

ANNUAL REPORT

SY2022-23




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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

VISION STATEMENT

ISL is a leader in international education, known for academic excellence, personal development, extraordinary teaching, and diverse learning experiences.

Our school shall bring to life the best of Luxembourg and international education – **creativity, innovation, inclusion, global-mindedness and sustainability.**

Dear ISL Community,
The 2022-23 school year was another successful year for the International School of Luxembourg with many notable achievements that serve as a source of pride. Now in my third year at ISL, I continue to feel grateful to be part of this learning community. Indeed, there are many reasons to love ISL. The faculty and staff are extraordinarily capable and dedicated to their students, the facilities and programmes are first-rate, and we enjoy a very international, inclusive, and supportive community. But the students here at ISL are the greatest source of inspiration. They are bright, articulate, caring, curious and, like their teachers, enormously talented.

They are also willing to stand up for what they believe in. Two student groups appeared before the Board of Governors in 2022-23 to advocate for causes about which they are passionate. First, a group of 11th graders spoke about the need for the school to become more environmentally sustainable; they were awarded a Student Innovation Grant to set up a system to monitor our school's performance on a wide range of sustainability metrics. These students subsequently worked with a group of 5th graders who were also passionate about the environment and then these 5th graders appeared before the Board to advocate for the installation of solar panels on our rooftops. That installation is taking place now. At ISL, promoting student agency is a top priority.

Another notable achievement of 2022-23 was the Board of Governors approval of the new Vision Implementation Plan (which we refer to as "the VIP"). Consisting of three key

strategies—Learning that Matters; Inclusive, Connected Community; and Sustainable Well-being—the VIP charts the course of school improvement over the next five years. It includes such goals as gaining authorisation to offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP); providing students with an experiential education alternative to the IB Diploma Programme; establishing a sustainable transdisciplinary framework for nature-based learning; implementing comprehensive digital technology programmes; integrating more with the local Luxembourg community, and more. By the numbers, the Vision Implementation Plan comprises 3 Strategies, 9 Desired Results, and 13 Projects over the next 5 years. It is an ambitious plan, one that seeks to respond to the changing educational landscape while continuing to provide our students with the highest quality educational experience. We feel confident that the plan will help ensure that ISL remains at the forefront of international education.

The 2022-23 school year also marked a significant milestone with the official authorisation of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP), a key step in our strategy to become an authorised IB Continuum School. The IB continues to constitute the gold standard for international education worldwide, and we are pleased to increase our engagement with this organisation.

In truth, in 2022-23 there were too many achievements to be able to list all of them here. To name but a few more, in furtherance of our new Board Inclusion policy, we are developing programmes to strengthen the ISL community by advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) principles, establishing a scholarship programme for disadvantaged students, and implementing best practices for work-life balance.

A key risk for any high-performing international school is complacency. Some school communities question why they should change when things are going so well. At ISL, however, we embrace change, not for its own sake, but for the purpose of continuous innovation, improvement, and excellence. Consequently, the future of ISL looks bright.
Warm regards,

David J. Condon, PhD
Director

Brian Blanchard
Chair-Board of Governors

SCHOOL-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS



Lower School Theatre Programme

Using creativity to connect, engage and learn.

Grade 5 PYP Exhibition

Showcasing growth and our inspiring change-makers.

Lower and Upper School Library Renovations

A nurturing space to foster a life-long love of reading.

This year we continued to see big changes at ISL. Serving as our guides were six key messages:

- Child Centred
- Extraordinary Student Support
- Community Based School
- Beyond the Classroom
- Global Mindedness
- Outstanding Student Learning

ISL stands as one of the select international schools offering specialized Theatre courses in our Lower School, catering to students from grades 1 to 5. Utilizing the Primary Years Programme Drama Curriculum, our students collaboratively create theatre, become discerning audience members, and develop essential drama skills.

For instance, this year our Grade 1 students embarked on a journey to develop original characters and roles connected to their upcoming unit of inquiry on 'Sharing the Planet: Under the Sea.' They selected sea creatures as their characters and explored how body movements can enhance their performance. In front of the large theatre mirrors, they honed their acting skills. Their next project involves integrating real-world environmental issues into their drama choices.

