



2024-2025

YEAR IN REVIEW

OSLO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL





Leadership reflections



from our Board Chair

Dear OIS Community,

As we conclude another successful year at Oslo International School, I am pleased to present the 2024–25 Year in Review. The pages that follow reflect a year of continued growth, achievement, and meaningful moments in our school's ongoing story.

This year saw Thale Herbertson join the OIS community as our new Head of School. It has been my pleasure to support her in settling into the leadership of the school, and I am deeply grateful for her seamless transition into the role, ensuring continued momentum and stability across our community.

This year also marked two significant accreditation milestones at OIS, reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence. These presented us with an opportunity to assess ourselves against international standards and it comes as no surprise that our community of tenacious students, inspiring staff and engaged families surpassed the expectations set out for us.

Following the CIS-NEASC Preparatory Evaluation visit, OIS was granted candidate status for CIS and NEASC re-accreditation and approved to pursue a Pathway 2 deep-dive self-study in learning and teaching. The visiting evaluators commended "the school's alignment with its guiding values, strategic investment in staffing and leadership, effective board collaboration, the development of high-quality facilities, and importantly, its caring and collaborative school culture."

Our IB Diploma Programme Evaluation Visit also concluded with highly encouraging feedback. The evaluating team celebrated the school's impressive development over the course of the five-year cycle, praising particularly the "school's academic atmosphere and the strong, supportive relationships between students and staff."

These external reviews are an opportunity to celebrate the exceptional achievements of OIS students, the hard work laid down by the teachers and the community fostered with our supportive families. To be a highly successful international school, you must create a highly supportive community, one that creates a sense of belonging. This is what encourages many foreign nationals like me, living in Norway; international families and internationally minded Norwegians to choose our school. The opportunity it provides to be immersed in a globally focused, multicultural environment whilst being prepared for incredible opportunities with its academic rigour, all underpinned by our shared values, is what makes OIS the special place it is.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with Thale as I look ahead to my fifth year serving on the OIS Board of Trustees. I am confident we will see the school reach new heights whilst retaining the care at its core.

I hope you enjoy this Year in Review as much as I do. Thank you for being part of our community and our achievements this past year.

Sincerely,

Paul Jenkins

and from our Head of School



The Year in Review attempts to do a very ambitious thing: to capture in its relatively few pages, the essence of the year gone by at Oslo International School.

To a large extent, it succeeds. Within its pages, you will see academic excellence; learning happening beyond the classroom; the richness of our sporting and after-school activities programme. You will see students giving back to their local and global community; cultural celebrations; community engagement and student leadership. All this provides an excellent snapshot of the highly successful school year that 2024-2025 has been. Looking back on my first year serving this wonderful institution, this review reminds me of just how much we have achieved.

What it perhaps cannot capture is how we have achieved it. How do young people from sixty-three different nations gather in little Oslo to learn, play and grow so beautifully together? This is where our values and the people who embody them come into play.

Our community is built on a strong foundation of care, respect, collaboration and innovation. It is this foundation that drives our success, that makes us able to strive for excellence and improvement, to learn from mistakes and failures and to move forward together. But values cannot exist if people do not live them. This is the real strength at the core of the OIS community – the people who are deeply caring and continuously collaborative.

As a new member of this community, that was what stood out to me. It is also what stood out to the evaluation visitors we have hosted this year, and it is what new families consistently remark upon. Our students, staff and families care deeply, and that is the secret to our success.

I hope you are able to feel that care, our essence, as you read these pages.

Warmly,

Thale Herbertson





International Benchmarks

Outstanding Results

OIS combines a holistic approach to education with a strong commitment to academic excellence.

We are focused on delivering a rigorous and well-rounded education that cultivates deep understanding, critical thinking, and a strong foundation across disciplines. Our emphasis on high standards and continuous improvement ensures that students are not only well-prepared for the future, but also consistently perform at levels comparable to those in the world's top schools.



International Schools Assessment (ISA)

Our commitment to academic growth and achievement was clearly reflected in this year's International Schools Assessment (ISA), which involved over 60,000 students from more than 60 countries. OIS students achieved outstanding results across all tested year levels, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

- **Year 4** students performed a full level above the international average.
- **Year 6** students attained reading scores comparable to those typically seen in Year 8—two grades higher than their current level!
- Over 80% of students demonstrated mastery in mathematics, with those in Years 4 and 6 also outperforming global peers in writing.
- **Years 8 and 10** students scored at or above the international median across all domains, with particularly strong results in mathematical literacy and reading.

