



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

AMADEUS International School Vienna

# PLAYING A HARMONIOUS TUNE THROUGH THE FOUR IB PROGRAMMES



**2014**

Diploma Programme offered since

**302**

Total number of students

**Dr Jeremy G House**

Head of School

## The four cornerstones of success

It is well documented that the majority of bestselling songs are written from a base of four chords. The perfect balance, pitch and progression of these, combined and intertwined, provide a recipe that has shown countless success. At AMADEUS International School, Vienna the creative combination of four elements is not only relevant to a songsmith, but is also applied to its through-school educational offering.

AMADEUS International School, Vienna is an international school that “draws upon music as a catalyst for profound personal growth” and has offered the International Baccalaureate (IB) since 2014, most recently becoming the first four-programme continuum school in Austria with its latest addition of the Career-related Programme (CP) in 2021. 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, shares his thoughts on what it means to be an IB World School: “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 goes on to further explain: “We 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 before 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 IB World School in Austria to offer all four IB programmes. The students benefit from the culture that runs throughout all of the programmes, which integrate into a meaningful and cohesive educational journey. We can see our young people thriving, which means a lot to us”.

## A key to an open future

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. However, through studying such a broad range of programmes and subject choices,





students have the ability to pursue any career path with confidence, with many going to study academically at internationally acclaimed universities. Dr House tells how a student's progression through the IB continuum helps prepare them for any path of their choosing: "Having access to the full continuum means that any of our students are able to follow their passions, regardless of choosing the CP or DP as a post 16 option. This is down to the beautifully cohesive nature of the IB, there is a natural flow through each of the four programmes and students pick up new life skills at each stage.

"If I were to condense the journey, the PYP introduces students to taking agency in their learning. This then follows to the MYP in which

introduces transdisciplinary learning, which puts them in a fantastic position to progress to DP or CP, where our students become fully independent in their learning and working. The two post-16 programmes provide a head-start for any student wanting to progress to university, step into the workplace or start a solo venture".

With an organic path of learning mapped out through each stage of education, offering all four IB programmes builds upon a student's in-built desire for inquiry, meaning that they take an active role in learning from a young age until graduation at 18 years old and are able to take true ownership of their learning from start to finish.

## A creative community

However, it's not just the students who benefit through ownership of learning. The teaching staff at AMADEUS International School are also able to take advantage of continuum learning. Dr House expands on this: "Our teachers are able to deliver learning in a way that allows them full creative ownership in the classroom. They get to design their own curriculum and ask themselves the question "what could this course deliver?". It's not always easy to rise to this challenge but it truly takes them to a new professional level; creating excellence requires real imagination".

Dr House continues to say that one of their biggest highlights through offering all four programme is the strong community it fosters: "The beautiful thing is that everyone in our whole school community gains a feeling of inclusivity. The word continuum, by its nature, means that no one is left out, and we embody



that. Stepping onto our campus means that you take on the values of the IB and a fully international community”.

Looking at the school’s extended community, the parents of students studying at AMADEUS International School are receptive and supportive of the school’s decision to offer the IB at each school level. Explaining this, Dr House notes: “Our parents appreciate the fact that students can change their mind on what they’d like to pursue, based on the flexibility that is offered through the different IB programmes. Their children have the option to pick a new direction and passion at any stage of their studies and they know this will be fully supported, due to the IB’s orientation to growing the whole person. It’s key for us that we have parental approval of the IB and we are thankful that they are 100% behind us in our decision to offer the continuum”.



## Fostering a diverse and cohesive culture

Dr Plöger notes that students changing their minds is a healthy aspect of their education, as a diversity of interest means that they have a cohort with a diverse range of skills: “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”.

Recently, students benefited from the school’s hosting of the AMADEUS Music Festival. Students gained an internship experience in all aspects of the festival, from performance, brand management and assisting in the marketing of the event, drawing on the wealth of skills that each IB programme has to offer. 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. All four programmes give students a chance to make the most of fantastic opportunities alongside the academic element of each programme. As a school, we have committed to the IB completely and there is so much benefit from doing so.

**Dr Jeremy G House**  
Head of School

Find out more about the benefits of the IB:  
[www.ibo.org/benefits](http://www.ibo.org/benefits)