In Upper Elementary, our students engaged in a thought-provoking exploration of various tactics to make people smile or laugh, as well as strategies to resist smiling or laughing at their peers. They skillfully integrated these tactics into their original scene writing, envisioning their dream roles in acting.

The pinnacle of our Grade 5 students' Primary Years of education is the PYP Exhibition. It is an inquiry-based journey where they delve into real-life issues that resonate with them. The exhibition serves as a testament to their growth, knowledge, and understanding of the world.

Our young scholars tackled an impressive

range of topics, from environmental sustainability to social justice, demonstrating their profound insights and unwavering passion to effect positive change in the world. These students have evolved into knowledgeable, reflective, and compassionate individuals, upholding the core principles of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP).

During the exhibition, parents, teachers, and guests were captivated by the articulate voices of our Grade 5 students. Their confidence in articulating ideas, supported by evidence, and their ability to think critically and express themselves eloquently was a source of immense pride for all. It was a powerful moment, bearing witness to their growth as effective communicators and lifelong learners.

Furthermore, both schools also witnessed substantial infrastructure upgrades in the form of library renovations, providing our students with enriched learning spaces and resources. A modern school library offers personalised, student-centred learning environments, provides scope for robust, collaborative learning experiences, taps into authentic interests, fosters a love of reading and increases student agency.

We were truly privileged to collaborate with Kevin Henna, an esteemed library designer hailing from Australia, in orchestrating the transformation of ISL's Upper and Lower School Libraries. A crucial facet of this redesign process was the active involvement of our parents and students.

Both libraries were thoughtfully conceived to harmonize with nature, embracing the essence of a "home-like" atmosphere. These serene and inviting spaces offer an ideal refuge for students seeking solace and tranquility, whether they're unwinding with a good book or immersing themselves in focused study.

As Margaret Fuller so aptly expressed, "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

SCHOOL-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, the Upper School and the wider ISL community have played a pivotal role in leading us towards the future.

Initiated in 2022, the Symposium is a series of semi-structured conversations focused on the school's future. It explores how we can adapt to the changing educational landscape and further establish ISL as the preferred international school in Luxembourg. The goal is to empower community members to share their perspectives and actively participate in shaping ISL's future.

During a panel discussion on the topic of "Student Success," students, parents, and community members came together to explore the various interpretations of this term across different individuals and cultures. The panel members and the audience had the opportunity to share their views.

"AI and the Future of Learning" drew nearly 200 attendees to a thought-provoking discussion about the impact of AI on learning across various settings. Among the six panel members, Dr. Sherriden Masters, our Director of Educational Technology, eloquently discussed the potential of AI in advancing more human-centered practices and organizations. He expressed confidence in our collective ability to adapt and thrive in the face of the changes AI will bring.

Another guiding principle toward the future is the idea that we are all global caretakers of our world. With this in mind, Grade 11 students organized the Big ISL Show, resurrecting it after a four-year hiatus. The evening showcased a diverse array of talents from both students and staff members.

Through student initiatives and the remarkable performances, funds were raised for ISL Relief Aid. The night was a significant success, with all proceeds dedicated to Disaster Relief Efforts in Türkiye and Syria.

In February 2023, ISL hosted the inaugural

NECIS Creative Arts Festival, which brought together students and teachers from seven international schools. The event aimed to achieve three main objectives: Connect, Collaborate, and Create.

Upon arrival, students were divided into groups of around ten and tasked with creating artworks based on the theme "strength through diversity, power through unity." Each group included students from different grades and creative disciplines, fostering collaboration and cross-curricular learning. Two teachers from distinct art disciplines provided guidance and support throughout the two-day process.

The festival provided an excellent opportunity for students to network with peers who shared similar interests and passions. Working within a limited time frame and a theme-based challenge, students gained a deeper understanding of the significance of diversity and unity in creating something powerful. They explored different mediums and styles, gained new perspectives, and built their confidence as artists.