These outcomes reflect synergy between the high quality of teaching, student motivation, and strong family support at OIS.





International Baccalaureate

OIS continues to excel in the **International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme**—one of the world's most challenging and rigorous pre-university pathways.

For five consecutive years, OIS maintained a 100% pass rate. These consistent results underscore our commitment to academic excellence and university preparedness on a global scale. In 2024, our results were as follows:

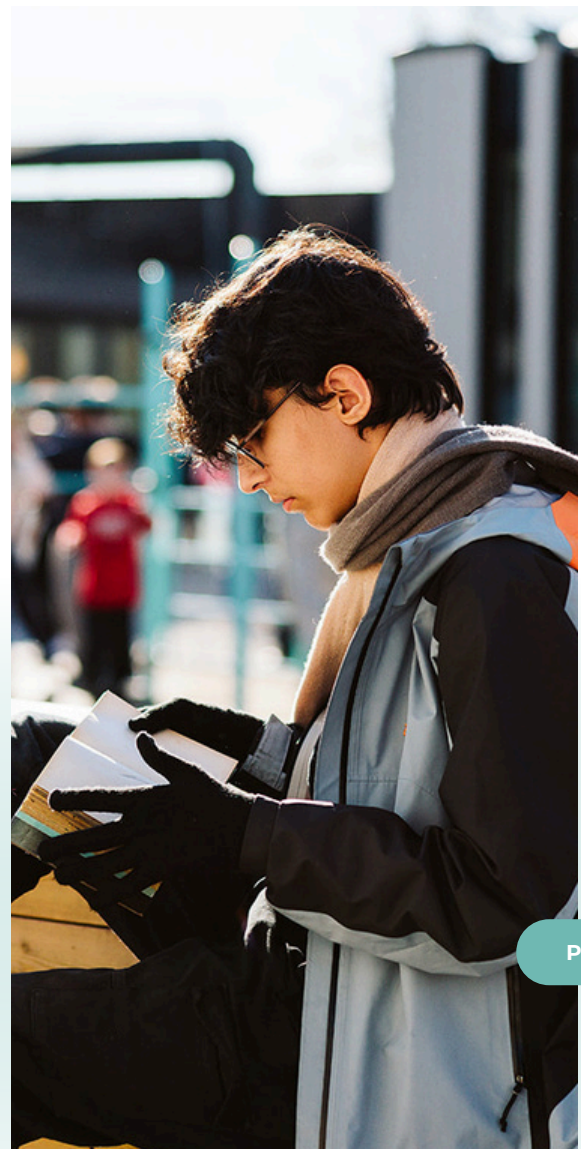
- 97% of OIS students passed their IB exams, compared to a global pass rate of 80.1%.
- The highest individual score at OIS was 44 out of a possible 45 points.
- The average OIS score was 37 points, significantly higher than the global average of 30.3 points.

These results reflect our students' academic readiness to succeed at top universities around the world.

National Tests

Around 60,000 students across Norway are tested each year in the **Nasjonalprøver**. Three year levels are part of this cohort, and they typically demonstrate high achievement across all subjects.

- **Year 5:** All students achieved the highest mastery level in English, well above national averages. In Mathematics, 67% of students reached the top level (Level C), compared to just 24% nationally. In Norwegian reading, results were also strong, with 83% of students achieving at or above the national average.
- **Year 8:** In Norwegian, 56% of our students were in the top level (5) compared to 8% nationally and 12% in Bærum. In Numeracy, 44% of our students were in the top level (5) compared to 7% nationally and 14% in Bærum. In English, 44% of our students were in the top level (5) compared to 11% nationally and 16% in Bærum.
- **Year 9:** In Norwegian, 60% of our students were in the top level (5) compared to 18% nationally and 31% in Bærum. In Numeracy, 47% of our students were in the top level (5) compared to 16% nationally and 25% in Bærum.





