviewed documents in support of SABIS®'s self-study, which was submitted to Ai prior to the visit. The self-study included a strategic business plan, a description of the educational delivery model implemented in SABIS® Network schools, and an overview of quality control. The report assisted the Ai site visit team in understanding the SABIS® Educational System and assessing its ability to fulfill Ai's 12 Accreditation Standards for Corporations.

Based on the information gained through the self-study and site visit, the visiting accreditation team commended SABIS® on several aspects including its talented leadership teams; plans for sustained growth and quality; cutting-edge Information Technology program; well-developed curriculum, instruction and assessment programs; consistently high test scores; and the SABIS Student Life Organization®.

Corporate accreditation from Ai opens the door for all SABIS® Network schools to pursue and maintain accreditation. Already members of a strong, successful network of schools, SABIS® Network schools that are accredited by Ai can enjoy the benefits of international recognition of school quality, accountability, and validation of the presence of an effective, continuous improvement process.

U.S. Directors' Meeting Raises the Bar

Directors from SABIS®'s 12 network schools in the U.S. gathered on November 13 and 14, 2014, for the annual U.S. Directors' Meeting. Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the conference brought together school directors, staff from SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. and the SABIS® Regional Office in Michigan, and members of the SABIS® Board under the theme of "Raising the Bar."

The 2-day meeting provided a context for follow up on items discussed in the global SABIS® Directors' Meeting from July 2014. The meeting covered a range of topics including the effective implementation of the SABIS® Educational System, leveraging of network resources, marketing for increased enrollment, and using IT tools for success. SABIS® regional staff including individuals working out of the new regional office in Michigan conducted the majority of the sessions. Selected, experienced school directors also were involved in presenting topics and sharing their knowledge and experiences.

The meeting culminated in a dinner for all attendees as well as all SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. employees based in Minnesota. In addition to providing a convivial atmosphere for networking, the dinner also served as the venue for the distribution of awards in recognition of special school performance and employee years of service. School awards for performance included one presented to The International School of Minnesota for extending its run of consecutive years of outperforming the global average of AP® Scholars. The SABIS® International Charter School (SICS) in Springfield, Massachusetts, also received an award for having graduated their 1000th student. Employees of SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. were also among those recognized with the distribution of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service awards.

Having organized the event together with his team, SABIS® Vice President – U.S. Operations, Mr. George Saad, was pleased with its outcome. "The conference was a regrouping of the minds," he remarked. "It provided our leaders and support teams with continued professional development, collaboration, and refocusing of effort to raise the achievement bar."

SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. provides support for SABIS® Network schools currently operating in North America and Europe. For more information about SABIS® Educational Systems, INC., visit sabis.net/educational-systems or follow us on Twitter @sabis_US.

"The U.S. Directors' Meeting was a welcome opportunity to learn more about the SABIS® curriculum and procedures. Additionally, the chance to compare experiences and learn from other directors and SABIS® personnel was invaluable."

— Dr. Joe McCleary,
Lowell Collegiate Charter School
Director

SABIS® Participates in U.A.E. Regional Education Conference



SABIS® vice president, Mr. Victor Saad, participating in a panel discussion

For the third consecutive year, SABIS® participated in the **Education Investment MENA** conference that was held on November 10-13, 2014, in Dubai, U.A.E. The conference seeks to bring together key players in the education industry to discuss how the private and public sectors can work together to effectively improve education standards in the region. The conference is also an opportunity to bring together partners for new education programs. Key participants in the 2014 conference included education management organizations, education consultants, investors, and public institutions such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as well as local government ministries.

This year's theme was "Investing Innovation in Education in MENA," which paved the way for interesting panel discussions on a number of hot topics including what barriers exist to increasing domestic and international investment in the education sector and how greater collaboration between governments and public education systems increase educational capital. Topics also included the critical role reputation and word-of-mouth play in the U.A.E. education market and how to maintain exceptional quality in education businesses through expansion strategies.

Mr. Victor Saad, SABIS® vice president, was invited to participate in the keynote panel session on "Positioning the Middle East as a global hub for educational capital." He was joined on the panel by other high profile speakers including Svava Bjarnason, Principal Education Specialist at the IFC.

Addressing the participants at the conference, Mr. Saad stated: "As in other sectors, we believe that competition is the key to driving education in the MENA region. Allowing various educational and business models to compete using their different educational approaches and facilitating investor involvement by reducing business barriers will increase the standard of private education. In free market environments, such as the U.A.E., this will ultimately attract new investors, encourage current investors to invest further, and will eventually lead to an increase in educational standards and reduction in costs, thus benefiting the end consumer (i.e. parents and students)."