Throughout the event, guest speakers and industry experts shared their journeys, inspiring students to pursue their own artistic passions. The final creations were unveiled at the end of the two days, showcasing the students' creativity, collaboration, and dedication to the theme. The organizers are incredibly proud of the students' achievements.

The event was a resounding success, paving the way for the 2024 festival. The positive feedback has encouraged the organizers to build on this year's accomplishments and create an even more engaging and impactful experience for participants in the next edition.

We look forward to the future, excited to see where these events will lead ISL. They not only celebrate new connections among students and the school but also foster collaboration within the broader Luxembourg community and beyond.



ISL Symposium

Tackling topics that will shape the future of ISL in the educational landscape



The Big Show

A student-led night of performances in support of the ISL Relief Aid fund



NECIS Creative Arts Festival

The first collaborative International Arts Festival using creativity to connect

PYP ACCREDITATION

IN 2023, ISL OFFICIALLY BECAME A FULLY ACCREDITED PYP SCHOOL

What is the PYP?

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is for children from 3-12 and nurtures and develops young students as caring, active participants in a lifelong journey of learning.

The PYP offers an inquiry based, transdisciplinary curriculum framework that builds conceptual understanding. It is a student centred approach to education, and reflects the best of education research, thought leadership and experience derived from IB world schools.

With the implementation of the PYP, all the wonderful initiatives already existing in the Lower School such as Outdoor Learning, Cultures of Thinking and our focus on Inquiry based learning will fit perfectly into the PYP framework. The additional benefits would allow us, as a school that has grown from a small school into a relatively large elementary school, to build further curriculum alignment as the children move from our 3 year old class right through until Grade 5. It also would connect the Lower School with thousands of other PYP schools worldwide allowing our teachers to be able to learn and share resources from colleagues all over the world.

Why is the PYP so valued?

In short, the Primary Years Programme (PYP) is not only an educational framework developed by the International Baccalaureate (IB) for students aged 3 to 12, but for your child, it means a holistic and inquiry-based ap-

proach to learning that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and global awareness.

The PYP emphasizes learning through collaboration where subjects are integrated, and students explore real-world issues. It promotes attributes like open-mindedness, empathy, and communication skills, nurturing well-rounded individuals.

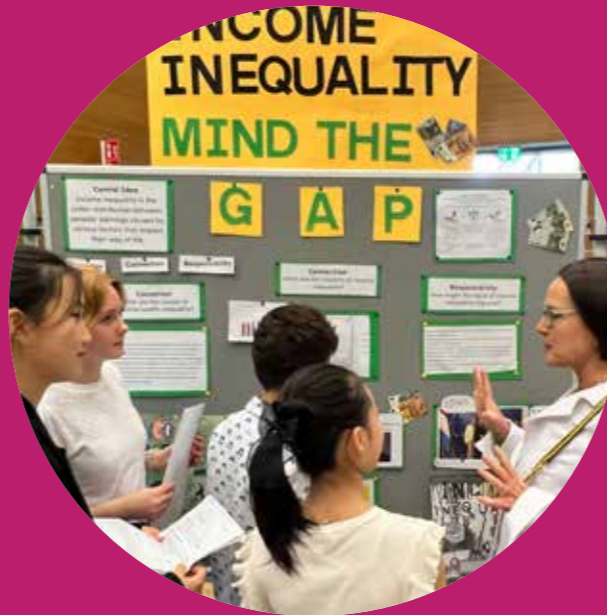
The PYP also encourages independent research, encouraging self-directed learners. Ultimately, it equips your child with a strong foundation, preparing them for further education and life beyond the classroom with a deep understanding of concepts and a love of learning.

What will our students gain from the PYP?

More passion in learning and personalised learning, developing important life skills and developing creative thinkers in an international and connected environment.

We're eager for the structured curriculum, ensuring students transition smoothly from grade to grade with shared expectations. This will create a common language for all of us, enhancing students' passion for learning, nurturing personalized education, life skills, and creativity. Real-world learning and international alignment open doors for collaboration with other schools and educators.

