



# British International School of the University of Lodz

We enlighten the future generation



UNIVERSITY  
OF LODZ



British International School  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LODZ

➔ [www.interschool.uni.lodz.pl](http://www.interschool.uni.lodz.pl)



### Welcome Message

Welcome to the British International School of the University of Lodz (BISUL). Since 2013 we have been serving the international and local community of Lodz and wider central Poland. Our school was founded by the University of Lodz with the aim to provide high quality British international education. We are accredited by the Ministry of Education and Science, Cambridge Assessment International Education, the Council of British International School, and the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

Our educational programmes are designed to provide rigorous and holistic education. Our main aim is to create empathetic global citizens who strive to create a better and more peaceful world. To this end, we have a carefully defined set of values that we use as guidance for all members of our community. As a school, we aim to create a warm and friendly environment for all. Our school also looks outwards as we seek to have a role within both the local and global community.

Please read through the information detailed here about our school, and if you are interested in what we can offer you and your family, please arrange a visit to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Uden'.

Best regards,  
Christopher Uden  
Head of School

# Mission and values

## Mission statement

British International School of the University of Lodz is committed to providing quality education in a warm, caring, and stimulating environment. We are a community that is passionate about academic progress, social development, and the personal enrichment of all our pupils and students. We aim to nurture inquiring, knowledgeable, and empathetic global citizens who strive to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

## Values

British International School of the University of Lodz has made a commitment to educating the whole person and accordingly puts an emphasis on our values. We hold this set of values for all members of our community. We believe that an emphasis on these values in everything we do allows us to support the education and development of all our learners in an environment that aims to nurture inquiring, knowledgeable and empathetic global citizens.

# Our values

## Community minded

We are a community of learners who support one another as well as the local, national and global community. Through active cooperation and reflection on our roles within the community, we foster a “we” rather than “me” mindset that inspires us to give back to the community.

## Respectful

We act in a respectful manner to all at all times as we believe in the value of modelling respectful behaviour. We acknowledge the importance of diversity and aim to create a tolerant, inclusive environment where all can express themselves freely.

## Responsible

We stay true to our values and act with integrity when we feel that something is not right. We are responsible for one another, our community, our actions and the environment.

## Caring

We look after our physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and that of the community around us. We are compassionate and encourage all members of our school community to engage in positive social action in the school, and wider community.

## Creative

We acknowledge that creativity is a vital expression of learning and as a community of learners we strive to create a stimulating environment that fosters the creativity of all.



# Accreditations

**School accreditations are more than just a badge of honour; they are drivers of school development.** Each of the accreditations we hold requires us to examine the school against a set of standards. Each time we go through this process it allows us to identify both strengths and areas of improvement. The latter are very important because by identifying these we are able to constantly develop and improve the offer that our school has.

## Cambridge Assessment International Education

BISUL is recognised as a Cambridge International School by Cambridge Assessment International Examinations, the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for students aged 5 to 19 years. We follow the Cambridge International programmes, which have a proven reputation for being an excellent preparation for university, employment, and life. They provide a valuable international benchmark of learners' performance. The school provides an opportunity to acquire qualifications such as Cambridge International IGCSE and Cambridge International A-Levels which are recognized and welcomed by universities and employers around the world.

## Council of British International Schools

Our membership of COBIS links us to a global network of British international schools. COBIS is a membership association of British international schools of global quality and corporate Supporting Members. Representing over 500 member organizations, COBIS is a responsive organization, open to current and future opportunities. A fundamental aim of COBIS is to support its members and represent their interests

in Britain and overseas, particularly with Government, education authorities and educational associations. They are committed to advancing the interests of British schools overseas and the commercial organisations that export education resources, products and services. As part of this network, we have opportunities to meet and collaborate with other students and teaching professionals throughout the COBIS network through the participation in COBIS organised events, trainings and competitions. The process of accreditation links with a five-year review cycle. The aim of this is to keep the school continually developing and improving.

## International Baccalaureate Organisation

BISUL is an authorised IB World School. Currently we offer the IB Diploma Programme in the last two years of our high school. The programme provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education and is recognized by the most reputable and respected universities worldwide. The IB Diploma Programme is also recognised as having the same legal status as Polish Matura.

