



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
FLORENCE

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PROSPECTUS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FLORENCE

Internationally minded, *Uniquely Florentine*

Last Edited - 9 October 2023



WELCOME

SHARYN BADDELEY, HEAD OF SCHOOL

At ISF we are committed to providing a safe and intellectually challenging environment that will empower students to become innovative thinkers, creative problem solvers and inspired learners.

Students at ISF are provided with many opportunities to thrive, have success and most importantly to feel part of a large family that is full of love and happiness.

At ISF students discover their strengths, passions and their love of learning. Our parents are an important part of why ISF is so successful as a school. We work in close partnership with each other, helping to develop the habits of the mind and heart that will form future engaged and thoughtful global citizens.

Our programs have been designed around the contemporary needs of children, ensuring the breadth and richness of Italian culture is embedded in all that we do.

Our focus is on developing the whole child and providing many opportunities for them to grow, to be happy and to succeed. We balance education with leadership opportunities for students, involvement in physical, cultural and charitable activities, and the development of skills to make and sustain real life-long friendships.

We believe that all children thrive when they are engaged in a challenging academic program within a nurturing environment. At ISF we look forward to guiding and supporting every child on what will be a wonderful learning journey.



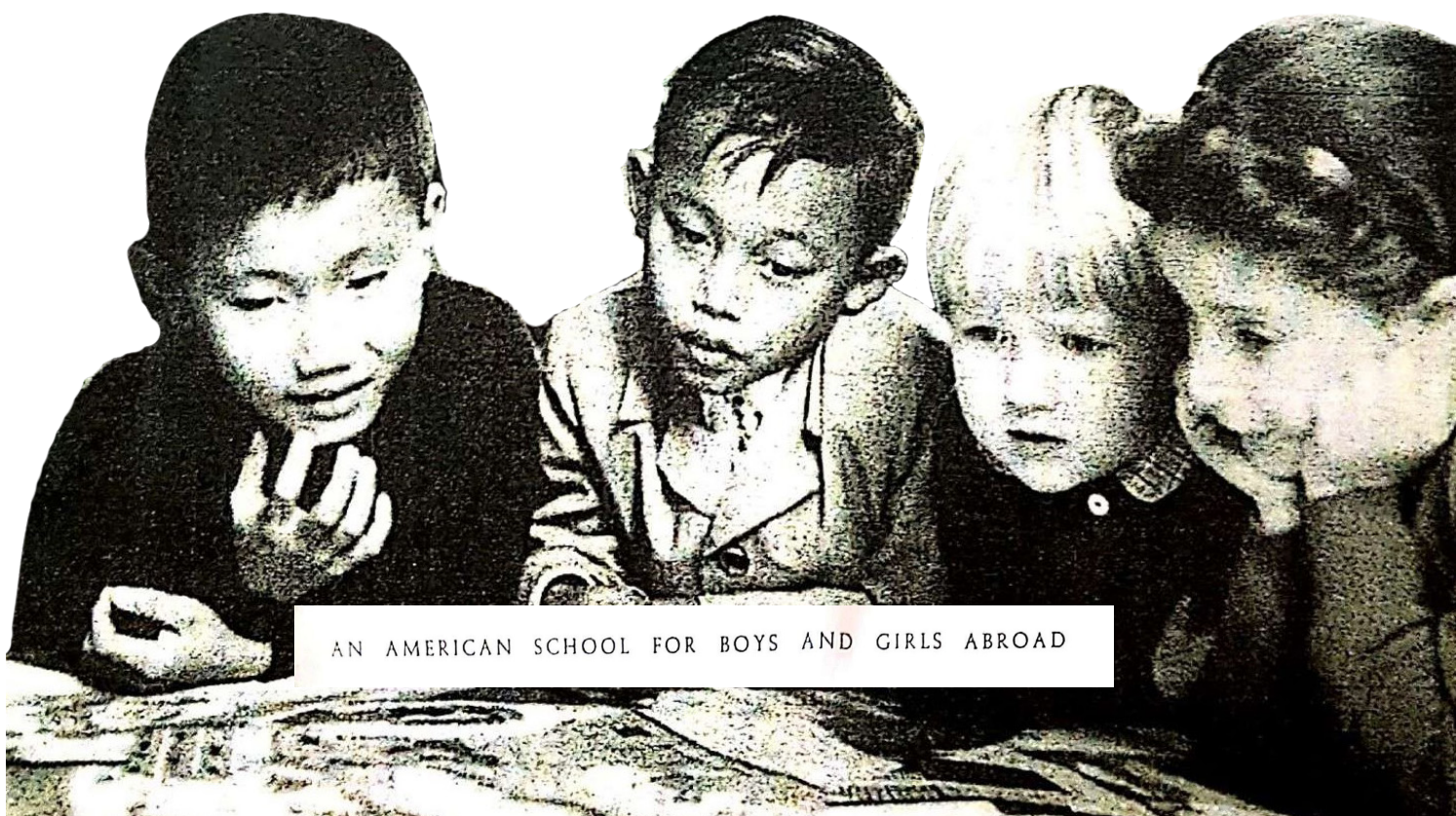
“Our programs have been designed around the contemporary needs of children, ensuring the breadth and richness of Italian culture is embedded in all that we do.”