Beyond the school walls, it aligns us internationally, enabling the exchange of best practices. The program opens the door to exploring new approaches and expanding our curriculum to meet the demands of the 21st century effectively.



The PYP offers a well-defined yet open-ended framework, aligning with the idea that students are agents of their own learning and promoting concept-driven inquiry. This helps create a distinct identity for ISL within Luxembourg's international school landscape.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2022-23

*98% our student body successfully earned their IB diplomas with an average score of 34 points.

AUSTRALIA

Curtin University

BELGIUM

Vesalius College Brussels

CANADA

Concordia University
Humber College
ISART Institute
McGill University
University of Toronto

CYPRUS

University of Nicosia

DENMARK

European Film College
Technical University of Denmark
The Danish Royal Academy

FRANCE

American University of Paris
EDHEC Business School
ESCP Business School
ESSEC Business School
IFA
Paris College of Art
Science Po
Sorbonne
Université de Lyon

GERMANY

Carl Benz School of Engineering
Technical University of Munich
WHU-Otto Beisheim School of Management

IRELAND

Trinity College Dublin
University College Cork
University College Dublin

ITALY

Bocconi
Humanitas University
Università Bocconi
LUISS Guido Carli University
University of Turin

LITHUANIA

Riga Stradinš University

LUXEMBOURG

University of Luxembourg
Lunex University

PORTUGAL

University of Lisbon

SPAIN

Complutense University of Madrid
IE University
IED
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria
Universidad Europea de Madrid

SWITZERLAND

Università Della Svizzera Italiana

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam Fashion Institute
Delft University of Rotterdam
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Hague University of Applied Sciences
Leiden University
Maastricht University
Rotterdam School of Management
Tilburg University
TU Eindhoven
University of Amsterdam
University College Venlo
Utrecht University

TURKEY

Koç University

UNITED KINGDOM

Anglia Ruskin University
Aston University
Cambridge University
Cardiff University
City, University of London
King's College
Liverpool Hope University
Loughborough College

UNITED KINGDOM cont.

