

## ADMISSIONS POLICY

Whom do we serve?

ISO serves the educational needs of the international community in Oradea as well as the educational needs of the Romanian students who are committed to access an international education curriculum in English. We welcome boys and girls of all races, religions and cultures and we consider applications throughout the year based on space availability. We are a non-sectarian and coeducational institution.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Language

English is the language of instruction. The ability to successfully access the curriculum within a reasonable time and to thrive in our English language learning environment are the guiding principles for admission to the school.

In early ages, immersion in the English language curriculum is usually sufficient for children to quickly develop proficient English language skills. On this basis, children may be admitted to our Primary School regardless of their level of English proficiency. ISO teachers are trained to support language acquisition and learning by non-native English speakers. However, we offer a separate ESL programme within our academic programme for KS1 and KS2 level.

### OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Student Support Services (SSS) – Applicants with mild social/emotional issues, learning difficulties or other special needs are referred to our SSS Coordinator for evaluation. The decision to admit the child will be made by the relevant Principal based on the recommendation of the SSS Coordinator. If it is determined that the school is unable to accommodate a candidate's special needs, we will endeavour to

direct parents to a more suitable option. However, parents should be aware that there are unfortunately very few English language based resources to support children with special needs in Oradea.

**Academic Achievement** – Although ISO offers a stimulating and challenging educational programme, we accommodate students with a range of academic abilities, provided they are able to adequately access and benefit from our curriculum. We make this determination primarily by reviewing applicants’ school records and in Secondary School by also taking academic assessment tests in English and Mathematics.

**Residence** – ISO is a day school and does not have boarding facilities. Students must therefore reside with their parent(s) or other legal guardian in a location within commuting distance to the school.

**Parent Communication** – English and Romanian are the primary languages for communicating with parents. At least one parent or guardian should be able to communicate comfortably with school personnel in English or Romanian.

**Early Years Foundation Stage** – All EYFS students must be toilet-trained.

## **CLASS ORGANISATION**

As a coeducational international school, we try our best to maintain a balance of genders, abilities and nationalities in each of our grade years and classes.

Our teacher student ratios:

Foundation 1: 1 adult per 7 students

Foundation 2: 1 adult per 8 students

Years 1 to 6: A maximum of 20 students per class

When these numbers are reached a waiting list system will apply.

## **AGE PLACEMENT**

**Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** – There are two levels within the EYFS. Foundation 1 is for children who have turned 2.5 years old by 1st September in the year of entry; Foundation 2 is for children who have turned 4 years old by 1st September.

Students who turn 3 after September 1st are eligible to enter into Foundation 1 with the understanding that they may, at the EYFS Coordinator’s recommendation, be required to repeat the same year level the following school year.

Primary School – Placement in all years is strictly determined by age as of September 1st in the academic year of entry as follows:

Entering Year Group	Age by Sep 1
Year 1	5
Year 2	6
Year 3	7
Year 4	8
Year 5	9
Year 6	10

Students come to ISO from many different countries with varying school calendars and enrolment age practices. Our September 1st cut-off date and age placement policy reflects what we believe to be the most appropriate classification for the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of children attending the school. Therefore, while we recognize that some parents may wish to have their children placed in years reflecting their home country systems, to ensure the most appropriate learning environment for all students in the Primary School, we do not allow exceptions to the above age placement policy.

For the same reasons mentioned above, age placement for Secondary School is almost always according to the above protocol. At the discretion of the Secondary School Principal, exceptions may be made if a student is already established in an equivalent class in another school system (for example, students transferring from schools in the Southern Hemisphere) and is considered able to access the relevant ISO curriculum for the year group.

#### **EXCEPTIONAL ADMISSIONS**

The child's birthday falls within a month either side of 1<sup>st</sup> September.

If parents feel their child would benefit from being placed out of age, the School will assess the child and talk to the child's parents to ascertain the best position. The appropriate decision is then made by the School regarding the final placement.

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

Most students enrol at the beginning of the school year or at the start of the second term in early January. A student may be admitted to the School at any time during the school year (if places are available).

### **SCREENING AND INTERVIEWS**

Early Years Foundation Stage –All children applying for admission are asked to come in to the school for an informal play session and interview before formal acceptance can be offered. (If application for admission is during the summer months, the first day in the school will be considered as informal play session and interview. The formal acceptance will be offered accordingly.) The play session/interview, which enables applicants and teachers to meet and interact with each other in the actual school environment, helps to identify any issues that may affect the applicant's ability to comfortably access the programme, while also serving as an informal orientation for the children who are accepted to the EYFS.

Primary School – Children applying for admission to Years 1- 6 are not required to have a formal interview, although we encourage families to visit the school and meet the Primary School Principal and/or Admissions Officer. In reviewing an applicant's eligibility, we look at current/prior school records. If pupils cannot provide previous school records a formal interview is required. Without obligation, we may also invite applicants to attend school on a trial basis to assess their ability to access the curriculum.

### **Student Records from Other Schools**

The School requires student records in English or translated into English from the applicant's previous school before any student is accepted. These records may include reports, transcripts, and results of standardised tests, any reports by a counsellor or psychologist and recommendation letters from an English teacher or Principal. The School reserves the right to contact the applicant's previous school prior to acceptance.

Parents must agree to the ISO Admissions Policy before enrolment. By signing your application for admission you agree to the terms and conditions stated. The application forms, documents and fees need to be received by the Admissions Office.

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