Commenting on the value-added of SABIS®'s participation in the **Education Investment MENA conference**, Ms. Lydia Fowler, Divisional Director at Informa, the conference organizers, said: "We were delighted to work with SABIS® as a key partner for

Education Investment MENA this year. SABIS® had a tremendous added-value to the content and direction of the agenda, which really helped us to deliver valuable and meaningful discussions. Mr. Saad's participation in the opening panel provided particularly interesting insight into the work yet to be done in the region."

SABIS® is often invited to participate in high-profile educational conferences to discuss both the success of the SABIS® model as well as avenues to improve the standards of education in both the private and public sectors.

For more information on SABIS®, visit sabis.net.



SABIS® SUN International School
Dreamland - Baku, Azerbaijan

The global SABIS® Network welcomes its newest member school in **Baku, Azerbaijan**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
for the AY 2015-16 for students
in Kindergarten through Grade 5

For more information:

Temporary Admissions Office:
Sapphire plaza, 1/3 Nizami Street AZ1001,
Baku, Azerbaijan

School Address:
Zigh Highway, 22nd km towards H. Aliyev Int'l Airport,
Dreamland, Baku, Azerbaijan

Mobile: (+994) 51 990 65 65
Landline: (+994) 12 404 53 43 (Sapphire Plaza)
E-mail: ssisbaku@sabis.net
Website: ssisbaku.sabis.net

**Opening
Planned for
2015-16**



Education for a changing world.®

Member of the SABIS® Network

SABIS® Network School in Azerbaijan Now Enrolling

The newest member of the SABIS® Network is ready to start enrolling students. The SABIS® Sun International School (SSIS) in Dreamland – Baku, Azerbaijan, recently launched its website ssisbaku.sabis.net and announced that it is taking applications for students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 (ages 3 to 10+) for the 2015-16 academic year.

The independent, co-educational, English medium day school will be housed on a brand new, state-of-the-art campus situated on 67,000 square meters in the Dreamland Development Project in Baku. The first phase of construction, will be completed in time for the 2015-16 academic year. The campus will include academic buildings for Kindergarten and the lower school, a mini-gymnasium and playground dedicated for the Kindergarten section, and gymnasium and playground for the lower school in addition to an administration block and services building.

As in all schools in the SABIS® Network, SSIS will implement the proven SABIS® Educational System, an educational approach that has been developed, refined, and tested for over a century to provide a truly international education that is geared toward the achievement of academic excellence.

For more information about how to enroll in the SABIS® Sun International School, visit ssisbaku.sabis.net.

Academics

2014 Graduates from SABIS® Network Schools Accepted at Top Universities

Year after year, SABIS® Network schools report on the academic and personal accomplishments of their students. Member schools are praised for the strength of their external examination results, and their students are recognized for their commitment to giving back to the local and global communities through service initiatives. As a network of schools that implements a non-selective admissions policy and sets out to get nearly every student accepted into college or university, a long list of acceptances to many of the world's top universities is also among its annual accomplishments.

SABIS® Network schools graduated 1,660 students from 25 schools in the spring of 2014. These students earned acceptances to 568 different colleges and universities in 39 countries around the world, with the majority located in the U.S. and the U.K. Further contributing to the strength of the graduates' accomplishment is the fact that 97 of the world's top 200 universities as identified by the U.K. *Times Educational Supplement* accepted 2014 graduates from SABIS® Network schools. These top tier universities include those from the U.K. Russell Group as well as the U.S. Ivy League.

SABIS® Network schools seek to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to gain admission to the college or university of their choice. By providing students with an edge for the future, SABIS® Network schools prepare them to secure success in the future, both at university and beyond.

To download the full list of SABIS® 2014 university offers and acceptances, visit [University Acceptances](#). For more info on SABIS®, visit sabis.net.

Network Students Recognized for External Exam Performance

Students from SABIS® Network schools are known for academic prowess and consistently receive recognition for their performance, particularly their performance on external exams. 2014 proved to be no exception. Students from SABIS® Network schools earned Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards from Cambridge International Examinations for their results on the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams.

Fourteen (14) students attending SABIS® Network schools recently received Cambridge Outstanding Learner awards for their performance on IGCSE exams in 10 subjects including Biology, Business Studies, Economics, First Language Arabic, French, German, and Korean, Mathematics, Physical Education, and Physics.