## The Ministry of Education and Science (MEiN ) Accreditation

The Ministry of National Education and Science is a ministerial department of the Polish government. The ministry's duties include setting educational standards and youth activities. Being a school with MEN accreditation means that we follow rules and guidelines of the Ministry of National Education and Science. All our students take Polish classes, as well as receive Polish school certificates, along with the British one. Therefore, both Polish nationals and international students can also study at BISUL.





# Our Story

Over the past 10 years the city of Lodz has gone through an amazing transformation. Drawing on the physical and human resources available, the city was able to go through a significant process of regeneration. This has transformed a post-industrial city with significant cultural heritage into a colourful and vibrant hub. As a result, Lodz has become an increasingly attractive place for foreign companies to invest in. Many companies, attracted by what Lodz has to offer, have chosen to relocate parts of their operations here. As multinational companies moved to Lodz, the first major flow of foreigners came to the city. However, many of the foreign citizens that settled in Lodz were unable to find appropriate educational provision.

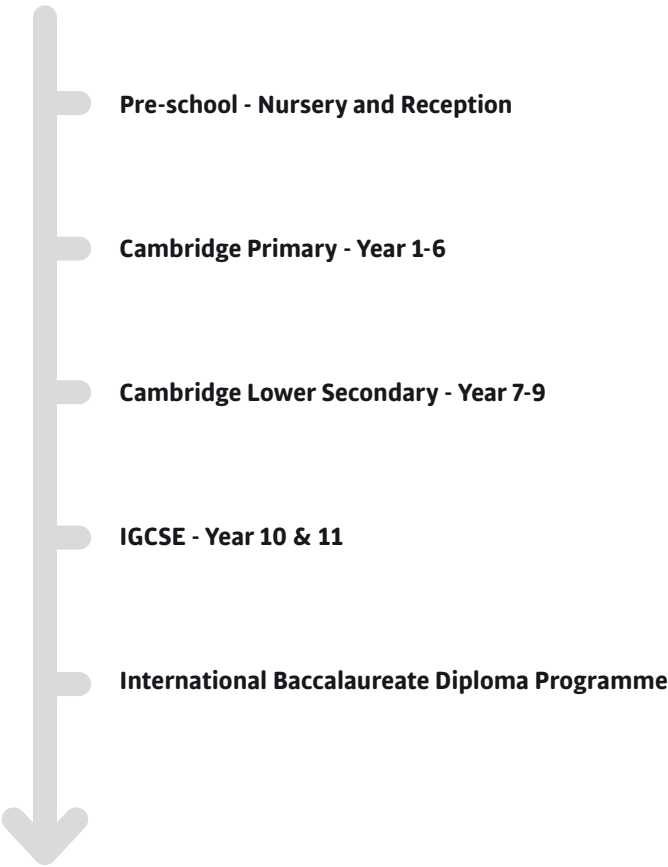
The need for educational provision for expats led the local council to approach the University of Lodz with the idea of setting up an international school. Being a part of the University of Lodz has helped the British School to grow rapidly. Having access to the university premises, laboratories, gym, and even the academic community has been a crucial component of that growth. Indeed, the success of BISUL would not have been possible without the help of the University of Lodz, Special Economic Zone and the Mayor's Office amongst many others who have worked hard to make it the school it is today.

Within just eight years, the number of students attending BISUL increased from 13 to 160, coming from over 20 countries. Every year has brought new students, warm memories, and experiences. To accommodate the ever-growing number of students, BISUL relocated to a new facility at Fabryczna 4. The move to Fabryczna 4 has given the school a significant space in which to develop, and its central location is very convenient for those working in Lodz. The area surrounding BISUL is undergoing significant regeneration and high-quality accommodation is now available within just a short walk from our school.

Today BISUL is an established school that has set many students on their path to academic and professional success. In recent years it has expanded its offer to include the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in the last two years of high school. Accredited by the Ministry of Education and Science, Council of British International Schools, Cambridge Assessment International Education and International Baccalaureate Organization, it focuses on providing a rigorous and balanced education for all its students.



# Programmes



## Pre-school - Nursery and Reception

Our pre-school follows the programme outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework published by the UK Department for Education. This programme is guided by four overarching principles:

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.
- Importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates.

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape our educational programme at this age:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

At this age we are keen for our youngest learners to develop a sound footing in languages. For that reason, we provide exposure to three languages – English, Spanish and Polish. We also work together with parents to support language acquisition at home of both their mother tongue and languages learnt at school.



## Cambridge Primary - Year 1-6

The Cambridge primary programme is divided into two stages: year 1-2 known as Key Stage 1 in the UK and year 3-6 known as Key Stage 2 in the UK. Building on the learning that took place in the context of early years education, Key Stage 1 is a key point of transition. Education begins to be more formalised and based on the curiosity that has been developed during the early years education. Key Stage 2 focuses on deepening subject specific knowledge, understanding and skills in order to prepare students to their studies in secondary school. During each of these stages the qualities of the Cambridge Learner Attributes are introduced to the children. Consequently, by the end of Primary students should be able to use these to reflect upon themselves as learners.

### The subjects studied at this level are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Digital Literacy
- Global Perspectives
- Spanish
- Polish Language (either as native or foreign language)

As learners move through this stage History and Geography are added to support the dual curriculum programme for Polish students and supplement learning for non-Polish students. At the end of this level of education all students take the Cambridge Assessment International Education Checkpoint exams. These are taken in English, Maths, Science and Global Perspectives. These qualifications are important as success in them shows that children are well suited to studies at the next level of education. Furthermore, when applying to universities they show whether students have a successful track record. For the school, these exams allow us to see how learners are performing against an international benchmark, and easily monitor group and individual performance.

## Cambridge Lower Secondary - Year 7-9

The Cambridge Lower Secondary programme is the equivalent of the Key Stage 3 in the UK. It aims to prepare students for success at IGCSEs by developing key skills outlined in the Cambridge Learner Attributes. As a school we have made a commitment to teaching Cambridge Global Perspectives at every level. This is a course that has been specifically designed to foster essential skills for students as they move towards the world of university and work.

### The subjects studied at this level are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Digital Literacy
- Global Perspectives
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Polish Language (either as native or foreign language)

At the end of this level of education all students take the Cambridge Assessment International Education Checkpoint exams. These are taken in English, Maths, Science and Global Perspectives.



## IGCSE - Year 10 & 11

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's leading international qualification for 14- to 16-year-olds. It is recognised by universities and employers worldwide and is an international passport to progression and success. Cambridge IGCSE are two-year programmes resulting in external examinations run by Cambridge Assessment International Education. At this level students have to make choices based on their level of English language skills and whether they are completing the Polish programme. The subjects taught are:

- English Language (*taught at both the native speaker and foreign language levels*)
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Spanish
- Business Studies
- Global Perspectives
- ICT
- PE (not a GCSE course)
- Polish Language (either as native or foreign language)

At the end of this two-year period students sit their IGCSE exams, which are marked by external examiners. The results of these exams are a good indicator of their potential achievement at the next stage of education.

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

IB Diploma Programme is for learners aged 16 to 19 years who would like to undertake advanced study to prepare for university. The IB Diploma Programme builds on the foundations of Cambridge Upper Secondary, although learners do not need to complete IGCSEs to be enrolled in this programme.

In keeping with our mission to provide a world class education, BISUL recognises the need to provide a curriculum that is both stimulating and internationally relevant. At this stage, students can choose subjects of their interest and are provided with skills that are highly valued by universities worldwide.

### Subjects of choice available at this stage are:

#### Language A:

- English Language and Literature SL and HL
- Polish Literature SL and HL

#### Language B:

- Spanish SL and HL
- Spanish ab initio only SL
- English SL and HL

#### Individuals and societies:

- Business Management SL and HL
- Geography SL and HL
- History SL and HL

#### Sciences

- Physics SL and HL
- Biology SL and HL
- Chemistry SL and HL

#### Mathematics:

- Analysis and Approaches HL
- Applications and Interpretation SL

# Admissions

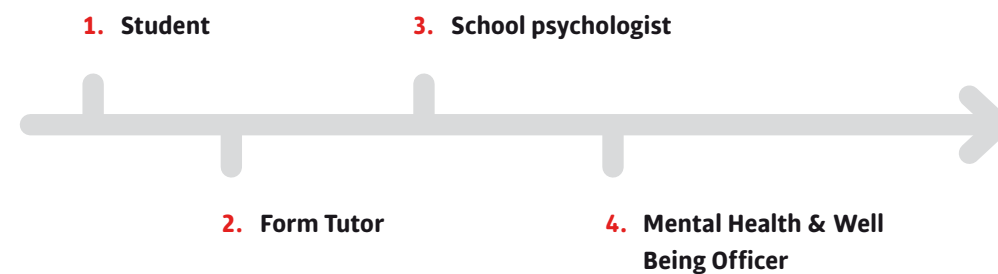
Our policy is to have a data-driven admissions process. This is a process that allows us to provide the best possible choices for potential students of our school. At the heart of a successful education is a cooperative and supportive relationship between home, student, and school. For that reason, we are happy to meet with parents, but we also think that it is of key importance to meet with students. Accordingly, our admissions process incorporates assessment meetings for students of all ages – Preschool to year 13.

### Ages of students

The British education system and Cambridge curriculum operate on the premise that students thrive best with children of the same age and developmental level. Differentiated teaching caters for differences in needs and abilities; gifted children are challenged, while children needing support or more time are cared for and encouraged to fulfil their potential. At BISUL, we believe that it is important for children to be with peers at a similar stage in social maturity, and experience and educational research tells us that changes made early on may have negative consequences later. For these reasons, we adhere to the policy of keeping children within their correct age band.

Age before 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	UK Stage	Year	Assessments	Cambridge/IB	Polish Stage	Kl.	Assessments
3-4	Early Years	Nursery			Przedszkole	M	
4-5		Reception	Teacher			S	
5-6	Key Stage 1	1	Phonics check			S	Sprawdzian gotowości szkolnej
6-7		2	National Test		Edukacja Wczesno-szkolna	1	
7-8	Key Stage 2	3				2	
8-9		4				3	
9-10		5			Szkoła Podstawowa	4	
10-11		6	National tests	Primary Checkpoint		5	
11-12	Key Stage 3	7				6	
12-13		8				7	
13-14		9		Lower Secondary Checkpoint		8	Egzamin ósmoklasisty
14-15	Key Stage 4	10			Liceum	LO 1	
15-16		11	GCSEs	IGCSEs		LO 2	
16-17	Post-16	12				LO 3	
17-18		13	A-Level & IBDP	A-Level/IB		LO 4	Matura

# Student support



Our school believes that looking after our students' wellbeing is of fundamental importance. For that reason, we have various individuals that have specific roles related to supporting our students. Apart from this, we make sure that all our staff understand the importance of wellbeing for both themselves and their students. Accordingly, our staff are trained in various techniques for handling stress and other problems that can arise within the school environment. Consequently, they are able to provide support to students and colleagues when required.

## Form Tutors

BISUL has a well-established system of pastoral care based around form classes. Each form class is assigned a form tutor who takes overall responsibility for students throughout the school year. This teacher meets with the students once a week for PSHE lessons, during which various issues are discussed and solutions to problems found. The form tutor is also the first point of contact for parents and teachers that have concerns about any student under their care.

## School Psychologist

The support of the school psychologist allows for us to make sure that students have the help they need when they experience emotional, behavioural or learning difficulties. The school psychologist works together with teachers, students and parents to find solutions and give recommendations for how best to support teaching, learning and well-being.

## Mental Health and Well-being Officer

This member of staff works in close cooperation with other school staff, external agencies, and trainers. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer is a key member of staff that will establish and maintain systems that monitor the wellbeing of staff and students and track the provision of mental health care both by school employees and external agencies.

## University and Careers Guidance

As students progress through the school, we provide opportunities for them to consider what career paths are of particular interest to them. Each time they transfer between stages of the school we draw the students' attention to the important choices that they make and involve their parents in a dialogue about these.



# Extracurricular activities

BISUL students do not only excel academically but also within many cultural and sporting activities. We are proud to have among our students children who follow their passions and are successful. Furthermore, our school and the students get involved in positive action in the local community. Our students take an active part in charitable events, collections, and a range of donations.

As well as these types of activities there are also a range of activities that happen at the end of the school day. We strongly encourage students to try new things outside the classroom and, as such, offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to suit their interests.

**Our list of available activities is constantly growing and the most popular clubs at the moment are:**

- School Choir
- Drama Club
- Cooking Classes

- Swimming
- Rock Climbing
- Marketing Club
- Fencing
- Football
- Basketball
- Yoga
- Science Club
- Cricket
- Art Club
- Martial Arts
- Gymnastics
- Chess









# British International School of the University of Lodz

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