FOUNDED IN 1952...

INTERNATIONALLY MINDED, UNIQUELY FLORENTINE

The International School of Florence began in 1952 under the name the Rome Tutoring Service, with 6 students. The school grew and relocated to Florence in 1963 and became known as the St. Michael's Country Day School. In 1968, the American International School of Florence was officially created and adopted the International Baccalaureate Programme. In 1980, the school moved to Villa Tavernule in Bagno a Ripoli, our current Junior School Campus, and 20 years later, in 2003, the Middle and High School moved to our current Upper School campus at Villa Torri di Gattaia, close to the famous Piazzale Michelangelo. Our history and close ties to the city of Florence give students a unique learning experience. Alumni regularly visit from around the world and offer advice and inspiration to current students.



AN AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS ABROAD



MISSION, VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

Our MISSION is to be a laboratory for learning where we collaborate to add meaning to a shared future. Our VISION is to aspire to build communities of makers and doers.

MEANINGFUL LEARNING AND STUDENT AGENCY

Cultivate growth through a meaningful and inspiring learning experience

- Provide relevant innovative methods of student and professional learning consistent with inquiry
- Empower students to take ownership of their learning experiences
- Ensure that student wellbeing is at the core of our practices
- Promote and honor home language learning within our community
- Draw upon the unmatched learning opportunities of Florence
- Recognize the impact of our actions on our interdependent world and promote a culture of solidarity

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Further a virtuous culture of leadership and governance

- Ensure that whole-school structures and systems continue to reflect evolving international best practices
- Ensure that roles and responsibilities continue to be clear
- Harmonize internal strategies with external obligations
- Implement frameworks of self and collaborative appraisal

ENABLING CHANGE

Develop constituencies for change

- Develop a culture of participation to define the direction of the change demanded by our Mission and Vision
- Ensure regular and purposeful communication regarding changes and their benefits

CONNECTING WITH PURPOSE

Communicate and reflect our unique, shared identity and connect effectively with local and international partners

- Communicate our shared identity effectively
- Develop a strategic marketing plan that addresses the aspirations of the school
- Cultivate dynamic relationships with local, national, and global partners

FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Build sustainable financial and risk frameworks to ensure achievement of strategic intents

- Implement and monitor a long-range budgeting process
- Ensure the cost efficient use of available resources
- Support the development of a variety of income streams
- Ensure that risk is effectively monitored and managed
- Ensure that all financial and risk management strategies and actions remain consistent with the Mission and Vision



STUDENT BODY

One of ISF's fundamental values is celebrating diversity. The International School of Florence hosts students from over 39 different countries, including;