Cambridge Outstanding Learner awards are designed to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of students and are classified into categories including "Best in a Country" and "Best in the World." Thirteen (13) students from SABIS® Network schools earned "Best in the Country" awards including nine students from ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main in Germany, three students from ISC-Amman in Jordan, and one student from ISC-Doha in Qatar. One "Best in the World" award capped off the recognition for 2014. Anan Mahmoud, from ISC-Sharjah, received the top mark in the world for her performance on IGCSE First Language Arabic.

"We are very proud and extremely pleased to have Anan recognized as the 'Best in the World,'" said Mr. John Kassis, Director at ISC-Sharjah in the U.A.E. "Over the past 40 years, the SABIS® system implemented at ISC-Sharjah has been setting a high bar of student performance on external exams and consistently yielding outstanding results. We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence."

The University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) is reputed to be the world's largest provider of international qualifications for 14-19 year olds. The majority of SABIS® Network schools offer IGCSEs to their students as a pre-leaving certificate and in preparation for British Advanced Level (A Level) or American Advanced Placement (AP®) programs in the final two years of high school.

For more information about the SABIS® Network schools mentioned in this article, visit isf-sabis.net, iscamman.sabis.net, iscdoha.sabis.net, and iscsharjah.sabis.net.

"SABIS® is one of the finest educational institutions at the present time, leaving its distinguished footprint on our future generations, and in every location of its expanding global presence."

— Samer Shehadeh,
via LinkedIn

IT News

Disaster Recovery Site Ensures Uninterrupted Data Access

The SABIS® Educational System has a long history of generating meaningful data that is used to monitor the learning process and ensure efficiency. In keeping with a commitment to remaining on the cutting-edge of data generation, access, and use in SABIS® Network schools, SABIS® recently took the final steps to set up a secure disaster recovery site.

The role of the disaster recovery site is to ensure against the possible loss of data as a result of natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes by backing up all data and applications in a remote location. In the unfortunate event of a natural disaster, the disaster recovery site, located in the U.K., allows all systems, data, copyright information, communications, and live applications to be restored.

"SABIS® IT systems have become increasingly vital to the smooth operation of the organization. As such, the need to ensure the continuous operation of these systems and their rapid recovery, when necessary, is essential as it ensures business continuity," explained Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Vice President – IT, Book Publishing, and Creative Design.

The process of developing a disaster recovery plan was an arduous one that involved a significant investment of time and resources, particularly the selection of the site's physical location. The choice of the U.K. as the location for the disaster recovery site was based on several factors including its strategic location, optimal environment, and the rich infrastructure available.

For students, parents, and staff in SABIS® Network schools, the establishment of the new disaster recovery site brings with it an assurance of "business as usual" regardless of what natural disasters may occur. Data will be continuously available to everyone involved in the learning process whether in the classroom or through WebSchool.

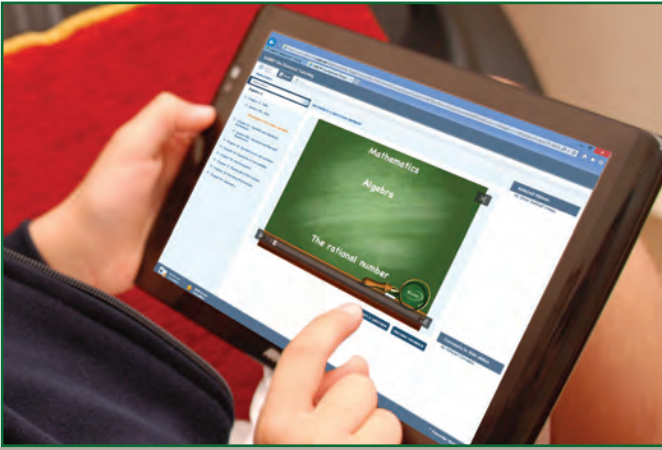
In a world increasingly dependent on data, it has become essential to protect information from being lost in the face of disaster. SABIS® is working actively to formalize control measures to deal with any technical threat the organization may encounter. Through the implementation of the new disaster recovery solution, SABIS® can do just that and ensure that data is available 24/7.

SLO®

SABIS® Expands On-Demand Tutoring Library

In early 2014, SABIS® launched its On-Demand Tutoring (ODT) project, which allows students in SABIS® Network schools around the world to access video explanations of a variety of academic topics via WebSchool. The videos, narrated by students themselves and vetted by the SABIS® Academic Development Department, allow students to review topics that they did not fully understand in class, were absent for, or want to review before an exam.

Launched last year on a limited scale with tutorials in math and science for set grade levels, SABIS® recently released access to an expanded library of tutorials that cover a broader range of subjects and grade levels.