Academic Competitions

From Problem Solvers to Policy Makers

Mathematics: Rising to the Challenge

Mathematics stands out as a key area of excellence at OIS, where students consistently embrace challenge and demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills. This year, their impressive performances in both national and international competitions highlighted not only their talent, but also the quality of our mathematics programme.

In the **Abel Maths Competition**, 23 of our 38 entrants placed in Norway's top 30%.

- Two Year 9 students advanced to Round 2, with one earning the school's highest score.
- Of the 2,700 contestants, six from OIS ranked among the top 100 nationally—including two in the top 20.
- One IB1 student tied for 2nd place in Norway, and a Year 9 student placed 17th, both earning invitations to the Nordic Nations Mathematical Contest.

The **Kenguru International Maths Challenge** involved over 15,000 students across 90+ countries.

Impressively, OIS students ranked in Norway's top 10 in every participating year level.

- Four students achieved perfect scores, placing joint 1st nationally.
- Years 5 and 6 ranked among the highest-scoring cohorts in the country.

In **Maths Quest**, a competition that requires collaboration and strategic thinking, Year 6 students competed against international schools from across Europe & Middle East.

- OIS students achieved 4th and 11th places in the individual competition.
- In the team round, our students placed 5th.





Science Olympiads: National Recognition

Our students showcased their scientific talent and determination in four national science olympiads, competing with distinction among the country's top young minds.

- **Physics Olympiad:** Two students reached the final, with one receiving an honourable mention. Five students qualified for Round 2 of the **Astronomy & Astrophysics Olympiad**.
- **Chemistry Olympiad:** Three students advanced to Round 2. One student—a year younger than most competitors—earned the joint 3rd highest national score.
- **Biology Olympiad:** Of 1000+ competitors, three students placed in the top 15%, with two advancing to the national final.

Model United Nations: Diplomacy in Action

Model United Nations continues to be a powerful platform for developing leadership, critical thinking, and global awareness—qualities our students continue to demonstrate in full.

- At **PrusMUN in Warsaw**, fifteen Pre-IB students engaged in high-level debates on global challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and humanitarian aid. Their preparation, policy writing, and public speaking stood out, culminating in impactful resolutions.
- At **SCANDMUN in Stavanger**, first-time delegates explored complex issues like the crisis in Myanmar and digital freedom. They impressed with their diplomacy, coalition-building, and commitment to tackling real-world problems.



Community at our Heart

Care, Community and Creativity

Supporting Every Student

At OIS, we believe that a thriving school community begins with the well-being of each individual. Building on our strong foundation of care and support, we integrated care initiatives more intentionally into daily life this year.

In Primary and Lower Secondary, an increase in parent forums created space for more meaningful conversations on topics such as screen time and mental health, helping families navigate the challenges of growing up in a digital age. In Upper Secondary, new wellbeing sessions were introduced to help students manage academic pressures while prioritising self-care, balance, and resilience.



Celebrating Culture & Global Identity

At OIS, internationalism is not just a principle—it is a lived experience, reflected in our diverse community and celebrated through cultural exchange,

- **UN Day** brought our community together through cultural workshops, international food tastings, an assembly and a 63-nation flag parade.
- On Norway's **Constitution Day**, Primary students marked the occasion with songs, folk dances, speeches, and a festive parade—as well as a visit from the beloved ice-cream van!
- Our enthusiastic parent community organised several **Cultural Festivals**, including hand and face painting during *Holi*, the Hindu Festival of Colours.
- Highlighting the enduring spirit of international friendship, Oslo city's ceremonial **Christmas Tree Cutting** was a proud moment for our Year 5 students, who helped fell the giant spruce destined for Trafalgar Square in the UK.



Student Voices

Our students collaborate and lead with intention, taking ownership of events and initiatives that not only strengthen our community, but also help shape everyday school life. Here are just a few examples:

- Primary Student Council produced an **instructional video** to promote safe and responsible use of the new playground equipment.
- They also launched "**Pant for Playground**," a bottle-recycling initiative to support the development of a playground in Bobole, Mozambique.
- Lower Secondary Student Council sparked school spirit with a high-energy **Pep Rally**, uniting students across year levels.
- They also brought creativity and fun to the **Spring Dance**, featuring karaoke, limbo, and a beach-themed dress code.
- Upper Secondary Student Council led several initiatives, including securing the first ever dedicated student council budget, and launching a **Kind Words Campaign** to motivate IB2 students during exams.