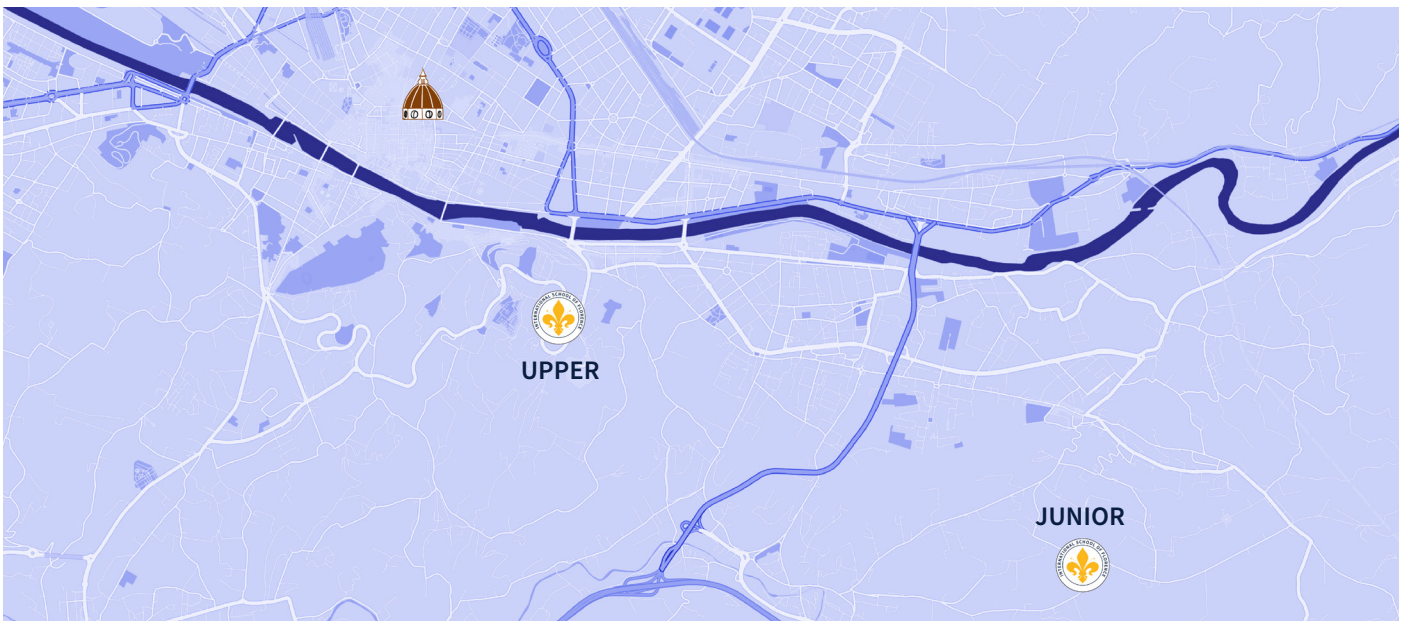
American, Argentinian, Australian, Austrian, Belgian, Brazilian, British, Canadian, Chinese, Colombian, Cypriot, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Mexican, Nigerian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, South African, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, Zimbabwean



40 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT ISF



JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS





UPPER SCHOOL CAMPUS

OUR CAMPUSES

JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPUS

The Junior School, for students in Preschool – Grade 5, is located in Villa le Tavernule in Bagno a Ripoli, about a 20 minute drive from the center of Florence. The villa was restored to accommodate classrooms, specialist areas, the Horace W. Gibson Aula Magna and the Paul Burke-Mahoney Library. The formal garden has a breath-taking view of the Tuscan countryside. The rural setting of this campus makes it easy to incorporate nature studies into its Units of Inquiry in the Primary Years Program (PYP). This campus has an all weather sports field, two playgrounds and a dedicated play area for the Early Years and Foundation classes.

UPPER SCHOOL CAMPUS

The Middle and High Schools are housed in Villa Torri di Gattaia, a five minute walk from the famed Piazzale Michelangelo with its unique view over the city of Florence. The villa is immersed in the nearby countryside and is just 10 minutes from the historical center of Florence. The villa is situated in a setting of formal gardens, and its facilities include a covered terrace/lunch room, an Aula Magna, classrooms, the science wing, the art studio, and a two-tiered, wireless access library. A large sports complex, Olympus, hosts the ISF Physical Education program, which is within easy walking distance from the school.



OUR FACULTY

Our faculty reflect our values – multicultural, multilingual and passionate about learning! ISF faculty members arrive from more than 14 different countries. Over 75% are bi- or trilingual. All are experts in their field and committed to our mission of providing a caring learning environment, while engaging and challenging students to reach their best.



STUDENT SUCCESS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FLORENCE MAY 2023 RESULTS



COLLEGE COUNSELING

The prospect of leaving school and starting a new chapter is both exciting and daunting, and students at ISF have a wide array of options in their future. At ISF we have an experienced college counselling team who can help to deal with the complexities of the college admissions process. We are also a registered SAT Center. Students who are preparing for university applications will be able to sit their SAT (if required) directly at ISF. We also provide the PSAT to students in Grade 11 once a year.

UNIVERSITY CHOICES

Our graduates usually apply to schools all over the world, although recently the most highly requested countries have been the USA, UK, Netherlands and Italy.

The IB Diploma allows our students to apply to any university, including universities in Italy due to an accord with the Italian Ministry of Education.

RECENT UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES

Italy: Bocconi University, Università Cattolica, Unifi, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, LUISS

USA: Georgetown University, New York University, Berklee College of Music, University of Texas San Antonio, Northwestern University, University of Southern California, SUNY Dutchess, Yale University, Oklahoma State University, University of California Berkeley, Marymount Manhattan College, Butler University, Hofstra University, Loyola Marymount University, Pace University,

UK: University of York, Imperial College London, City University of London, UCL, University of Bath, Bath Spa University, University of Arts London, University of Manchester, Regents University, University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, University of Southampton,

International: University of Toronto, Franklin University, American University of Paris, ESCP Business School, LUISS, Maastricht University



BROWN



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE



University of Glasgow



Maastricht University



McGill UNIVERSITY



NYU



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



Stanford University



UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA del Sacro Cuore



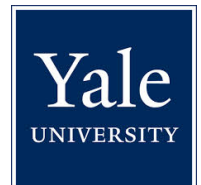
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



TRINITY UNIVERSITY



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In order to develop students' abilities to connect their learning to the world around them, we have an integrated program of excursions and projects that take full advantage of our amazing location in the city of Florence. Learning beyond the classroom takes place at all levels of the school, through the inquiry - based approach of the Primary Years Programme, to Middle School interdisciplinary projects and High School subject-specific areas of focus.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT PROGRAMS

Our Physical Education and Sport approach across both the Junior and Upper Schools is inclusive of all students and has the fundamental aim of helping students find a sport or physical activity that enriches their lives and enables them to play at the highest level. Our Competitive Sports Program aims to provide opportunities for all our students to get involved in sports and develop important values such as teamwork, sportsmanship, resilience, and honesty.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We are committed to educating the whole person. A wide array of extracurricular opportunities is offered as a complimentary service to students from Foundation to Grade 5. Through the ISF Junior School ECA program the children are provided with the chance to try new things, develop their individual interests and discover their passions. Qualified professionals are selected from the community and brought in to offer a variety of after school activities which encourage creativity and promote curiosity and self-expression. At the Upper School, ISF students engage in a plethora of academic and athletic extracurricular activities during their lunch periods as well as after school. We believe in the value of nurturing a student's well-roundedness. and aim to offer activities and opportunities to both entice and challenge our students. Some activities run throughout the year, but many change each term, allowing students to try out something new.

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“Active students make for great learners, and the school greatly values the impact of daily physical activity on the students' growth as individuals.”

—
Stefano Frigerio
Competitive Sport Coordinator





COMMUNITY SERVICE

ISF empowers students to take ownership of their learning experiences, by reflecting on how they can contribute to a better, more peaceful, more sustainable world. Students at all grade levels explore community service opportunities.

CAS at ISF recognises that learning that happens outside a classroom, through the three strands of CAS, whether through acting in a musical (Creativity) playing sport (Activity) or working with refugee communities (Service), is just as important as what happens inside. CAS supports both personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning.

CREATIVE ARTS

In Florence, art, history and inspiration are around every corner. As creators and doers, engaging in the Arts encourages students to be critical thinkers and look at the world from different perspectives. We aim to equip students with a skills base that allows them to express and share ideas in new and interesting ways. We focus on encouraging students to go out into the world with confidence in their creative ideas, able to communicate with others in a transformative and compassionate way that promotes well-being and empowers them to be change makers of the future.

CANTABILE CHOIR

The ISF Cantabile is a representative school choir. Its mission is to inspire through music. It is a choral program for voice-gifted students learning the importance of dedication, self-mastery, teamwork, community spirit, analytical thinking, confidence, focus and discipline.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh Program is an initiative that promotes experiential learning and personal growth by immersing students in outdoor activities, exploration, skill development, and volunteerism. It's a holistic approach that complements classroom learning and nurtures well-rounded and self-confident individuals.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ISF is committed to staff professional development and we have dedicated days throughout the year to support their pedagogical development. This includes learning from internal and external speakers as well as visits to other International Schools in Italy and beyond. We have links with other schools and Universities and share best practices with colleagues from around the world.

We look forward every year to welcoming students into our vibrant ISF community.