Student accessing an on-demand tutorial

“The On-Demand Tutoring Project has been a huge success and has been received with a great deal of enthusiasm,” said Mr. Roger Soweid, SABIS® Corporate Director – Student Life and Student Management. *“In just under one year, the project has grown from a pilot phase of 80 video tutorials to over 1,200 tutorials covering a wide range of subjects including mathematics, English, biology, physics, chemistry, and science. In the month of October [2014] alone, students across the network downloaded tutorial videos 22,147 times!”*

There are a number of factors that have contributed to the success of this project. First of all, ODT is a natural extension of the peer tutoring program provided through the SABIS Student Life Organization®. Secondly, students in SABIS® Network schools are accustomed to helping others and are open to learning from each other. Moreover, all videos follow the SABIS Point System® of instruction that is used in the classroom. The presentation of the material is, therefore, familiar to the students. After beginning with a clear explanation of the concept, the ODT tutorials then provide time for the student to pause and practice application of the concept on an exercise. As the video tutorial continues, the narrator then demonstrates the solution of the exercise to ensure that the concept has been correctly applied before moving on to yet another exercise.

Feedback from students at SABIS® Network schools around the world has been extremely positive. *“Thank you so much! I did not understand a concept in math very well. The videos explained it very well and now I do,”* said one ISC-Abu Dhabi student.

The SABIS® On-Demand Tutoring videos are available to students in SABIS® Network schools through WebSchool. To access On-Demand Tutoring, students can simply log on to WebSchool at webschool.sabis.net.

Lower School Department Introduces Youngest Students to SLO®

The SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®), one of the main pillars of the SABIS® Educational System, encourages all students to make a difference in their school, improve their academic performance, participate in activities they enjoy and excel in, and create a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Through eight departments – Academics, Discipline, Management, Sports & Health, Activities, Outreach, Social Responsibility, and Lower School – each with clear goals and objectives, every student can find a way to get involved.

Teaching young students the value of contributing to their school environment is the goal of the SLO® Lower School Department. This department, which has sub-departments in Academics, Discipline, Management, Sports & Health Activities, Outreach, and Social Responsibility, plays a pivotal role in encouraging involvement in SLO® among the youngest students in all SABIS® Network schools through a number of programs and activities.

Across the network, prefects in the SLO® Lower School Academic Department demonstrate to young students how to take an active role and interest in the education of others. At ISC-Amman, Shadow Teachers® from the SLO® Lower School Academic Department successfully ran 20 classes for younger students when their teachers were absent. The feedback has been positive and staff members are grateful and proud of the prefects’ performances.

“It is always a great chance for the prefects to make connections and bond with the younger students and help in building moral values by stressing important traits such as hard work and commitment to academic standards,” stated the Student Life Coordinator at ISC-Amman in Jordan.



An older student at ISC-Choueifat reads to a younger student

Lower School Academic Department prefects also help younger students in the development of their reading skills. At ISC-Choueifat in Lebanon, the “Big Brother, Big Sister Reading Club” has been a huge success. *“There is nothing more heartwarming than seeing big sisters and big brothers reading to the younger students. The prefects also play with the younger students, listen to them, and have fun, quality time!”* said the Student Life Coordinator at ISC-Choueifat in Lebanon. Across the globe, in Massachusetts, U.S., a similar program introduced at the Holyoke Community Charter School has been a big hit.



ISC-Amman Shadow Teacher® in action

The Lower School Activities Department is another of the Lower School departments that has been extremely active in schools across the network. At The International School of Minnesota (ISM) in the U.S., the Lower School Department organizes museum trips and special events where young students watch movies, swim, have dinner, and enjoy their time. In Egypt, ISC-Cairo Lower School prefects organized the "Make their Term" event. The older students planned different activities during the final two hours of each semester for the younger students to celebrate the end of term. At ISC-Lahore in Pakistan, senior prefects organize various creative and fun clubs for Lower School students during the SLO® Period. These clubs include board games, story time, art, sports, and recycling, to name a few.



SLO® Lower School prefects organize fun activities at ISC-Lahore

The SLO® Lower School Department contributes to building a strong "community of learners" in all SABIS® Network schools. Older students engaged as prefects in the Lower School Department look out for younger students and act as role models, sowing the seed of interest and familiarizing Lower School students with the importance of playing a role in their school community.

To learn more about SABIS® and SLO®, visit sabis.net.