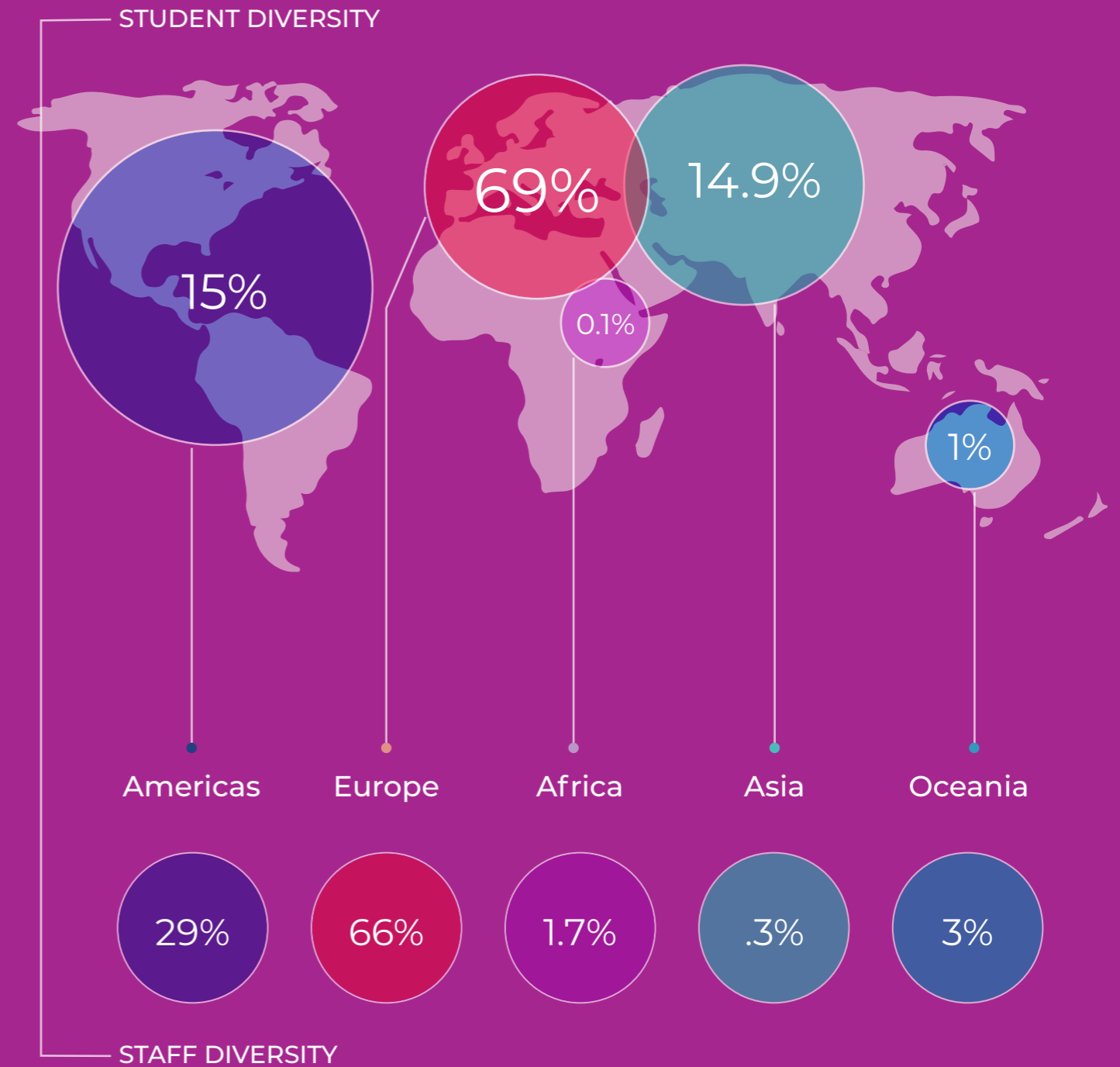
Newcastle University
University of York
Oxford University
The University of Law
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
University College London
University of Bath
University of Cambridge
University of Exeter
University of Kent
University of Manchester
University of Salford
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of the Arts London
University of Warwick
University of Westminster
University of York

