

# Australian International Academy Sydney Strathfield Campus School Prospectus

Advancement - Faith - Determination

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April 2024 Update

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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

Australian International Academy - Sydney Strathfield Campus acknowledges and pays respect to the Wangul clan of the Darug tribe of the Eora nation, on whose land we stand on today. We would also like to pay respects to the past, present and emerging aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and elders for allowing us to use their land, water and culture.

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## Principal Mrs. Bedrieh Kheir



### School Context

The Australian International Academy has its beginnings in 1983 in Coburg, Melbourne, acquiring its Strathfield campus in 2006. The international focus of the academy has attracted parents and students with the IB PYP, MYP and DP programs supporting this focus, alongside the NSW NESA curriculum.

The Strathfield Campus occupies a heritage site of considerable local historical and cultural significance, ideally geographically situated near the community the school serves. The centrality of the school as well as its accessibility via public transportation has attracted both parents and students to the school. The relatively small size of the school has resulted in close knit and enduring relationships with teachers keenly aware of each student, as an individual learner, allowing for effective pastoral care and individualized student learning. The school's values, deeply rooted in its Islamic faith, valuing care, compassion, hard work and recognizing the potential in every student, attracts both potential students and parents.

The school located in inner west of Sydney draws much of its student body from the surrounding suburbs, though some may commute longer distances to attend school. Students come from families that typically place a premium on academic success, an Islamic education and values, and on the physical and emotional wellbeing of their children. The school, through its scholarship initiatives, has successfully attracted and retained students who have demonstrated excellence in academic and religious studies as well as students with exceptional sporting achievements. The school maintains an inclusive comprehensive enrolment policy that accepts students across the social and academic spectrum. The students at the Australian International Academy, come from a wide range of national, cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The staff at the Australian International Academy are committed and caring professionals, who are passionate about providing inclusive education to a diverse range of the students. The staff, being part of a small school, often take on additional responsibilities in an effort to provide the needed support to the students and to enrich their education through co-curricula and pastoral activities, such as interschool sports, STEM clubs, debating, interfaith programs, year level camps, fund raising drives and involvement in local community service and leadership programs. All our staff are required to be registered with NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to teach in NSW and are accredited as either Conditional, Provisional, Proficient, Highly Accomplished or Lead teachers.



# Our **Vision** & Mission

**To develop graduates who are well prepared and self motivated to advance Australia and to participate effectively as world citizens with Muslim values.**

Our aim is to provide quality education in a caring and supportive Islamic faith environment. We encourage our students to aim for personal excellence and to develop skills for independent learning and critical thinking. We utilise a variety of programs to promote self-esteem, self-discipline, responsibility and leadership.

We aim to foster in our graduates, an awareness of interdependence as members of a multicultural community and the world, and to develop in them a sense of service as well as a commitment to act with justice and compassion.

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE VISION AND MISSION**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



**Developing well prepared graduates and citizens with Muslim values**





## Educational Philosophy

The Australian International Academy's educational programme is well balanced between a secular curriculum and an Islamic curriculum. Students are taught to be proud of their cultural and religious identity. The basic language of instruction for all subjects is English, however the Academy recognises the value and benefit of bilingualism and multilingualism, therefore student will study a second language.

Teaching and learning allows students to benefit in their spiritual and academic development while growing in self-esteem, in a caring and multicultural environment, that celebrates diversity.

Although the Academy welcomes and accepts students and staff from non-Islamic backgrounds, students and staff, guidance is provided by the Academy to ensure that the Islamic ethos of the school is respected and maintained.

***“The best of charity is when a Muslim gains knowledge, the teaches it to his brother” The Prophet Muhammad (as)***



# Co-Curricular



## Student Involvement

There is a high expectation that all students will make the effort to become a part of the AIA School community. There are many opportunities for students to develop a strong sense of belonging through our co-curricular programs.

There are many extra-curricular activities that occur after school. These activities generally require parental consent and usually require the parental organisation of transportation.



