



LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



Academic Years

2020-2022



LIVING OUR MISSION STATEMENT BY

Developing innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.

Fred and Sigrid Ott had a vision—a school where students from around the world could reach their academic and personal potential in a beautiful, secure location, and become ready to face the world’s challenges as true “citizens of the world.”

Since 2005, LAS has been a non-profit philanthropic organization with the school’s leadership provided by the Ott family, now in its third generation. This shift in governance has inspired a number of valuable changes, including the establishment of the Advancement Office, which has helped to build a strong network of alumni who share a love of LAS.



EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATORS

Our educators’ teaching methods are informed by years of research, education, and experience, allowing them to provide your child with high-quality, innovative learning opportunities.



TOP UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

We take pride not only in educating strong students but also attracting the attention of strong universities. The LAS University Advising Office plays a key role in our students’ successes, providing them with active guidance throughout their time at LAS.



A CARING COMMUNITY

LAS is a diverse, tight-knit community in which staff members are always on hand to provide students with care and guidance as they navigate the responsibilities and challenges that come with young adulthood.



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

From LAS to post-graduation we provide the foundation and resources for students, parents, and alumni to stay connected and maintain lifelong friendships.



A PASSION FOR LEARNING

We help students uncover their passion by creating exciting ways for them to select and engage with the material they are being taught—this includes hands-on learning, individualized academic schedules, and opportunities for immersive travel.



Middle School
Grades 7 & 8



Preparatory Years
Grades 9 & 10



US High School Diploma
Grades 11 & 12



International Baccalaureate
Grades 11 & 12

In order to provide our Middle School students with a strong scholastic foundation and skill set, our programming for grades 7 and 8 is divided into two segments—Academic Core and Academic Exploration. We also offer English Language Acquisition studies.



ACADEMIC CORE

lays the groundwork for essential skills and knowledge.



ACADEMIC EXPLORATION

is made up of a selection of interdisciplinary courses designed to broaden horizons and uncover new talents.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (ELA)

students take English Language Acquisition appropriate to their level, as well as science and math with instruction adjusted to support them.

Preparatory Years students are in the midst of an important period of self-discovery as they enter their teenage years. LAS seeks to support students during this transitional period of their lives.



MAINSTREAM TRACK

students will take seven classes, matching the number of classes they would have in the IB Programme in grades 11 and 12.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (ELA)

serves the individual needs of each student and helps them to become effective communicators and thinkers.



ELECTIVES

are chosen each semester to round out the school experience. Students must choose a minimum of two.



INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS



ACTIVE LEARNERS



PURSuing POSTSECONDARY STUDIES

The US High School Diploma program prepares students for postsecondary success while allowing them time to pursue personal goals inside and outside of the classroom. Students in this program have the opportunity to earn IB certificates. These students are:

English Language Acquisition students who need continued support in language acquisition and are not ready to undertake the IB program continue to focus on core areas so they are ready for university following graduation.



HIGHLY MOTIVATED



INDEPENDENT LEARNERS



STRONG ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

IB Diploma students engage in deep, concentrated learning through engagement with the International Baccalaureate curriculum and expand on skills and knowledge learned in earlier grades. These students are:

If English Language Acquisition students achieve a sufficiently high proficiency in English after grade 10, they can undertake the full IB Diploma with the option for a “Bilingual IB Diploma.”



Experiential Learning

At LAS, education isn't limited to the borders of a classroom. We seek out every chance to connect our students with impactful hands-on learning opportunities so they can see the practical applications of their studies at work in the real

world. We do this by augmenting traditional classes with events that build on students' passions and address current global issues, helping them to develop fundamental skills in critical thinking, entrepreneurship, and teamwork.



LETS DAY

LETS Day is an ongoing project in which students can build on what they've learned in their science classes. Each year on this day students work in teams to examine and record how ecology changes from the valley to the summit of our mountain.



GLOBE DAY

The annual Globe Conference gives students the opportunity to prepare original work, whether in the context of a class or not, for presentation in a formal conference.