Creative Expression

Creative expression is thriving at OIS, with students showcasing their talents through literature, performance, film, and visual arts.

- **Book Week** celebrated literacy through author visits, immersive student-led literature displays, an art competition and a successful book sale. These engaging experiences continue to cultivate a love of reading and storytelling across all age groups, while also encouraging creative expression through words and visuals.
- This year's school production, **Frozen Junior**, dazzled audiences with impressive performances and vibrant costumes.
- Creativity shone at the **Year 10 Film Festival**, where students premiered original one-minute films before an audience that included a professional filmmaker and creative director.
- IB2's **Visual Arts exhibition** drew admiration from students, staff, and parents, showcasing a diverse range of mediums, creativity, and personal expression.





Beyond the Classroom

Local and Global Adventures

At OIS, experiential learning is a core component of our educational approach—offering students valuable opportunities to step beyond the classroom and engage with the world around them.

Team Building in the Arctic: For the third consecutive year, students launched their IB Diploma journey with an unforgettable trip to the Lofoten Islands, where they surfed Arctic waves, hiked, and played football on one of the world's most iconic pitches.

Nature and Culture at Sologgen: Pre-IB students ventured to Sologgen for a week of hiking, caving, foraging—and cold-water plunges. They also explored local heritage through visits to the rock museum, stave church, and famed Lom bakery.

Language and Culture across Europe: From crepe-making in Brittany and kayaking in the fjords to interviewing pilgrims on the Camino, Year 10 language learners embraced France, Norway and Spain enthusiastically.

Adventure at Troll Aktiv: During their 5-day trip, Year 9 pushed their limits in thrilling activities like rafting, climbing, and mountain biking.



Sea School in Skottevik: Year 8 students spent an exciting week by the sea crab fishing, kayaking, and canoeing.

Winter Activities in Brennabu: Years 6-7 students embraced the Norwegian outdoors with skiing, snowshoe hiking, sledging, and high-wire traversing.

A Day in Parliament: Year 5 students had a glimpse of democracy in action, exploring Norway's Parliament, and meeting politicians, including former PM and NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg.

Biologists in Oslo: Year 3 students put their science skills into practice, observing animal and plant adaptations at the Oslo Reptile Park and Botanical Gardens.

History in Bygdøy: Year 4 students visited the Fram & Kon-Tiki museums after learning about the famous Norwegian polar explorers, Roald Amundsen & Fridtjof Nansen and the sea adventurer, Thor Heyerdahl.

Exploring in Nature: Pre-School and Lower Primary enjoyed scientific exploration outdoors, learning about local flora and fauna, and creating insect habitats and nature art.



Impact through Service Engagement

Citizenship and service are embedded in the OIS curriculum, with each year building on the last to deepen students' sense of responsibility and engagement. Through global citizenship and environmental stewardship, we prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the world beyond school.

Service Through Cultural Exchange: Thirteen IB1 students spent part of their spring break in Vietnam, giving back to the local community that warmly welcomed them. During their stay in Mai Châu, they fostered cross-cultural connections through cooking, dance, songs, and storytelling, while also dedicating several days to a road-building project, and trying their hand at rice planting with the local farmers..

Youth Representation and Advocacy:

The Amnesty Youth Group collected 600 petition signatures and wrote over 50 letters supporting global human rights cases. Students also attended a regional youth meeting at Amnesty's Oslo headquarters, and organised fund raising bake sales.

Upper Secondary students represented OIS at the OXLO Women's Conference, where they engaged with organisations focused on diversity, empowerment, and workforce inclusion.

Environmental Responsibility: We continued our fundraising efforts and collaboration with our partner non-profit organisation, *Clean Coast Anglers*. Students also learned about coastal conservation from an OIS alum, and took part in several clean-up initiatives, including one at Huk Beach. This particular project was a collaborative effort between Year 5 and IB2 students, highlighting student leadership and a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

Cross School Collaboration: Secondary students supported and engaged with Pre-School and Primary through other service initiatives such as *book buddies*, fostering empathy, leadership, and a strong sense of community within our school.

