

Striking the right note through the IB Career-related Programme



AMADEUS International School Vienna

AMADEUS International School, Vienna

Total number of students: **302**

Head of Secondary School: **Dr Karsten Plöger**

Head of School: **Dr Jeremy G House**

IB integration at every level of education

AMADEUS International School, Vienna is an international school that “draws upon music as a catalyst for profound personal growth” and has offered International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes since 2014. The school aims to create an environment that stimulates students’ creativity and inquisitive nature while fostering a commitment to excellence. At its core, the school works alongside young people as they develop and grow by allowing students a level of independence in their education, giving them the freedom to choose their own future, but with ample support, challenge and inspiration required to help them get there.

Entering its seventh year as an IB World School, Dr Jeremy G House, Head of School, describes IB authorization as: “a quality mark, that gives our school a golden stamp of approval and enhances our reputation. We are so proud to be part of the IB family of over 5,000 schools around the world, something that we treasure dearly. The network is so useful for us to draw upon too as we can share and learn best practice from leading educators around the world”.

Dr House says: “The school originally decided to offer the IB because it is a mission-driven education, which aligns so closely with our school’s positioning”. From initially introducing the Diploma Programme (DP), the school then

started teaching the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) in 2016. Then, in the Summer of 2021, it was successfully authorized to offer all four IB programmes, adding the Career-related Programme (CP) as the final string to its IB bow. Dr Karsten Plöger, Head of Secondary School, explains what it means to them to be able to offer a continuum of education through the IB programmes: “We are, of course, immensely proud to be the first continuum school in Austria. The students benefit from the culture that runs throughout all four programmes, which also integrates the programmes into a meaningful and cohesive educational journey. We can see our young people thriving, which means a lot to us”.

Dr House explained the school’s perspective on how the CP fits alongside the other IB programmes offered at the school: “We have a strong academic arm with the PYP, MYP and DP offering, but we had a piece missing and it has taken implementing the CP to realise what it was”.

Teaching students to march to their own drum

With such a strong focus on music, many of the school’s students aspire to progress to a Conservatoire or to study a dedicated music degree. Dr Plöger describes the blend of academic and career-related study in the CP as: “an opportunity for students to develop the sought-after skills needed to thrive in higher education. By implementing the CP, our students



have been able to nurture their musical talents without sacrificing their academic knowledge. It also allows students to explore more options within the field of music beyond becoming a soloist, for example, such as production”.

The music industry is already a highly competitive market for people to ‘break’ into. Dr House explains: “it is the interpersonal skills that CP students develop that not only give them the confidence to be creative, but the resilience and determination to keep going and think of new ways to achieve their goals. Through the career-related study component of the course, students learn about real-life challenges in the music industry such as how to approach auditions and how to put together a

portfolio. We further support this by bringing in guest speakers, such as successful musicians, to discuss these topics with students”.

When Dr House and Dr Plöger initially started to implement the CP, they were pleased to see that there was a level of curiosity about the programme when “selling” it to staff and parents. The main question that parents had was would their child(ren) be able to secure a place at a music school or Conservatoire after studying the CP? The school believes that graduates of this programme will have outstanding future prospects.

Ahead of implementing the CP at AMADEUS International School, the school liaised with music colleges to find out their perspectives on CP

students, which confirmed how well recognized the programme already was, and in turn, gave the school confidence in the CP. Dr House explains: “the CP offers new perspectives from the industry that our students might end up in. Since our initial liaison, we have continued to strengthen our relationships with music colleges and universities around the world”.

“You hear more music”

While the CP at AMADEUS International School may at first appear focused on classical music, the programme allows the study of music in all manifestations. “We have students who have a classical focus to those who are interested in pursuing a career in electronic music; one of



whom has gone to the University of Chicago to study this genre at university level. Music is so diverse and that is why it marries well with the broadness of the CP” says Dr Plöger.

Dr Plöger continues by saying this diversity of interests means that they have a cohort with a diverse range of skills: “producing music is a component of the course that is reliant on students creating and composing their own music through a process of collaboration. While our mission statement says that we accompany young people as they fulfil their highest potential, we recognize that it doesn’t have to be the teachers who accompany the students all the time. Our true success is when two students help each other to achieve success on their IB journey. It is this collaborative process that encourages students to support each other and learn together, personifying the school’s values of kindness, happiness and distinction”.

As a result, CP students at the school are inspired to achieve excellence and are able to recognize their highest potential and pursue it. Dr House says that one of their biggest highlights, regarding implementing the CP at the school is that: “You hear more music. In every corridor you walk down you are able to hear music coming from one of our 22 Steinway pianos. This year more of the practice rooms are full during the students’ free periods and that is a truly wonderful thing”.



Ready to take to the world stage

In order to help students start to form their own connections within the music industry, the school hosted the AMADEUS music festival whereby the school brought in the highest quality classical artists, largely from Europe. Dr House explains: “the artists recognized how difficult it was for young people to get a start in the middle of the pandemic and many of the musicians were sympathetic to the mission of trying to break into the industry, to such an extent that they donated the money that they would have been paid towards our scholarship fund for the CP”.

Students were involved in all aspects of the music festival, from performance and brand management to assisting in the marketing of the event. Dr House explains: “the school hosted the event because we believe that you have to look beyond the academic piece into what your links to the community are, if you don’t have strong connections you have to look at what else you can build that will fill the gap”.

“Events such as the Amadeus music festival are evidence to the wider community of the cohesive culture that is fostered at IB continuum schools, as students work together utilizing their own social network, while developing a professional one that extends beyond the school. The CP gives students a chance to make the most of these opportunities alongside the academic element of the programme. As a school, we have committed to the IB completely and there is so much benefit from that.”

Dr Jeremy G House
Head of School

Find out more about the benefits of the CP:
www.ibo.org/cp