Making a Difference

SABIS® Book Donation Helps Philippine Orphans

In keeping with its commitment to change the world through education, SABIS® recently donated 26,120 textbooks from the SABIS® Book Series to TELED International Ministries, an organization that supports global educational services and school accreditation. In turn, TELED International distributed the textbooks to the Institute for Foundational Learning (IFL) for use by orphans and socioeconomically-deprived children served by the organization in its 350 schools in the Philippines.

"The textbooks from SABIS® are some of the greatest tools for development of schools and, thereby, students, in countries where textbooks are rare, even for teachers.

Thank you, SABIS®!"

— Dr. Don Petry,
Chairman of the Board, TELED

The book donation was part of an impressive event held in October 2014 and attended by the President of the Philippines, the Secretary of Social Services, and several high ranking politicians in celebration of the 25th anniversary of IFL.

"The textbooks that SABIS® donated to TELED International to place in third world countries have been very helpful in bringing excellent, high achieving academic content to over 350 schools located in every province and on major islands in the Philippines," commented Dr. Don Petry, Chairman of the Board for TELED. "In most of the more remote regions of the Philippines, a book, and especially a textbook, is a valuable possession."

As an industry-leading organization, SABIS® is committed to the practice of social responsibility, a message that it models and promotes in all of the network's member schools.

SPDI

SABIS® Teacher Orientation Program Delivers Results

Prior to the start of each academic year, every SABIS® Network school around the world holds a teacher orientation program for new and returning teachers. At the onset of the 2014-15 academic year, teachers throughout the network participated in a 2-week workshop designed to introduce new teachers to the SABIS® approach to education and at the same time enhance and refresh the knowledge of returning teachers.

The orientation program, which has been created and developed by the SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI), includes a number of modules including SABIS® teaching methods, the SABIS Point System®, classroom management, use of IT in the classroom, and frequent testing methods to name a few. At the end of the orientation program, teachers have a clear overview of the curriculum and how to best engage their students in the learning process through the SABIS® teaching methods. They know how to positively address and handle potential disciplinary issues and are familiar with the various technological tools that are available for use in SABIS® Network schools.



Participants at the teacher orientation program at ISC-Choueifat

Teachers are reaping the benefits of the orientation program. From their perspective, the program ensures that capable educators are able to work a manageable number of hours and maintain a high level of instructional quality. Instead of having to suffer from the stress of having to work at a super-human pace, the teachers' role in a SABIS® Network school is a manageable job. As one teacher from ISC-Choueifat put it, "The teacher orientation gave me insight into what SABIS® is all about and highlighted the areas that I will be working on in the course of the year. It helped everything fall into place."

School directors are also pleased with the orientation program and its impact on the school. Mr. Ghassan Abdel Baki, Director at the International school of Choueifat in Choueifat, Lebanon, said, "Teachers who are well-trained in the SABIS® Educational System will naturally perform better in the classroom. Mastery of the SABIS Point System® and superior classroom management will translate into better teaching and, therefore, better learning."

A half a world away, in Arizona, U.S., Mr. Will Henry, Director at the SABIS® International School – Phoenix, shared Abdel Baki's sentiments. "The [SPDI] Teacher Orientation Program is a significant benefit because it allows teachers to fully understand the academic cycle. It is important for teachers to grasp the understanding that the cycle must be fully implemented consistently in the classroom to reap the full academic benefits," said Mr. Henry. "All our teachers – new and veteran – have learned that any missing link from the academic cycle can do a disservice to the learning process."

Prior to the next academic year, existing teachers will return for a follow-up orientation training session, while new teachers will learn all about the SABIS® Educational System. By either refreshing their knowledge or learning about SABIS® for the first time, teachers are able to perform optimally in the classroom and help their students achieve their full potential.

SAGA

SAGA Organizes Events Across the Network

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is an organization that is dedicated to reaching out to graduates from SABIS® Network schools around the world. Since 2011, SAGA has been providing alumni with support, services, and activities that are essential in order to maintain friendships formed at school.



ISR alumni enjoying connecting with their friends from school

Throughout the SABIS® Network, a number of SAGA chapters organized reunions in 2014. The International School on the Rhine (ISR), in Neuss, Germany, organized its annual alumni reception in December 2014. The reception was attended by alumni, teachers, and administrators. ISR alumni had the opportunity to reconnect with former teachers and classmates, get updates about SAGA, and rekindle friendships. Another school from the network also held its annual reception dinner in December 2014. Thirty (30) alumni from past graduating

classes joined teachers and administrators for the 7th annual alumni reception at the ISF Internationale Schule Frankfurt-Rhein-Main (ISF) in Germany.

