



American
International
School
Vienna



GlobeSpotter

The AIS Vienna Alumni Magazine

December 2025



**American
International
School
Vienna**

Our Mission

At the American International School Vienna, we empower each student with the skills and character strengths necessary to be positively impactful global citizens who strive for personal growth and excellence in an ever-changing world.

Our Vision

A community of innovative learners realizing their chosen futures with courage, curiosity, and joy.

Our Values

Respect

We will be kind, considerate, inclusive, and thoughtful in our interactions with others and the environment.

Aspire

We will pursue our passions, imagine possibilities, and make them real.

Achieve

We will apply ourselves to the best of our ability with effort and ingenuity, and strive for personal growth.

Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Priority Areas

01

Teaching & Learning

Empowering students to strive for personal growth and excellence.

02

Character & Community

Cultivating ethical, purposeful, and balanced citizens of a diverse community.

03

Facilities

Creating spaces to support innovative learning.

04

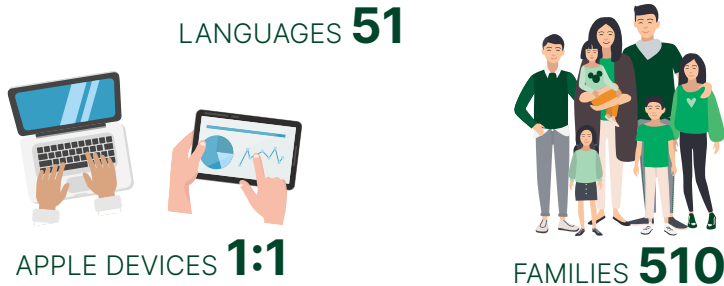
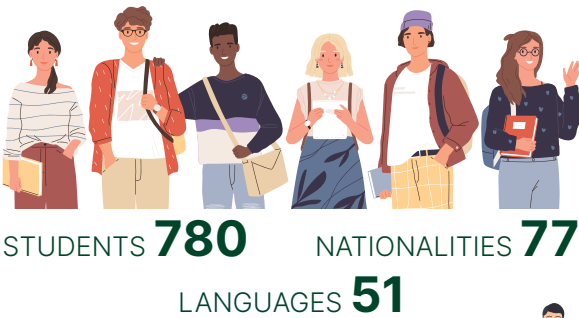
Finance

Stewarding resources to support current and future students.

Environmental Ethics & Sustainability

The AIS Vienna community is committed to developing an environmentally friendly school by raising environmental awareness, making environmentally friendly decisions, including environmental action and education in our daily routine, and supporting the environmental policies of Austria.

Key Facts



*All data as of September 2025

A Letter from the Director

As we come to the close of another remarkable calendar year at the American International School Vienna, I have found myself reflecting on the extraordinary journey that our community continues to take together. Each year adds a new chapter to AISV's legacy, one built on curiosity, character, and a shared commitment to shaping thoughtful, engaged global citizens.

In this edition of the *GlobeSpotter*, we are delighted to showcase alumni who exemplify the impact of an AISV education. Their accomplishments remind us of the diverse paths our graduates take and the meaningful ways they contribute to the world. Their stories are a testament to the strength of our community and the lifelong connections forged at AISV.

Our alumni remain a vital part of our school's fabric. Your support, mentorship, and continued engagement enrich the AISV experience for current students and strengthen our collective future. We are deeply grateful for the many ways you continue to invest in and champion our mission.

This year has also marked significant progress toward our next major step as a school. Our campus transformation project is moving steadily forward, laying the foundation for new learning, athletics, and community spaces that will serve future generations. These plans reflect both our ambitious vision and our unwavering dedication to providing an exceptional environment for teaching and learning. You can find an update on this exciting initiative in the AIS Vienna Tomorrow section of this issue.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to remain connected with your AISV community. Whether through events, mentorship, or simply sharing your stories, your involvement helps shape the next era of AIS Vienna. Together, we continue to build a school that honors its past while boldly embracing its future.