GLOBAL FUTURIZER

This event develops the entrepreneurial skills of students as they look to solve issues real companies have encountered. Students work in small teams and are led through a brainstorm and business model exercise, which culminates in a pitch of their best solution.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

LAS is home to a mini ecosystem. We tend to beehives, cultivate a summer garden, and take care of chickens – all on campus! This Community Garden provides lots of opportunities for students to engage in kinesthetic learning and discover more about the interaction of different ecosystems.



CULTURAL TRAVEL

Cultural travel is an exceptional way for students to broaden their horizons and take on new perspectives. At LAS, we strive to provide our students with as many opportunities as possible to travel both within Switzerland and abroad.

Cultural Travel



LAS students love to travel and we give them many opportunities to be active “citizens of the world.”

There are many benefits to introducing students to the larger world outside our door and trips are much more than a break from life on campus. Students are expected to pursue academic tasks during these visits and complete reports or projects that are discussed and graded. At the same time, these trips impart rich cultural insights and the shared excitement and experience of travel.

Teachers accompany students on all trips as supervisors and mentors, further promoting the sense of community fostered on campus. While participating in cultural travel, LAS students gain an awareness of other cultures, a greater proficiency in the languages they are studying, and a better understanding of how their participation can make a difference to others.



FACULTY FAMILY TRIP

Over a couple of days in September, students get to know their Faculty Family brothers, sisters, and parents. These trips take place within Switzerland and often involve sports and team-building activities.



OCTOBER CULTURAL TRIPS

During the fall, students embark on faculty-supervised cultural trips with their classmates to destinations in Switzerland and Western Europe. In order to encourage engagement with and understanding of new cultures, students are graded on their participation and contribution.



SPRING BREAK TRIPS

Students may choose to go on an optional faculty-led trip over Spring Break. Past destinations have included community service and cultural trips to Zimbabwe, The Bahamas, Thailand, and Nepal.



MAY CULTURAL TRIPS

In the spring students visit destinations throughout Europe for their second cultural trip of the year. Participation is expected and students will be graded based on their contribution and involvement during the trip.

Berneuse Challenge
Big Brothers and Sisters BBQ

LETS Day
Dorm Olympics

Fall Cultural Trips
SGIS Volleyball Tournament

Leysin Model
United Nations

Winter Arts Celebration
Theater Production

Ski and Snowboard Season
Begins

August

September

October

November

December

January



February

March

April

May

June

July

International Week
Family Winter Week

Globe Day
Cowbell Games

Global Futurizer
Prom

Spring Musical
Faculty Family Banquet

Spring Cultural Trips
Graduation

LAS summer
LAS summer edge®

Extraordinary Educators

An outstanding academic program has to start with a strong network of educators. Our teachers are provided with excellent professional development opportunities so that they can continue to inspire every student at LAS. As a part of their professional development, our teachers regularly attend and present at conferences and workshops, keeping them up to date on the most innovative and effective teaching methods.

56%

of LAS staff have more than 10 years of experience in education

75%

of our teachers have advanced degrees

20%

of our faculty have presented and published their research



LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL
EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

The LAS Educational Research (LASER) Center supports action research and curriculum work as professional development for the LAS faculty. Each year we accept proposals from faculty members that outline innovative projects with a goal of developing new curricula, improving school life, and investigating strategies in teaching and learning.

We also reach out to creative professionals in education from around the world including consultants, professors, and content specialists. These researchers work on their own projects alongside LAS faculty, promoting academic conversation and the sharing of new concepts and ideas our teachers can use to enhance their lesson plans.

30+

visiting scholars from 10 countries worked with us during the first five years of LAS Educational Research



Learning Resources

LAS has a number of services in place to ensure that students are meeting and surpassing academic expectations. Students can also take advantage of office hours, extra lessons, and tutoring sessions. Additionally, the Learning Support Department works collaboratively with teachers and students to address unique learning needs. When applicable, students in need of targeted academic support may be aided by the following resources and programs:



LIBRARIES

The LAS campus has two well-equipped libraries which serve as the primary spots for students and faculty members to consult with qualified librarians, conduct research, listen to guest lectures, meet, work, and study.



INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM (IEP)

For students with documented learning differences as well as those identified as gifted and talented, an IEP outlines appropriate solutions and modifications necessary for the student's academic success. Clear and measurable goals are set to track and highlight each student's achievements.



ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PROGRAM

There are three levels of support offered in the Academic Intervention Program. Each level is differentiated by the nature of support given, however, they all offer students a holistic and highly individualized approach. All students have access to this program including International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates.



University Advising

LAS provides students with a first-class education that prepares them for life after high school. We begin working with students in grade 9, introducing them to potential career path options and the university advising process. As students enter higher grade levels, the topics that are addressed become more specialized and specific. University Advising offers a number of services including SAT, ACT, and IELTS preparation sessions, exam scheduling, university visits, and navigational tools to help with the university selection, application, and acceptance process.



Four years of individualized university advising starting in grade 9



Test preparation and exam scheduling for the following exams: SAT, ACT, and IELTS



University Acceptances

The LAS University Advising Office encourages a student-focused approach to the university selection process. We teach students to ask not what they need to do to gain university acceptance, but what a university has to offer

them so they can continue to grow, learn, and reach their full potential. With this approach guiding our practices, we are proud to say that LAS students have a 100% acceptance rate in universities worldwide.

3

experienced advisors work in our University Advising Office

75%

of students get into their top choice of university

8

is the average number of different universities each student apply to

80%

of LAS graduates go to one of the top 100 universities in the world

HIGHLY RANKED UNIVERSITIES WHERE LAS CLASSES HAVE GAINED ADMISSION IN 2017-2020:

UNITED STATES

Columbia University
Duke University
New York University
Parsons School of Art and Design
Stanford University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Southern California

CANADA

McGill University
University of Toronto
University of British Columbia

EUROPE

ESADE Ramon Llull University
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Bocconi University
University of Amsterdam

UNITED KINGDOM

Durham University
Imperial College London
King's College London
Oxford University
University of Edinburgh
University College London
University of St. Andrews

OTHER COUNTRIES

Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education
New York University of Abu Dhabi
University of Hong Kong
University of Sydney
Yale-NUS Singapore



Life After Leysin

Developing innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world—that has been our ongoing goal at LAS for the past five decades. Today, our extended alumni family, spanning more than 80 nationalities, embodies that and much more.

Our alumni are executives, entrepreneurs, and humanitarians. They create global businesses, conduct important research at the world's leading universities, educate future leaders, and volunteer to help the less fortunate around the globe. At LAS, we are committed to maintaining a lifelong relationship with our graduates and former students through an ever-expanding alumni relations program.



NETWORKING
Professional and social networking opportunities



ALUMNI REUNIONS
Facilitate and participate in events around the world



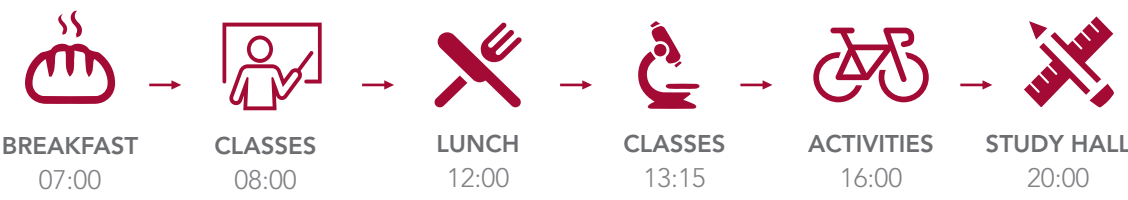
COMMUNICATION
Direct communication with LAS and global alumni family



The LAS Lifestyle

Research shows that boarding school students excel more in university and their professional lives because they develop greater maturity, responsibility, and independence at a younger age. The experiences students have at LAS are varied and impactful, each one contributing to

the development of confident and capable young adults who are ready to face the world. During the LAS school year, students learn to balance their studies with sports, art, recreation, cultural travel, and chores in an exciting and rewarding way. A daily schedule typically consists of:



DORMITORY LIFE

Living with others requires patience and understanding. Sharing a room and living in a dormitory helps students to develop skills such as international understanding, time management, and effective communication, which can be carried with them for the rest of their lives.