Community Service: The whole school got involved in a successful local food drive, collecting and delivering non-perishable goods—accompanied by handmade holiday cards created by Year 9 Visual Arts students—to *Fattighuset* in Oslo.



Sporting Spirit

Nordic International Schools League

From early morning training sessions to nail-biting tournament finishes, our students showed what it means to compete with determination and purpose in the Nordic International Schools League.

Football

OIS footballers enjoyed a season filled with exciting matches, strong performances, and standout results.

- The Senior Boys started the year in style, lifting a trophy after a commanding 9–1 win over Sandnes International School and a hard-fought 1–0 victory against Stavanger.
- In Stockholm, the Senior Girls triumphed in a dramatic penalty shootout to win their tournament, while the Senior Boys narrowly missed the final by just one goal.
- Closer to home, on Haslum turf, the Junior Boys secured a solid win, and the Junior Girls impressed with a strong performance to finish as tournament runners-up.



Basketball

This year's basketball season showcased our teams' growing confidence, teamwork, and skill, as they competed with skill and represented OIS with pride on and off the court.

- The Junior Boys went undefeated in Copenhagen, earning 1st place.
- The Senior Boys delivered key wins in Vilnius, reaching the bronze medal game.
- The Senior Girls completed their season in Stavanger, demonstrating growth and teamwork throughout.

Cross Country Running

OIS athletes showed determination and endurance as they competed in Nordic League cross country meets in Oslo and Asker, earning top finishes across multiple age groups.

With focus, resilience, and strong team spirit on display throughout the season, their efforts were rewarded with an impressive collection of medals.



Badminton

OIS badminton teams made impressive strides in this year's Nordic League Schools League competitions, showcasing determination, and growth.

- In Helsinki, the Senior Team delivered a strong performance, finishing as runners-up after a closely contested 4-3 final.
- Meanwhile, in Copenhagen, the Junior Team secured 3rd place, with many first-time players stepping up and showing great potential for the future.

Athletics

Whether sprinting on the track or cheering from the sidelines, our community enjoyed some healthy competition and camaraderie outside of the Nordic League.

Relays & Races

- Year 6 students proudly took part in Norway's nationwide *TINEstafetten*, one of the world's largest youth relay events. Joining over 100,000 students from grades 6 to 9 across more than 300 locations, they embraced the spirit of teamwork and friendly competition on the track.
- Meanwhile, OIS staff laced up for *Holmenkollstafetten*—the world's largest relay race—running alongside more than 70,000 participants through the streets of Oslo.





A Global Snapshot

Our School in Numbers

OIS is home to a vibrant student body representing over 60 nationalities, alongside a diverse teaching staff from more than 22 countries. This rich cultural mix creates a dynamic learning environment where students regularly engage with a wide range of perspectives and experiences. It also reflects our ongoing commitment to inclusion, mutual respect, and preparing students to navigate and contribute confidently in an interconnected, international world.