Kathy Miner, DEd
Director

A Letter from the Community Engagement & Advancement Coordinator

Welcome to this year's edition of the *GlobeSpotter*! As always, our goal has been to create a publication that not only captures the vibrant life of AIS Vienna today but also honors the rich tapestry of stories that connect our global alumni community. In this issue, we are delighted to feature alumni from across the decades who generously shared how their AISV experience shaped their paths professionally, personally, and across continents.

This past year has been filled with meaningful opportunities to reconnect. A year ago, I was thrilled to attend the alumni gathering in New York City, where more than 90 of you came together to celebrate, reminisce, and strengthen the bonds that began at AISV. Since then, I have seen many alumni reunion events take place worldwide and even attended the Class of '05 20 Year Reunion this past summer in Vienna with my husband, JT Hilliard (Class of '05 and AISV Marketing & Communication Manager). Seeing so many of you reunite, laugh and pick up right where you left off made me grateful to be part of such a warm, welcoming and connected community. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Alumni Winter Reunion in Vienna this December, where we will bring together graduates from across generations to share memories, make new

connections and celebrate our shared AISV roots. Each gathering, large or small, reminds me how strong and enduring this community truly is, and how deeply AISV continues to shape the lives of those who once called it home. Your enthusiasm and engagement inspire our work every day, and I am grateful for the many ways you continue to stay connected to one another and to the school.

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding and enhancing the ways alumni can engage with one another and with the school. Our Alumni Portal and Database continue to grow, making it easier than ever to reconnect, network and share your journeys. It has been incredibly rewarding to watch new connections spark and long-lost classmates find their way back to one another through these tools.

Thank you for staying connected to the school you once called home. Your stories and support sustain the legacy of AIS Vienna and inspire the next generation of students walking our halls. We are grateful for all that you bring to this community and look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate your achievements in the years ahead.



Stephanie Hilliard

*Community
Engagement &
Advancement
Coordinator*

A Letter from the Alumni Affairs Manager

My Dear AIS Vienna Alumni,

I hope this message finds you well and thriving. As we continue to grow and evolve as a community, I wanted to take a moment to reach out personally and remind you of the lasting impact you've had on this school — and the impact you continue to have, even long after your departure from AISV.

Every day, I'm reminded of the incredible students who walk out our doors, leave their marks on the world as alumni, and return to us in so many ways. Whether through your career achievements, personal milestones, or the small ways you stay connected, you are a living testament to the values and spirit of AISV. You are a part of this community forever.

It's an honor to be part of your journey, whether it's hearing about your post-school path, celebrating a recent success, or simply seeing how the friendships and lessons from your time here continue to shape who you are today.

I hope that as you move forward in life, you feel the same sense of belonging that so many before you have. AIS Vienna isn't just a school, it's a network of people who genuinely care, who support one another, and who share something special.

Thank you for being a part of something that is much bigger than any one of us. I'm always here if you ever want to reconnect, share your story, or simply reach out. Your journey matters, and we're all cheering you on, no matter where you are.

If you have any questions about our AISV Alumni Portal (such as updating your contact information, finding classmates, or viewing upcoming reunions), or if you'd like to promote our school, please contact the [Alumni Office](#).

Until we meet again; stay in touch, stay safe, and keep spreading that incredible Knights' spirit wherever you go.

Servus from Salmannsdorf!



Zeynep Gürkök-Müllner
*Alumni Affairs Manager
& Class of '87*

The print issue of our *GlobeSpotter* features a number of website links.
Please visit the AIS Vienna website (www.ais.at) to access this online content.

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Our Legacy

The American International School Vienna was founded on September 1, 1959. Its predecessor was the Vienna International Community School (VICS), which was founded in August 1955 after the closing of the American and British army schools at the end of the allied occupation of Austria.



1959

The American International School (AIS Vienna) is founded by the Embassies of the United States and Canada at Bauernfeldgasse 40; VICS is dissolved. Enrollment at this time is 234 students representing 17 nationalities.

AIS Vienna is granted access to funding through the Marshall Plan to establish a new campus.

1961

AIS Vienna takes possession of the current 45,000 square meter site on Salmannsdorfer Strasse. Plans for the facilities are in the final stages of preparation.



1962

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new AIS Vienna campus.