## Student Representative Council (SRC) and Peer Support

The student body collectively elects its student leaders, which include SRC members, prefects as well as Captains and Vice Captains. Students are encouraged to develop leadership qualities through the Captaincy team and SRC. Student representatives meet regularly, advocating on behalf of the students, organising and planning student led activities, representing the students and the school at community events and ceremonies.

A program of peer mentoring and support is an integral part of student life in both the high school and the primary school, with senior students, given training and the responsibility of engaging with their juniors in delivering programs aimed at fostering social and emotional wellbeing.



## Clubs and After school activities

**Afterschool Sport:** Running twice a week, students are given the opportunity to engage in organised physical activity afterschool.

**Chess Club:** The Chess Club meets once a week, where students develop their thinking and strategical skills, under the guidance of our chess coordinator. Typically this occurs on a Wednesday afternoon. Students also represent the school in inter school chess on Friday afternoons.

**Homework Club:** Is provided for students after school to support their learning in all subjects. Homework club runs weekly from 3.30 to 4.20 pm

**Morning Quran Classes :** Students have the opportunity to extend their mastery of Quran memorisation and recitation through the weekly morning Quran classes run by our qualified Islamic studies teachers.

**Debating Teams:** Students throughout the high school are given the opportunity to join the debating team, where students receive training in the finer art of rhetoric, argumentation and communication by a dedicated debating coordinator. Students then regularly represent the school in interschool debating competitions.

# Religious and Values Education



The Australian International Academy understands the importance of values education for the growth of every male and female.

Students learn about values throughout the curriculum, which places emphasis on character development and a value driven life. The AIA provides structured programmes which allows for ample expression of core values such as cooperation, honesty, humility, peace, responsibility, respect, and dignity.

## Islamic and Quranic Studies

All students from K - 10 have timetabled Quran and Islamic studies classes, alongside their academic studies. Islamic and Quran Studies are taught by qualified Islamic studies teachers, using current - evidence based pedagogical methods.

## Religious events and activities

As a Muslim school, the Academy celebrates the various religious occasions that occur throughout the year, like Eid and Ramadan. Events like communal Iftars are organised for teachers and students to promote the celebration of faith and Muslim Identity.

## Umrah

The school organises annual opportunity for students in year 10 to perform the Umrah ( lesser pilgrimage) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, as part of its commitment to religious education.





# Learning Opportunities



## Student Involvement

We aim to provide an opportunity for every student to flourish in their natural talents and skills either through:

- Sport
- Music
- The Arts
- Maths
- Science
- English
- The Humanities
- Public Speaking
- Leadership
- Community Service

We want to provide students the opportunity within the school and in the broader community to grow and be challenged as young men and women who will positively contribute to the future community. At present, AIA graduates contribute to make valuable contributions in the fields of politics, industry, the professions and academia.



# The International Baccalaureate Programmes

The Australian International Academy has a long and proud association with the International Baccalaureate Organisation, being authorised to deliver THREE different programmes at the Strathfield Campus, namely

- **Primary Years Programme (PYP)**
- **Middle Years Programme (MYP)**
- **Diploma Programme (DP)**

The Academy believes that an international education, which is rigorous, broad, balanced, inquiry driven and cohesive, best prepares our students as thoughtful and equipped global citizens in a rapidly changing world.

Together these three programmes form an continuum in which there is a consistent emphasis on

- Student acquisition of the **Approaches to Learning (ATL Skills)**
- The effective implementation of **the Approaches to Teaching**
- Develop of the attributes of **IB Learner Profile**



## APPROACHES TO LEARNING

### SOCIAL SKILLS

- Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration skills
- Developing social-emotional intelligence

### RESEARCH SKILLS

- Information-literacy skills
- Media-literacy skills
- Ethical use of media/information

### THINKING SKILLS

- Critical-thinking skills
- Creative-thinking skills
- Transfer skills
- Reflection/metacognitive skills

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Exchanging-information skills
- Literacy skills
- ICT skills

### SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS

- Organization skills
- States of mind

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## APPROACHES TO TEACHING

★ **BASED ON INQUIRY**

★ **FOCUSED ON CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING**

★ **DEVELOPED IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS**

★ **FOCUSED ON EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION**

★ **DIFFERENTIATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS**

★ **INFORMED BY FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

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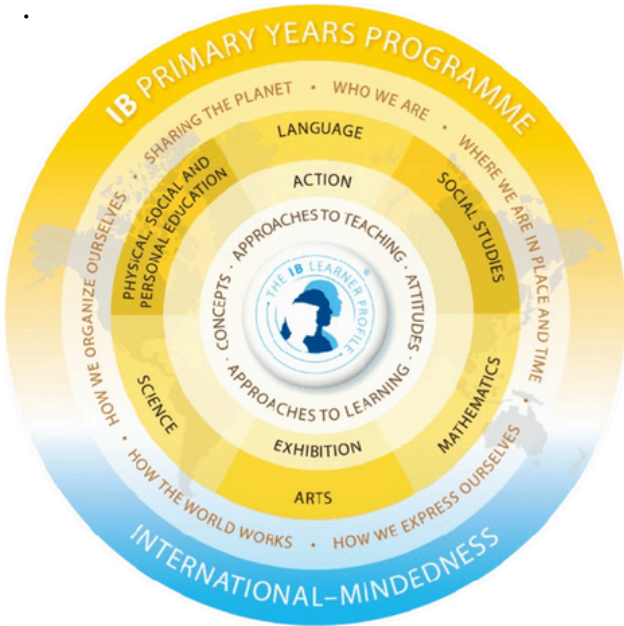
# Curriculum Information



## Curriculum Framework

The school offers a comprehensive curriculum within the structure of a six-period day, with recess after period three and lunch at the end of period five. Prayer is scheduled during lunch time.

### Primary School ( PYP ) Years K - 6



## Curriculum Framework

### Middle School ( MYP ) Years 7 - 10



# Curriculum Information



## Senior school (DP and HSC) Years 11 and 12

## NSW Higher School Certificate

During their senior years students are given the choice of either completing the IB Diploma Programme or the NSW Higher School Certificate (HSC)

During the Preliminary course (year 11) students will complete a minimum of 12 units of study, with each subject typically amounting to 2 units. During the HSC course (year 12) students will complete a minimum of 10 units.

### IB Diploma Programme



Throughout the two years, Diploma students will need to complete ONE course from the following subject groups as well as complete ALL elements of the Core

#### Group 1: Language and Literature

Language and Literature ( HL/SL)

#### Group 2: Language Acquisition

Arabic B ( SL)

#### Group 3: Individuals and Societies

Business Management ( HL/SL)

Digital Society (HL/SL)

#### Group 4: Sciences

Chemistry (HL/SL)

Physics ( HL/SL)

#### Group 5: Mathematics

Approaches and Analysis (HL/SL)

#### Group 6: The Arts

Visual Arts

Another Subject from Group 3 or 4

#### The Core

Theory of Knowledge

Creativity, Activity, and Service

The Extended Essay

The following subjects are offered at the AIA:

#### English

- English Standard
- English Advanced

#### Human Society and Its Environment

- Business Studies
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Society and Culture
- Studies of Religion II

#### TAS Industrial Arts

- Enterprise Computing

#### Mathematics

- Mathematics Standard
- Mathematics Advanced
- Mathematics Extension 1

#### Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

- PDHPE

#### Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

#### Creative and Performing Arts

- Visual Arts

#### Languages

- Arabic Continuers



# Facilities



## Learning environments

Projectors and whiteboards in all learning spaces

3D printing facilities (2023)

A new purpose build Science Lab (2023)

Dedicated gender segregated Senior study rooms

Reliable and accessible Wi-Fi Access

Small class sizes, particularly during senior years, promoting greater individualised student support.

A Visual Arts practical studio space

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## Outdoor spaces

Synthetic multi courts (Volleyball and mini soccer)

Basketball court

Privately run school canteen

Individual and secure School lockers for all students

Outdoor seating and shaded areas

Nearby access to community parks and aquatic centre

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## Get In Touch

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