582

Total students

262

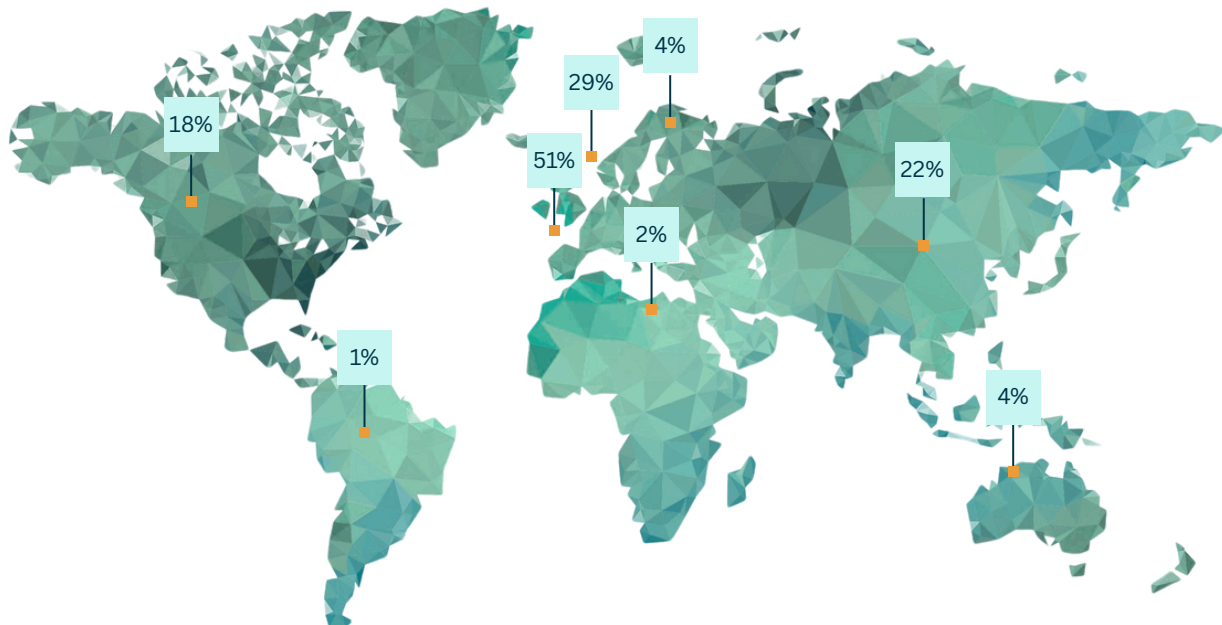
Pre-School & Primary

179

Lower Secondary

141

Upper Secondary



- Norway: 29%
- Other Nordic countries: 4%
- Europe: 51% (includes Norway)
- North America: 18%
- South America: 1%
- Africa & Middle East: 2% each
- Asia & Oceania: 22% and 4%