1964

AIS Vienna begins its first school year on the new campus with 357 students representing 28 nationalities.





1977

AIS Vienna becomes the 72nd IB school in the world, and the first in Austria, to be authorized.

2000

The Stemberg Physical Science Laboratory is constructed thanks to a generous donation from Staples® CEO and owner, Thomas Stemberg (Class of '67).



2012

The Theater (formerly known as the Kino) is reopened after significant renovations, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and the generous support of community members.

2021

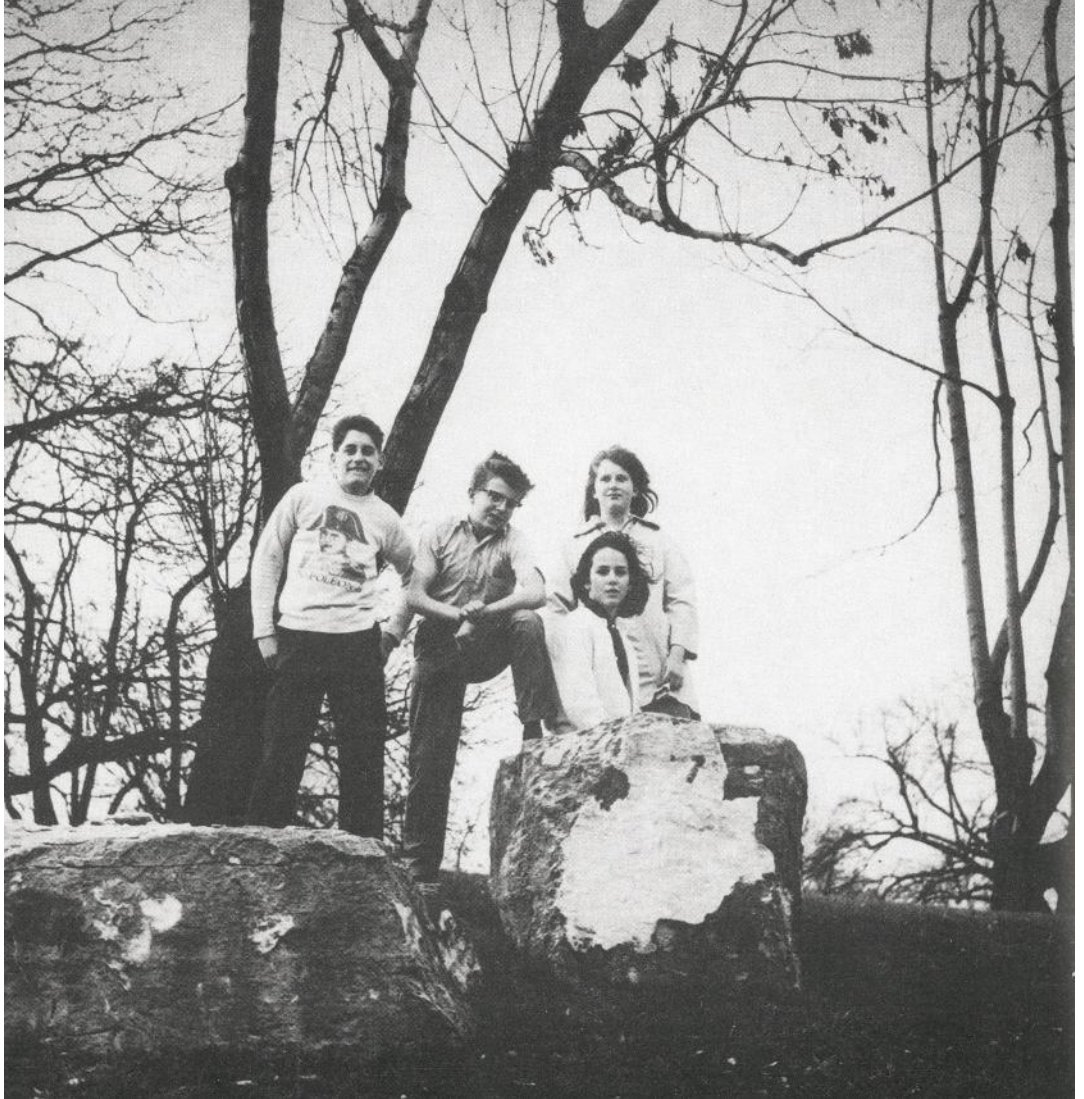
The Elementary School Science & Innovation Lab is constructed thanks to a significant donation from a private donor and generous support from the American International School of Vienna Foundation.