FACULTY FAMILY

Each student is a member of a Faculty Family, a group comprised of faculty “parents” and a number of peers from different grades and countries. Families are an important social group at LAS and “parents” are great resources who can provide advice on how to navigate life at boarding school.



BECOMING A LEADER

Students have a number of opportunities to take on leadership roles within the community and regularly interact and work together with their peers on different projects. Options for involvement include joining Student Council, acting as a Student Prefect, or becoming a Student Ambassador.



IMPACTING THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Student Council is the link between students, faculty, and LAS administration. Taking part in this council gives students confidence, diplomacy, and negotiation skills as they engage in school life by representing their peers on many issues.



DEVELOPING GOOD HABITS

LAS’s structured lifestyle helps students to develop good habits and practices. Expectations are laid out for them early on, and they are provided with support as they learn to keep organized, manage a pocket money budget, and take responsibility for the cleanliness of their rooms and communal spaces.



Living in Leysin

Switzerland is a place like no other—safe and welcoming, it attracts visitors every year with its breathtaking scenery, historic cities, and vibrant culture. Situated in the heart of Europe and bordered by four countries, Switzerland provides a stable environment within which students can spend their formative teenage years.

Leysin, located in western Switzerland, represents the epitome of Swiss culture. Our striking, cozy hometown is an internationally-recognized ski destination that has the hospitality, facilities, and lifestyle that appeal to students and global visitors alike. Leysin is also one of the host venues for the 2020 Youth Olympic Games.



Population of 4,200
French speaking



Alpine winter resort
Over 100 km of pistes



Leysin has 4
train stations



3 sports
centers



Healthy,
unpolluted
environment



Over 20 restaurants,
cafés, and shops



Welcoming
and safe



History of
tolerance and
diversity





LAS Facilities

MAIN BUILDINGS

Savoy

Classrooms, library, campus store, and cafeteria

Belle Époque

Classrooms, Grande Salle ballroom, cafeteria, library, and fitness center

Edge Chalet

LAS Educational Research Center

Beau Site

Science and math classrooms

Beau Réveil

Middle School classrooms

DORMITORIES

Esplanade

Dormitory for boys in grades 7-9

Vermont

Dormitory for girls in grades 7-9

Belle Époque West Wing

Dormitory for girls in grades 11 - 12

Savoy

Dormitory for boys in grades 10 - 11

Beau Site

Dormitory for girls in grades 10 - 11

Belle Époque Central Wing

Dormitory for boys in grades 11 - 12

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Magic Mountain Athletic Center

Gym, indoor running track, fitness center, and climbing wall

Health Centers

Located on each campus

ARTS & CREATIVITY

Performing Arts Center

Theater, music rooms, and dance studio on Savoy Campus

Visual Arts Centers

State-of-the-art centers on both campuses

STUDENT LOUNGES

Cafe 7° & The Cave

Student social centers providing coffee and snacks

Fishbowl

Student social center, media, and games





Ski & Outdoor Programs

WINTER SEASON

Winter term at LAS is a truly magical time as the falling snow transforms Leysin into a picturesque ski village. Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from January until March students are dismissed from class and invited to grab their skis or snowboards and head to the slopes. With over 100 kilometers of

ski runs, a half-pipe and snow park, as well as cross country ski trails, the slopes cater to all skill levels. Lessons are provided by professionally-trained Swiss Ski School instructors, and LAS provides an annual ski pass that allows unlimited access to the Leysin and regional slopes.

ALPINE INSTITUTE

The goal of the LAS Alpine Institute is to help students connect deeply with our mountain. The Alpine Institute is responsible for carrying out a number of science-based initiatives including LETS Day and GLOBE Day. The Alpine Institute also manages the Alpine Club, which allows students to learn more about mountaineering, navigation, ski touring, and camping. The Institute also assists students who are interested in pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award—the world's leading youth achievement award.



Alpine
explorations



Duke of Edinburgh
International Award



Collecting data for
climate research



Arts & Creativity

We encourage students to express themselves creatively whenever possible, including through participation in the arts. The arts open up a realm of opportunities in which students can think outside the box and express themselves in a significant way. With an understanding of the value artistic endeavors can bring to a school community, we have built up our arts program and facilities to guide and nurture growing talent.