"ISF is proud that we now have 499 graduates located throughout the world. The ISF chapter of SAGA is, as always, busy trying to reach out to and establish contact with as many of those 499 alumni as possible through its group page on Facebook and through the organization of annual alumni events," explained Mr. Angus Slesser, ISF School Director explained.



ISF alumni at the 7th annual alumni reception

Annual alumni reunions in the network also served to engage soon-to-be-alumni in discussions with current alumni. At Ruwais Private School in Ruwais, U.A.E., the graduating Class of 2015 was invited to a SAGA dinner. Highlights of the evening included a presentation by the school's Student Life Coordinator and university advisor, a discussion session with the senior Academic Quality Controller, and a motivational speech by the school's director. The dinner is an annual event hosted by the school to introduce the graduating class to SAGA and explain its many benefits.

A SAGA event at the International School of Choueifat – Al Ain (ISC-Al Ain) in coordination with the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) was another event that showcased the benefits of SAGA to current seniors. As part of the event, seniors were walked through the SAGA University Application, an online application that guides graduating students through the university application process.

SAGA strives to be a platform for graduates from SABIS® Network schools to enjoy their alumni experience. The number of graduates from the SABIS® Network worldwide is growing and so is the SABIS® Alumni Global Association. The association's benefits, services, and activities encourage former students to renew the ties and friendships they formed during their time at school.

For more information about SAGA, visit saga.sabis.net.

SABIS®
Alumni Global Association

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NOW BENEFIT FROM
DISCOUNTED RATES
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For more information, log on to
saga.sabis.net

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Our friendly local staff operates within international standards of excellence so that you can have full peace of mind.
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Feature School

The International School of Choueifat – Sharjah



ISC-Sharjah entrance

The International School of Choueifat – Sharjah (ISC-Sharjah) in the U.A.E. opened its doors in January 1976 as the first SABIS® Network school to operate outside of Lebanon. With an initial enrollment of just 141 students in its first year of operation, ISC-Sharjah has grown over the past four decades to become one of the largest schools in the global SABIS® Network. The school currently educates close to 4,200 students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. As it fast approaches its 40th anniversary, ISC-Sharjah is extremely proud of its legacy of excellence.

History

In 1975, through a networking connection that came from a graduate of the International School of Choueifat (ISC-Choueifat) in Lebanon, SABIS® had the opportunity to open its first school outside the country. If the project went smoothly, a new branch of the International School of Choueifat would be established in Sharjah, a small and relatively unknown emirate back in the early 70s, and would be located initially on an old air force base. Challenges were coming though, among them getting supplies – textbooks, copybooks, pens, pencils, etc. – from Lebanon to the U.A.E through a supply chain that was frequently interrupted by a civil war.



A rare tree that once stood alone in the desert now proudly stands on the ISC-Sharjah campus

Despite the challenges, ISC-Sharjah opened its doors in January 1976 with 25 teachers and a mere 17 students. By February, the student body had grown to 37, and by the summer of 1976, ISC-Sharjah finished the academic year with 141 students, remarkable growth for its first year in operation. As enrollment grew in the coming years, the school moved to its purpose-built campus, where thousands of students have acquired an outstanding education and essential life skills.

Academics

On an academic level, ISC-Sharjah implements the SABIS® Educational System, a comprehensive and challenging academic program that uses cutting-edge software and a distinct approach to teaching and learning. Like all SABIS® Network schools around the world, ISC-Sharjah implements the SABIS Point System® at all grade levels. Through the SABIS Point System®, students learn through a systematic learning process that engages them in both individual and group work.



Peer tutoring in action in ISC-Sharjah

In addition to a systematic approach to learning, ISC-Sharjah also teaches students to take an active role in their education and the education of others. This is particularly apparent in SLO® Peer Tutoring and Shadow Teaching® programs. Students who master particular subjects regularly volunteer as peer tutors or Shadow Teachers®, which allow them the opportunity to teach their fellow classmates, either on a one-to-one basis, as in the case of peer tutoring, or by teaching an entire class as a Shadow Teacher®.

Students are reaping the benefits of peer tutoring and Shadow Teaching®. “Volunteering as an English and math peer tutor has made me consider a career in teaching,” said Lynn-Rose Salim, a Grade 10 student. “Being a Shadow Teacher® made me work extra hard to ensure that I knew the material before going into the classroom; it also helped me to gain confidence in public speaking and presentation skills,” said Alya Berciu, a Shadow Teacher® currently in Grade 12.

Cultural Diversity

ISC-Sharjah enjoys a culturally diverse student body. There are currently 76 nationalities among the student body at the school. This diversity provides a rich environment in which to study, discover information about different cultures, religions, and races, and learn about people’s differences as well as similarities.



ISC-Sharjah students celebrating U.A.E. National Day

The school celebrates its cultural diversity in numerous ways. International Day, for example, is a bright and colorful celebration of the cultures that exist in harmony at ISC-Sharjah. The entire community – students, parents, and teachers alike – all come together to showcase dances, music, and food from the many cultures at the school. ISC-Sharjah also celebrates U.A.E. National Day in order to teach students about their local host country.

Through its highly diverse student body and special events throughout the year, ISC-Sharjah students learn tolerance and open-mindedness. They also gain an international edge that is crucial for future integration into multinational settings, whether at university, in the workplace, or socially.

Achievements

Students at ISC-Sharjah follow the international SABIS® curriculum, which integrates competitive external examination programs such as the American Advanced Placement (AP®) exams as well as the British Advanced Level (A Level) and International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) in addition to others.

ISC-Sharjah has a long history of outstanding performance on external examinations. Year after year ISC-Sharjah students are recognized for their results. Most recently, two students were recognized for world-class performance on external exams. Anan Mahmoud, a Grade 11 student at ISC-Sharjah, was awarded the HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Outstanding Cambridge Learner Award for achieving



ISC-Sharjah class of 2014 graduation ceremony

the highest grade in the world on the Cambridge IGCSE First Language Arabic. Zetian Li, a Grade 12 student, attained a perfect score, a rare and impressive 2,400 points, on SAT II subject tests in chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Less than 1% of students who take the exam earn a perfect score. With these results, Zetian joins an elite group of students around the world who have achieved such a result.

SLO®

All ISC-Sharjah students are encouraged to join the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) and play an active role in their school community. From organizing campus events, sports tournaments, activities, and field trips to becoming involved in giving back to their community, there is something for everyone at ISC-Sharjah.

At ISC-Sharjah, the SLO® is extremely dedicated to raising awareness about health issues in the emirate. One of the main health issues that the U.A.E. is facing today is the rise of diabetes within the general population and especially among children.



ISC-Sharjah SLO® basketball competition winners

This development prompted the government to launch a nationwide campaign to raise awareness to fight the disease. The SLO® Sports and Health Department at ISC-Sharjah has actively joined the campaign and is promoting the importance of healthy eating and living a healthy lifestyle. Through a number of initiatives that include teaching the importance of avoiding fast food and sodas, promoting the importance of sports, and showing the benefits of exercise and good nutrition, the SLO® Sports and Health Department is actively contributing to fighting this national health issue.

In addition to raising awareness about healthy living, the ISC-Sharjah SLO® organizes a cancer awareness campaign in February each year. Students participate in competitions which are both fun and educational. A fresh juice bar and a healthy food booth promote the importance of healthy eating as a means to prevent the disease. The event also includes discussions about the various forms of cancer that are on the rise and the decisions students can make on a daily basis that help prevent the spread of cancer.

The result of the awareness campaign has prompted positive action within the student body. One Grade 11 student has set up a successful blog that promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle. SLO® prefects actively administer the blog and research and write articles to be posted on the site.

The SLO® at ISC-Sharjah also offers many extra-curricular activities for students to develop a number of interests. Clubs include chess, drama, violin, piano, guitar, oil painting, jewelry making, art, and photography. Sports activities include football, basketball, swimming, Taekwondo, and tennis.

Alumni Around the World

Over the past 40 years, ISC-Sharjah has graduated 2,409 students who have received acceptances to many prestigious universities around the world and gone on to study in the U.A.E., U.S., Canada, U.K., Australia, Ireland, and Lebanon to name a few. The latest graduating cohort, the Class of 2014, gained acceptances to top universities including Carnegie Mellon University and Georgia Institute of Technology in the U.S., McGill University in Canada, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and The University of Edinburgh in the U.K. as well as the American University of Beirut in Lebanon.

ISC-Sharjah alumni around the world are successful individuals who hold prominent positions in both the private and public sectors. Many alumni, after settling down and starting their own families, return to enroll their children in their alma mater. One such parent/alumnus is Anwar Selo. *“Thirty years later, as I drop my kids off in the morning, they are amazed when I stop to greet a teacher or supervisor. My children are in ISC-Sharjah simply because there is no other school I would entrust with their education. In a sense, I still go to ISC-Sharjah,”* said Anwar.

This sense of pride in their school is a sentiment that is carried through several generations.