2025

AIS Vienna begins its 66th school year with 780 students representing almost 80 nationalities.

Alumni in the Spotlight



We're excited to shine a spotlight on some of our remarkable alumni. With nearly 14,000 individuals in our alumni database, it was no easy task to narrow down the list for this special feature. Still, we're proud to introduce five exceptional former students who embody the spirit of our community and have made meaningful contributions to their fields.

Their stories reflect the power of a shared educational experience and the enduring connections built along the way. From a passion for sports and well-being to

changing mindsets around financial matters, these alumni have pushed boundaries and made a lasting impact on the world around them. We're honored to share their journeys and proud to count them among our own.

As we continue to grow and evolve, we remain committed to nurturing a strong and supportive alumni network. Your achievements inspire current and future students, and we look forward to celebrating your successes for years to come.

Rafael Ernesto Cabrera

Class of '80



From AISV to Global Innovation

Rafael Ernesto Cabrera's journey began at AISV in the fall of 1967 and continued all the way through his graduation in 1980. Spanning kindergarten to Grade 12, his years at AISV left a lasting impression filled with vivid memories, close friendships, and formative experiences that shaped his future.

When asked what stands out most about his time at AISV, Rafael recalls kindergarten snack time, the Elementary School playground, and unforgettable moments like a class trip to Florence. He speaks fondly of influential educators including Dr. Prossinger, Mr. Berryman, and Madame Levy, whose French class still resonates with him. Cross-country gym classes, afternoons in Mrs. Jeschaunig's library, and the comforting familiarity of the school cafeteria are also etched into his memory. To Rafael, AISV will always represent a beautiful campus, strong academics, and a rich international spirit.

After AISV, Rafael moved to the United States to attend college. He pursued a career in engineering and management, working with global companies such as Westinghouse and ABB. In 1985, he married, and a year later, settled in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he continues to live today. His career took him

around the world, with international assignments in Timișoara, Romania, and Shanghai, China, further enriching his global perspective.

Rafael is now the founder of Solutionbee, a company born out of both challenge and opportunity. After a layoff, encouragement from friends and former colleagues led him to build something new, yet familiar. Solutionbee focuses on remote monitoring of honeybee hives and cryogenic sample storage monitoring, bridging technology and sustainability in unique and innovative ways.

To today's AISV Seniors, Rafael offers this piece of heartfelt advice:

"Stay in touch with AISV classmates — you have a lot more in common than you think."

Rafael's story is a powerful reminder of the lifelong impact of international education and the global ties formed within the AISV community. From a curious kindergartener to a global entrepreneur, he continues to embody the values and vision that define AISV alumni.

Arabelle Kamler Class of '95



Championing Health, Education & Global Connection

From Grade 2 through Grade 9 (1984-1992), Arabelle Kamler called AISV home — a place that shaped not only her early education but also her lifelong values. Arabelle looks back on her time at AISV with deep fondness and vivid memories that continue to inspire her work today.

Among her favorite recollections are the beloved ski weeks and the many theater performances she participated in, including *The Sound of Music* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Watching one of the old VHS recordings recently brought it all flooding back — the friendships, the laughter, the joy of learning. But more than events or activities, what left the deepest impression on Arabelle was the kindness of the AISV community.

"There were no international divisions, no politics, and certainly no bullying," she recalls. "We were just children, connecting and learning together."

When she hears the name AISV today, the first phrase that comes to mind is: *"Connecting globally."*

A Life of Passion and Purpose

After AISV, Arabelle continued her education at a boarding school in St. Gallen, Switzerland before completing her studies in Hotel Management at Hotelfachschule Modul in Vienna. At just 22, she launched her first business — a catering and events company that has now been running for over 27 years.