Throughout their education, students can select from a variety of visual and performing arts courses. Artistic studies in the Middle School and Preparatory Years programs provide students with essential skills and knowledge that are the foundation for advanced studies in IB and High School Diploma-level arts.

Students can choose to take part in extracurricular activities and events such as choir, the fall play and spring musical, art exhibitions, and music concerts. These events allow students to exhibit their work and receive feedback from real audience members and viewers. Interested students also have the opportunity to take private music lessons.



Theater Arts



Music



Performing Arts



Design & Photography



Visual Arts



Technical Theater



Athletics & Clubs

Extracurricular activities are a crucial component of the LAS lifestyle. Our advanced athletic facilities and unique mountain environment allow students to enjoy a wide range of activities—skiing and snowboarding are always favorites, but so are team sports and activities that can be done with friends.

Throughout the year students participate in an after-school activities program that provides opportunities for leadership experience, skill development, and community service. Activities take place Monday through Thursday, typically between 16:00 and 18:30. Students are required to select a minimum of two activities each term; students on sports teams fulfill these requirements by attending two weekly practices, but they have the option to take part in other activities as well.



SPORTS TEAMS

- Cross Country
- Rowing
- Snowboarding/Skiing
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Tennis

CLUBS

- Community Service
- Event Planners
- Environmental Club
- Model United Nations
- National Honor Society
- Student Council

ACTIVITIES

- Aerobics
- Astronomy
- Badminton
- Climbing
- Computer Coding
- CrossFit Workout
- Dance
- Floor Hockey
- Gardening
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Martial Arts
- Squash
- Yoga



Travel & Culture

EXCURSIONS

The Student Life Office offers excursions almost every weekend. Students who choose to take part in these trips are chaperoned by faculty and destinations include visits to cities such as Montreux, Lausanne, and Geneva, or outings to the local thermal baths, Geneva car show, Red Cross museum, or traditional Swiss festivals.

Students looking for an exciting or challenging weekend may prefer the trips to Aquaparc, hiking in the Alps, whitewater rafting, or paintballing. In the winter, skiing and snowboarding trips are also organized to Verbier, Zermatt, and other resorts. Students are allowed free time during these excursions but must check in regularly and have their phones with them at all times.

STUDENT TRAVEL WEEKENDS

Students in grades 7, 8, and 9 are able to travel on weekends if they are picked up and dropped off back at school by parents or a family member. We encourage our younger students to use weekend leave time to visit their families and friends and recharge. As much as this opportunity is beneficial to our students, it is also an excellent chance for their parents to reconnect with them and hear more about their time at LAS.

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are allowed to travel independently on designated 'open' weekends, but certain conditions must be met and parental permission given. This is a chance for students to exercise their independence firsthand and take responsibility for themselves over the weekend. Students can use this time to experience new cities in Europe and learn about new cultures and history.



School-sponsored excursions



Opportunities for independent travel





LAS SUMMER IN SWITZERLAND

Students don't need to wait for the academic year to experience LAS—the summer of 2018 saw the launch of our two new and dynamic summer programs, LAS summer and LAS edge®. We have been running summer programs since 1949 and our new programs combine all the tried and true elements of camp our students have come to know and love with some exciting, innovative changes.

LAS summer

LAS summer allows students to create a program that is tailored to their personal interests and aspirations. Students select from a Language, Academic, or Sports morning program, which is followed by clubs, afternoon activities, and evening socials.

LAS summer edge®

LAS summer edge® highlights our mission statement of “developing innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.” Each week of edge explores one of these traits in depth and invites students to participate in fun activities that are designed to push their limits.



summer@las.ch



las.ch/summer

Start Your Journey



Inquire Today

Email us at
admissions@las.ch.



LAS Near You

We have representatives
around the world.



Application Process

We have an easy online
application process at
www.las.ch.



Travel to LAS

Visit our beautiful campus
in the Swiss Alps.



Acceptance & Enrollment

Acceptance decision is
given within 10 days of
submitting an application.



Experience LAS

Begin your journey
with us.





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