



La Scuola International School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

This document outlines La Scuola's beliefs, practices and roles regarding admissions of students. It should be read in conjunction with our Student and Family Handbook, Personnel Handbook, and other Learning Policies: Language, Inclusion, Assessment, and Academic Integrity.

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indicated that they want to be in the wait pool will be contacted immediately and offered a space at that time. If you wish to be considered for the following year, you need to apply again with your updated contact and schedule information, and indicate which program you are interested in for the following year.

Tuition Affordability

At La Scuola, we strive to make our school and our program as accessible as possible. La Scuola offers sliding scale tuition, which is currently used by 30% of families.

2024-25 Sliding Scale Tuition Policy and Guidelines

The purpose of La Scuola's Sliding Scale Tuition program is to provide financial assistance to families who cannot afford the full cost of tuition. Sliding scale tuition is available for Grandi (3-4 years old), Grandissimi (4-5 years old), and Kindergarten - Grade 8. Diversity enriches the educational opportunity for all families, and participation by a wide range of families is critical to an inclusive school such as La Scuola. Sliding scale tuition is offered on the basis of the demonstrated financial need of the family. Grants are awarded to families according to their level of need as determined by the Independent School Management Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST) Program, which provides objective, third-party financial needs assessments, and La Scuola's Tuition Committee. There are no merit-based awards.

All information from FAST is kept in strict confidence, as is all information relating to a family's tuition sliding scale request. Final sliding scale tuition decisions are based on the recommendations from FAST, the committee's assessment of applicants' needs, and the budgeted funds available. Unfortunately, there is always a greater demand for sliding scale tuition than there are resources. Information reviewed by the Tuition Committee and discussions within committee meetings are strictly confidential.

In accordance with equal opportunity standards, sliding scale tuition awards are made without regard to a student's race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender identification, sexual identification, family composition, disability, or age and in compliance with existing State and Federal laws or regulations.

La Scuola International School is an independent non-profit school that meets the charitable and educational definitions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Tax Identification Number: 56-2293184). As such, La Scuola receives no funding from State or Federal sources.

Summer Session

The decision to offer a Summer session is made by the Board of Directors each year and admission is not linked to the academic year admissions process. Summer enrollment is strictly first come-first served. Current students are given priority for admission to the Summer session, and then we open it up to the wider community.

Italian Language Immersion

La Scuola is committed to creating an environment in which Italian is used by children and teachers alike.

We encourage:

- Children to begin in our 2-3 year old program.
- Parents who speak Italian to commit to using Italian as much as possible when away from school.
- Parents who do not speak Italian to take beginner Italian courses, offered at other schools we collaborate with, in order to reinforce children's use of Italian.

You do not need to speak Italian at home in order for your child to attend La Scuola.

Bay Area Directors of Admission (BADA) – Principles of Good Practice

La Scuola is a member of the Bay Area Directors of Admission (BADA), which is a collaboration of Bay Area independent school admission officers whose members meet twice a year to establish common admission dates, educate new members, and discuss current issues in the Bay Area independent school admissions process. In an effort to best serve students and families during the admission process, the Bay Area Directors of Admission developed a set of Principles of Good Practice. These Principles encourage mutual respect among the member schools and support practices, activities, and events that are student-centered, family friendly and age appropriate for our applicants. The Bay Area Directors of Admission believe that you deserve to be apprised of these Principles of Good Practice; a summary of the Principles is therefore listed below.

BADA Mission Statement

The Bay Area Directors of Admission (BADA) group exists to support families and schools in the admission process by promoting best practices, coordinated timelines, and open

communication. Members agree to collaborate in the process of implementing best practices that support smooth, respectful and predictable admission experiences for both families and schools. Membership is open to independent schools in the Bay Area that share and agree to practice the mission of BADA by living the guidelines of best practices, adherence to protocols and deadlines, and maintaining open communication. On behalf of each respective Bay Area independent school, the Bay Area Directors of Admission agree...

- To use common dates for the mailing of decision letters and contracts.
- To accept the "Common Confidential Student Evaluation" forms.
- To attend one regional meeting (BADA, DASBP, etc.) at least every two years.
- To fund prospective students according to their demonstrated need using consistent guidelines for financial aid and as a school's funds allow.
- To observe "Quiet Week." "Quiet Week" is the week prior to the contract deadline. During this week schools agree not to initiate contact with families, but rather to allow parents to focus on the decision-making process. Parents may, of course, initiate contact with schools. "In accordance with the Principles of Good Practice of Bay Area Directors of Admission, no member of community will initiate contact with you prior to the contract deadline. Bay Area Directors of Admission have agreed that this is a decision-making time for your family."
- To act collegially, in the interest of families, upon learning that a student at one independent school applies to another independent school.
- To honor each child and family as unique and work to make the mission of the school clear so that families and schools work together to find the best possible match.
- To represent their schools ethically and professionally, as well as speak with integrity in reference to other schools and educational institutions.
- To offer a place to a student from another BADA school only after receiving an official transcript and confidential student evaluation form from the student's current school.

Source: Independent Schools of the San Francisco Bay Area, www.issfba.org.

Policy Revision Procedures

This document undergoes regular reviews involving educators, administrators, and other stakeholders. The date of the most recent review was March-May 2024, the participants included our PYP and MYP Coordinators, Pedagogical Leadership Team, and our teaching staff. The date of the next review will be February 2025 to ensure ongoing relevance and effectiveness. The policy will be submitted for board approval once a year,

in the spring. However, there might be minor changes between approval times to clarify any points when needed. Additionally, parts of the Family and Student Handbook, as well as the Personnel Handbook that are pertinent to this policy, might be added or linked to this policy, if considered to be relevant and improve ease of reference and transparency in our processes.