Percentage of our student body that holds more than 1 passport: 12%

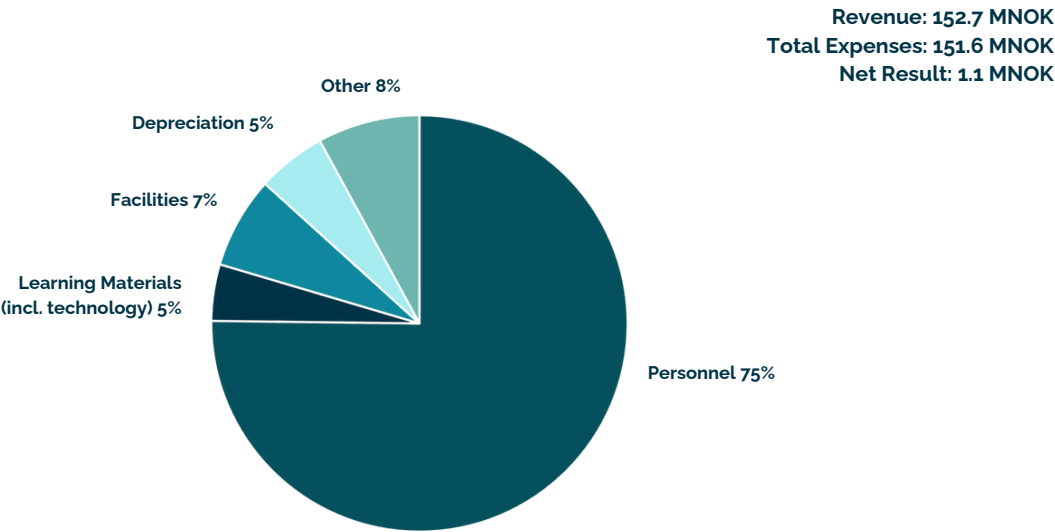
Financials

Supporting Growth & Enhancing Experience

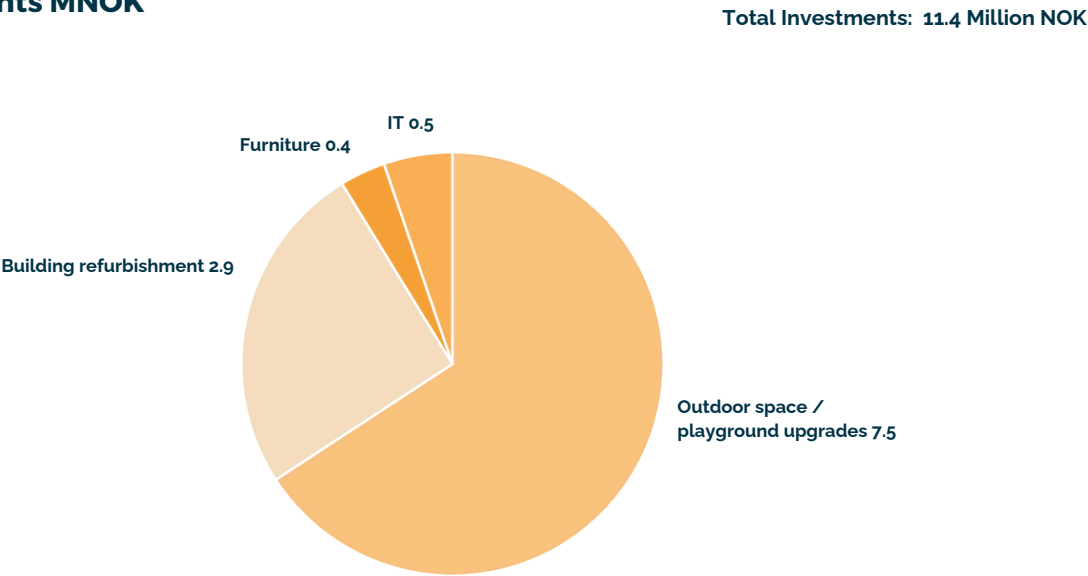
As a non-profit international school, all surplus is reinvested to support educational delivery and long-term sustainability. With no government funding, the school operates primarily on tuition revenue. This year, investments focused on facility upgrades and system improvements.

The charts below detail cost allocations and investment during the fiscal year 2024.

Cost Allocation %



Investments MNOK



University Offers & Destinations

OIS provides university guidance, offering personalised support every step of the way through the application process. We use the Unifrog platform to help students discover pathways and opportunities that best match their interests and goals. In 2024, for the second year running, we organised and led the Nordic University Tour—an international event that brought around 70 universities to Helsinki, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Stavanger and Oslo. Below are the universities that offered unconditional places to our students in 2023 and 2024 (* denotes the institutions where our graduates actually matriculated).



AUSTRALIA

University of Melbourne
University of NSW
University of Sydney

BRAZIL

Pontifical Catholic University
of Parana

CANADA

University of Toronto

CHINA

University of Hong Kong*

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charles University*

DENMARK

Copenhagen Business School**

FRANCE

EDHEC Business School*
ISCOM (école supérieure de
communication et publicité)*
Sciences Po Paris*

IRELAND

Dublin City University*
Trinity College Dublin*

ISRAEL

Reichman University*

ITALY

NABA (New Academy of Fine Arts)*

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam University
of Applied Sciences*
Eindhoven University*
Groningen University**
Leiden University**
Maastricht University
Radboud University*
Twente University
Tilburg University*

NEW ZEALAND

University of Auckland
University of Waikato

NORWAY

BI Norwegian Business School**
Norges Handelshøyskole (NHH)*
University of Oslo*
Norwegian Tech & Eng Uni (NTNU)****
OsloMet
University of Bergen

SPAIN

IE University***
La Roche University for Hospitality
Marbella Design Academy
Saint Louis University, Madrid*

SWEDEN

KTH Royal Institute of Technology*
Stockholm University

SWITZERLAND

EHL Hospitality Business School*

UK

Aberystwyth University*
Heriot Watt University**
Hult International Business School
King's College London*
Kingston University
Imperial College London**
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics
Queen Mary University, London
UCL (University College London)**
University of Aberdeen
University of Bath***
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton***
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge*
University of Durham
University of Edinburgh***
University of Essex
University of Exeter*
University of Glasgow
University of Gloucestershire

University of Lancaster*

University of Leeds*
University of Loughborough*
University of Manchester*
University of Portsmouth
University of Sheffield*
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford**
University of Southampton
University of Stirling*
University of St Andrews
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Warwick
University of West of England
University of York

USA

Albright College
American University
Boston University*
Brown University*
Carthage College
Columbia University*
DePaul University, Chicago
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Fordham University
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Johns Hopkins University
Ithaca College
Oberlin College
Quinnipiac University
Stanford University
St. Olaf College
SUNY at Purchase College
The New School
Tulane University
University of Denver*
University of Illinois Urbana*
University of Michigan Ann Arbor
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Virginia*
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech*