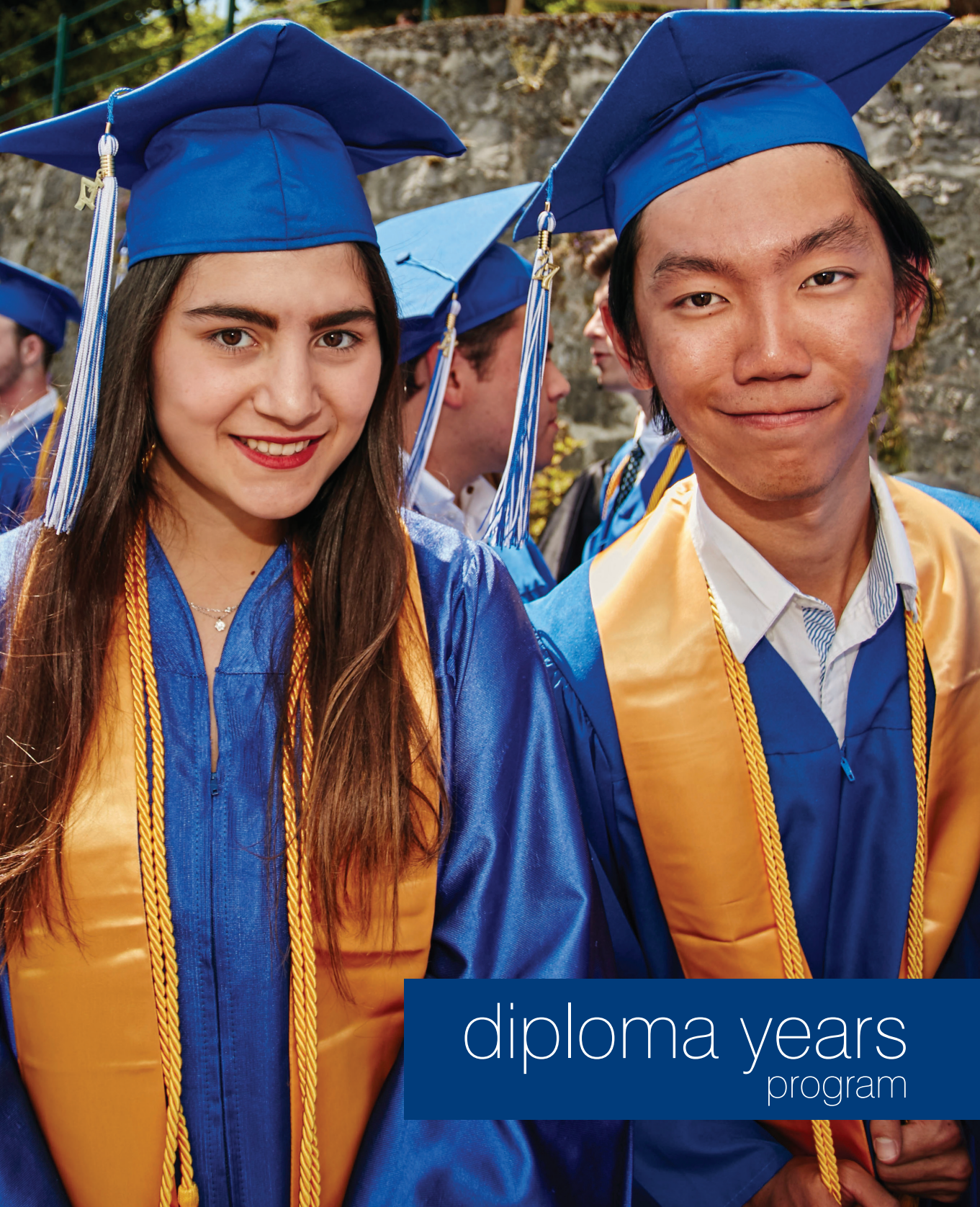




LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND



diploma years  
program





# why choose LAS diploma years?

## Internationally Desired Curriculum

IB Diploma students have access to higher-level learning through engagement with the International Baccalaureate Programme. Students will be able to build on information learned in earlier grades, investigate topics of interest, and further develop knowledge through courses in Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts.

## Paving the Way to Postsecondary Success

Leysin American School is committed to equipping students with the tools they need to reach their postsecondary goals. With an experienced College Counseling Department and a team of passionate educators on hand, Diploma Years students are given the foundation they need to expand their potential and begin shaping their future.

## Becoming Young Adults

Diploma Years students comprise the eldest population of the LAS family and are accordingly treated as young adults. These students are encouraged to exercise their growing independence through academic, social, and leadership opportunities within the school, and by taking advantage of small group travel in and around Switzerland.

## Impacting the Wider School Community

As maturing young adults, our Diploma Years students act as mentors and role models to their younger peers. Students at this age are encouraged to assume leadership roles within groups such as Student Council or National Honor Society. The knowledge Diploma Years students can bring to these positions helps to strengthen the LAS community and allows students to see themselves as agents of change within their own school environment.

## Making Lifelong Friends

The Diploma Years mark a particularly impactful, emotional stage of the high school experience. Together students celebrate successes, overcome challenges, and prepare for life after graduation and thereby build meaningful, lifelong friendships. With an extensive, global alumni network, LAS also works to ensure that students can reconnect and keep in touch with one another following their time in Leysin.

## Fall and Spring Term Weekday Schedule

- 8:10 - 12:15  
Morning Classes
- 12:15 - 13:10  
Lunch
- 13:15 - 15:35  
Afternoon Classes
- 16:00 - 17:30  
Activities
- 17:30 - 19:00  
Dinner
- 19:45  
Dorm Check-in
- 20:00 - 21:30  
Study Hall
- 22:45  
Lights Out - Grade 11
- 23:00  
Lights Out - Grade 12







# selecting a path

Our Academic Advising team, together with College Counseling, helps guide students in selecting the route that best prepares for success in their postsecondary endeavors. Students entering the Diploma Years at LAS begin by selecting one of two academics paths: the full International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) pathway or the US Diploma pathway.

## the IBDP pathway

IB Diploma students engage in deep, concentrated learning through engagement with the International Baccalaureate curriculum. Students expand the skills and knowledge learned in earlier grades through IB courses in Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Experimental Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts. Earning a US Diploma is an inherent part of earning an IB Diploma. IBDP students are:



**Highly  
Motivated**



**Independent  
Learners**



**Globally  
Aware**



**Strong Academic  
Achievers**

## the US diploma pathway

The US Diploma pathway offers academic challenge and well prepares students for postsecondary success while allowing them more time to pursue personal goals in and outside the classroom. US Diploma students take a combination of IB and standard LAS courses. Students following this course of study over two years may also choose to earn IB certificates by successfully passing the exam of IB courses. US Diploma students are:



**Inquisitive**



**Intellectually  
Curious**



**Pursuing  
Postsecondary  
Studies**



**Globally  
Aware**

### An English as a Second Language (ESL) Focus

With approximately 30% of all students taking part in ESL studies at some point during their education, LAS offers a balanced curriculum tailored to students who need extra support in learning the English language. Studies with an emphasis on English as a Second Language focus on all the key components required for university acceptance, such as Mathematics and Science, in addition to essential classes that help to develop a greater sense of self and social awareness, such as Modern Languages and Social Sciences.

### Core Components

Diploma Years students will complete the following in order to develop a well-rounded skill set:



#### Extended Essay

Develop independent research and essay-writing skills



#### Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

Reflect on the meaning of knowledge and how it shapes us



#### Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)

Seek out and reflect on experiences for personal growth and service







# artistic expression

Diploma Years Arts classes encourage students to develop independence as artists. These exploratory courses—offered to both IB and US Diploma students—teach students essential skills as a foundation for their own creative experimentation. Students studying Visual Arts learn to dive into their own artistic interests, developing portfolio representations of their own distinctive style throughout the course of their studies. Music students are invited to choose their own path, exploring musical boundaries in either performance or composition studies.



Theater Arts



Yearbook



Design & Photography



Visual Arts



Music

LAS students who are interested in the Arts can also take part in extracurricular activities such as choir, theater production, as well as regular art exhibitions and music concerts. Students may also elect to take private music lessons when a suitable instructor is available.



**Antonio, Mexico**  
**GRADE 11**  
“I play the piano and I have quite a bit of experience with music and I love it. When we get to music class we look at theory, theory, theory, so it’s quite challenging! I’ve never done that. It takes more listening skills.”

# expanding horizons



**Alpine Institute**  
The Alpine Institute brings students into a new level of familiarity with the Swiss Alps through mountaineering, hiking, and camping. This club allows students to connect with the great outdoors, teaching them practical skills while promoting mental fortitude and self confidence. These experiences also open students up to the possibility of pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award.



**The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN)**  
Every year students participate in a conference hosted by THIMUN. At this event, students debate some of the world’s most pressing issues and develop skills in academic research, formal speaking, and consensus building. Students can also take part in a photo competition, make new friends, and visit some city attractions.



**Global Futurizer**  
Global Futurizer connects companies to a network of students from all around the world. This program lets young scholars learn about and attempt to solve some of the most challenging issues companies face today. As students navigate a five-step brainstorm and pitch process, they develop their entrepreneurial talents, as well as soft skills such as team work, time management, and working well under pressure.







# looking forward

High school marks the onset of postsecondary planning. This time of life can be exciting and sometimes intimidating, but the LAS College Counseling Department provides students with multiple resources to help them explore their interests and make confident decisions about their futures. From course selection in grade 10 to navigating the world of university applications and acceptances in grades 11 and 12, LAS ensures each student has access to consistent guidance and support.



**Mr. Bradford Jackson, United States  
COLLEGE COUNSELOR**

“College counseling is a process of self-discovery that empowers students to define the unique qualities they need in an institution so that they can thrive.”

**College Counselors**  
College counselors act as a first point of contact when it comes to questions about postsecondary studies. Students will have the chance to interact with counselors during one-on-one meetings as well as in small groups in their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) classes.

TOK classes include personal assessments, career exploration exercises, university research, essay writing practice, and a review of university application procedures. College counselors also organize visits from representatives of over 100 international postsecondary institutions, as well as coordinate visits to nearby college fairs.

**100+**  
Universities visit LAS from  
all over the world

**8**  
Average number of  
universities each student  
applies to

**60%**  
Of graduates were accepted to  
a top 75 ranked school by  
QS global or USNEWS

**College Research**  
Diploma Years students are given access to software which further assists them in planning for their futures. This software serves as an excellent organizational tool which provides students with search engines and important data for college decision making.

**IELTS & SAT Preparation**  
LAS offers IELTS and SAT classes for an additional fee. These classes utilize the most current information and tools to help students maximize their scores. IELTS preparation involves a thorough and intense program of study, while our SAT program allows students to customize their studies to ensure focus on important topics while also teaching efficient problem-solving strategies. Both programs run throughout the year to aid students in preparing for their test date.





# community living

The dormitory experience at LAS is central to the well-being and character of our entire school community. Living within a community of passionate learners provides Diploma Years students with a greater understanding of other cultures, as well as the opportunity to build lasting friendships that transcend the borders of a classroom.



**Tereza, United States**  
**GRADE 12**

“I really like that we have the freedom to do our own thing and be treated like adults. It’s also really fun living with people from different cultures. My roommate is a Brazilian girl and she’s super nice. It’s cool to hear her talk to her parents in Portuguese. I like to have my friends over in my room, we’re always doing stuff like dance parties!”

Girls Dorms:  
Beau Site & Belle Époque  
  
Boys Dorms:  
Savoy & Belle Époque



All dorms are equipped with lounges, faculty apartments, ski and bike rooms, a kitchen, a big-screen TV, and couches.



## Encouraging Autonomy

Living abroad offers Diploma Years students the chance to practice independent living in preparation for life after high school. Students will learn to set a pocket money budget, launder their own clothing, maintain the cleanliness of their room and communal spaces, and cook when they wish to in the dorm kitchen facilities.

# student leadership

LAS strives to provide an environment where our leaders of tomorrow can develop a unique voice and work as a team towards shared goals. Student Council is one such channel where students can practice these skills—members of StuCo will facilitate communication between the student body and administration and organize community events and tournaments throughout the year.



**Student Council**  
Practicing agency, decision making, and voicing the thoughts of the student body



**Community Service**  
Facilitating and participating in events around the world



**Student Ambassadors**  
Acting as mentors and role models within the LAS community

Diploma Years students are encouraged to become further involved in the LAS community by taking on roles as student leaders. For example, individuals can choose to join the National Honor Society, Honor Council, or apply to be Student Ambassadors. Each of the many leadership roles on campus play an important part in contributing to the enrichment of life at LAS.







# the LAS lifestyle

Leysin provides the perfect backdrop for students to stay active, be creative, and embrace mountain living. The LAS school year is divided into three terms—Fall term beginning in August, Winter term beginning in January, and Spring term beginning in April. With the changing seasons, new opportunities continually arise for students to explore their interests and dive into new experiences.



## FALL TERM

Faculty Family Weekend  
October Cultural Trips  
Dorm Olympics



## WINTER TERM

Cowbell Games  
Ski & Snowboard Term  
International Week



## SPRING TERM

Spring Break  
Senior Prom  
May Cultural Trips

## Faculty Families

At the heart of LAS is a belief in the importance of family values. In keeping with this notion, LAS students and staff are assigned to “Faculty Families”—a group of one or two faculty members and students of different ages and from different countries. These groups meet regularly to check in, socialize, keep up to date on upcoming events, and attend special school functions.

## Activities

Our advanced athletic facilities and unique mountain environment give students access to a wide range of sports and activities year round. During Fall and Spring terms students are required to regularly participate in after-school activities or teams. These activities encourage students to take initiative, adopt an active lifestyle, and contribute to a student’s overall well-being. Activities and sports are subject to change each year based on interest, enrollment, and staffing, but in the past options have included:

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Bouldering       | Football             |
| Basketball       | Community Service    |
| Dance            | Habitat for Humanity |
| Horseback Riding | Theater Production   |



**Anna, Andorra**  
**GRADE 11**

“Being involved in sports and not just academics helps me to concentrate, and whenever I go back to my studies I’m more productive—in less time I do more. It also helps me organize myself better.”

## Skiing and Snowboarding

During the Winter term, the mountains of Leysin transform into a beautiful haven for ski and snowboard enthusiasts. LAS students are lucky to be able to enjoy this unique environment in full.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, following morning classes, all beginner skiers and snowboarders will be enrolled in two-hour lessons; intermediate and advanced students will have one lesson and one day of free skiing each week. Students will also have the opportunity to join LAS ski and snowboard teams and compete against other schools throughout the season.







**Louis, United States**  
**GRADE 12**

"We all get along—everyone in the dorm—and the dorm head is always acting like a parent to us; it's always nice, you know, just in case something happens or I want to talk with someone."

### Cultural Trips

Making the decision to study abroad provides students with the opportunity to explore a wider global community and take part in experiential learning. During the Fall and Spring terms at LAS, students familiarize themselves with Switzerland and nearby European countries during week-long, faculty-supervised cultural trips. Students are required to exhibit active participation during these trips. Their involvement helps to fully immerse them in the customs, traditions, culture, and history of the country they are visiting.

### Personal Travel Weekends

Grade 11 and 12 students who maintain good grades and have parental permission are able to take advantage of personal travel weekends. Personal travel weekends are indicated on the school calendar and allow students to spend more time in and discover more about their favourite nearby cities.

### Weekend Excursions

LAS offers chaperoned weekend excursions to a number of Swiss cities throughout the year. With destinations in Montreux, Geneva, Zermatt, and Bern, these excursions are an excellent way for students to seek out cultural experiences, ski in new locations, explore, and make unforgettable memories.



## life after leysin

Graduation is just the beginning of the Leysin American School journey. Following their time at LAS, alumni will become an important part of our global family—and like family, we continue to keep in touch. Our online community allows our graduates to stay up-to-date on school news, reconnect with classmates, and find out about upcoming events.



### Networking

Professional and social networking opportunities



### Alumni Reunions

Facilitating and participating in events around the world



### Communication

Direct communication with LAS and global alumni family



**Alumni Bill Carney '69**

**AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR, PROFESSOR**

"The friendships I made at LAS are now almost half a century old. Many of us are still in touch, and in some cases are in business together. At a recent reunion, I think we all realized once again that we weren't just friends, we were family."





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