UNITED STATES

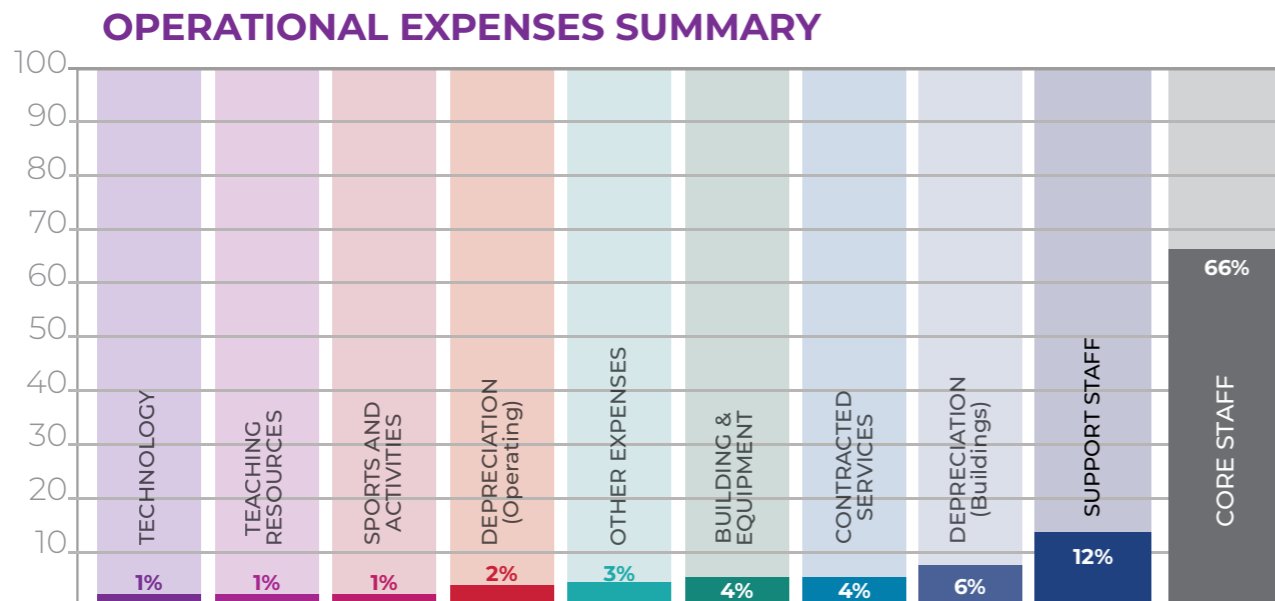
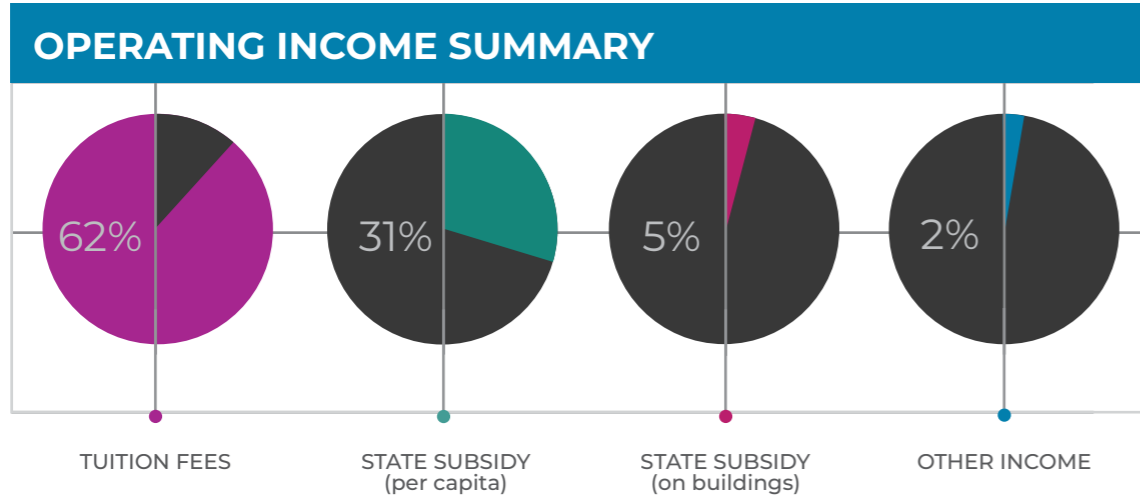
Bentley University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Chapman University
Duke University
Emerson College
Fordham University
Georgia State University
Harvard University
James Madison University
Lesley University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Pomona University
Saint Michael's University
Santa Barbara City College
Stanford University
The New School
University of Texas at Austin
University of Washington Seattle Campus
Washington University of St. Louis

*Global average 30 points /
Global pass rate 79%

NATIONALITIES



FINANCIALS



OPERATIONS	
INCOME	
Tuition Fees	23.005.575
State Subsidy per cap.	12.027.873
Entry Fees-EAL	0
State Subsidy/Building	1.813.165
School Growth Fund/Entry Fees	1.132.765
Interest on Bank	102.498
Other Income	192.067
Total Income	38.273.943
EXPENSES	
Payroll and Related	29.708.549
Contracted Services	1.376.063
Legal/Professional Services	264.924
Sports/Student Activities	267.795
Instructional Resources	405.455
Supplies/Postage	138.937
Community Relations	128.687
Technology	543.037
Building Expenses	1.583.141
Interest on Building Financing	93.226
Other Expenses	689.977
Total Expenses	35.199.791
SUB-TOTAL	3.074.152
Operation Depreciation (incl IT)	632.684
Building Depreciation	2.265.431
Total Costs	2.898.115
TOTAL	176.037*

Year end 30 June 2023

*Numbers have been rounded to the Euro