Close-Knit Community

Among the school's many achievements is the strong sense of community it has built. The Emirate of Sharjah has a reputation for being one of the most family-friendly and residentially stable of the seven emirates that make up the U.A.E. Families choose to settle in Sharjah and often commute to other emirates for work. The stability of the emirate coupled with ISC-Sharjah's reputation for excellence draws many families to settle long term in the area. Over 30% of the Class of 2015 have attended ISC-Sharjah since Kindergarten. This is a remarkable achievement given the transient nature of the population in the U.A.E. *“At ISC-Sharjah we all feel like we are part of one big family,”* said one Grade 10 student.

With the stellar academic performance of its students, outstanding achievements, successful alumni around the world, and a stable, close-knit community, ISC-Sharjah has a lot to celebrate on its 40th anniversary, which will be marked with a big celebration in the next academic year.

“We have already started planning the 40-year anniversary celebration that will take place in the next academic year,” said Mr. John Kassis, ISC-Sharjah School Director. *“We want to make sure that ISC-Sharjah's 40th birthday will be a day to remember!”*

For more information about the International School of Choueifat–Sharjah, visit iscsharjah.sabis.net. If you would like to read about ISC-Sharjah's 40th anniversary celebration, watch for future press releases posted on sabis.net.

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Alanoud Mohammed Alsharekh
ISC-Bath (now SIS-UK), England – Class of 1993



Alanoud Mohammed Alsharekh

Alanoud Mohammed Alsharekh joined the International School of Choueifat (ISC-UK) in Bath, England, in 1990. A member of the global SABIS® Network, ISC-UK operated as an international boarding school from 1983 until 2001 when operation ceased temporarily. The school reopened in 2006 as the SABIS International School UK.

The years that Alanoud spent at ISC-UK (now SIS-UK) had a major impact on her life. Boarding school helped Alanoud shape her identity very quickly. She was embraced by a community of students from different countries, backgrounds, and cultures. This enriching experience helped her develop a strong personality, gave her the courage to become an active member of the school, and laid a foundation of experiences that would later help shape her professionally.

In addition to shaping her identity, the years that Alanoud spent at the school had a major influence on the career path she would choose later on in life. Through the rigorous and challenging SABIS® Educational System and its highly structured environment, Alanoud discovered her interest in math and English and an interest in teaching. Drawing on a solid academic foundation, she joined the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) and became an academic prefect, tutoring younger students and helping them excel in math and English. *“I enjoyed the responsibility and discovered that I have an affinity for teaching,”* she said.

Throughout her time in the boarding school, Alanoud enjoyed day-to-day life, developed many skills, and pursued excellence. She fondly remembers the time she spent there and the inspiring setting of the school. *“Being surrounded by beautiful countryside, and living and learning in a historic building was such an enriching experience,”* she noted.

After graduating in 1993, Alanoud attended King’s College in London, U.K., where she completed her bachelor’s degree in English literature and photography, was a Fulbright scholar, and went on to do a master’s degree in applied linguistics and translation. Alanoud then attended the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies where she pursued her Ph.D. in comparative literature and feminism.

Based on the educational foundation she laid at school and expanded upon thereafter, Alanoud has built an impressive career. She is an editor, an activist, and an educator, teaching at Kuwait University, Gulf University for Science and Technology, and the Arab Open University. She is a published author, having published a book in Arabic and another in English entitled *Challenging Limitations: the Changing Role of Women in the GCC*. She has also published a number of articles and conference papers, the latest entitled “Reform and Rebirth in the Middle East,” which won the Arab Prize for best publication in a foreign language for 2013-14. Additionally, she works as a security researcher and gender politics consultant with the Kuwaiti government in addition to international institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on gender, citizenship, and soft power security issues. She is also involved in consultations on art and cultural projects in Kuwait and other countries in the Gulf.

Clearly a successful professional today, Alanoud's experience at ISC-UK laid an important foundation for her future. *“I will never forget the friendships I formed at school, my teachers, and the discipline I learned,”* she said.

For more information about the SABIS International School — UK, visit sisuk-sabis.net. If you would like to connect with former classmates, hear about stories such as Alanoud’s, and keep up to date with news on your alma mater, join the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) by visiting saga.sabis.net.

“Being surrounded by beautiful countryside, and living and learning in a historic building was such an enriching experience.”

— Alanoud Mohammed Alsharekh



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SABIS® is a global education network that operates on 4 continents serviced through three independent corporations headquartered in the U.S., Lebanon, and the U.A.E. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in 15 countries and educate close to 65,000 students.

Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world.

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