Driven by a lifelong passion for sports, wellness, and education, Arabelle steadily expanded her professional qualifications, becoming a nutrition expert, fitness trainer, mental coach, and later, a pilates and spinning instructor as well as a children's fitness and yoga teacher. These experiences led to the creation of two powerful ventures:

- Belle Group, focused on holistic health, nutrition, and education
- WellForm International, a global platform for experts and educators to share knowledge across borders

Health Literacy & Empowering the Next Generation

With the birth of her daughter, Arabelle's focus deepened, especially around the importance of childhood nutrition and health education. She began working more directly with children and teens, believing that while younger kids rely on adults for guidance, teenagers need engaging, age-appropriate tools to understand and take charge of their own well-being.

This commitment led to the creation of a children's book that teaches healthy eating in a playful, approachable way. Available in German and English as a hardcover, ebook, and audiobook, the project has grown into interactive workshops and live readings across both languages. Arabelle's mission: to make health education fun, accessible, and empowering.

Through WellForm International, she also gives health and wellness experts a global stage to share their insights, all while championing free education for underserved children through the platform's Kids World initiative.

"Our vision is to be the place where innovation meets social impact — leading in digital innovation while always putting human connection first."

Advice to AISV Seniors

To today's AISV graduates, Arabelle offers this thoughtful guidance:

"Stay curious and open-minded. The world is changing faster than ever, and what matters most is your ability to adapt, learn, and trust yourself. Don't be afraid to try different paths. Every step, even the ones that seem small or off-track, builds skills and experience that will serve you later."

Arabelle Kamler's journey from AISV student to international entrepreneur, educator, and advocate for children's health is a powerful testament to the enduring values of compassion, curiosity, and community. She continues to live out the very spirit of AISV: connecting globally, and making a difference locally and worldwide.

Elina Bazinas

Class of '11



Finding True North in Innovation & Impact

For Elina, AISV wasn't just a school, it was home. Having spent 18 years in the AISV community, first as a younger sibling, then from preschool finger painting to high school graduation in 2011, Elina's story is deeply woven into the fabric of the school.

"AISV gave me the space to try it all," she recalls. "Sports, arts, academics, leadership — it was a place where you could explore everything."

Whether she was on the tennis court, in a student council meeting, prepping for exams, or cheering on a theater production, Elina embraced the full spectrum of opportunities AISV offered. In doing so, she began building the skills that would shape her future: creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

When asked what one word comes to mind when she thinks of AISV, Elina doesn't hesitate: "Community."

From the UK to Greece — and Beyond

After graduating, Elina moved to the UK to pursue a degree in History and Political Philosophy, followed by a Master's in Politics and Global Civil Society. But it wasn't long before she found herself drawn to the front lines of real-world change.

In 2015, amid Greece's financial crisis and capital controls, Elina returned to Athens to work with a political innovation NGO focused on strengthening democracy and civic participation. There, she led workshops helping people understand the Greek constitution, identify democratic gaps, and reimagine how citizens could shape the future.

This hands-on civic engagement led her to co-found 100mentors, an edtech startup based on a powerful belief: every student deserves access to mentors and opportunities, no matter where they are. The platform expanded to serve schools in 18 countries, from the U.S. to Laos, creating meaningful connections between learners and global role models.

Helping Startups Find Their Story

From her work in civic tech and edtech, Elina transitioned into consulting, supporting B2B SaaS companies across industries like cleantech, travel tech, and supply chain innovation. The common thread? A need for clarity in message, in mission, and in growth.

That's what led her to create True North PMM, her own boutique consultancy.

"I kept meeting brilliant founders with incredible products, but their story wasn't landing," Elina explains. "Customers were confused. Teams were misaligned. Investors didn't lean in. I realized what was missing was a clear 'north star' — that simple, human story that brings everything into focus."

Today, True North PMM helps startups sharpen their positioning, craft stories that resonate, and build go-to-market strategies that drive real growth. Elina's mission is simple: *"We make sure people get it."* Because when your story has direction, everything else — from pipeline to purpose — starts to click into place.

Advice to Today's AISV Seniors

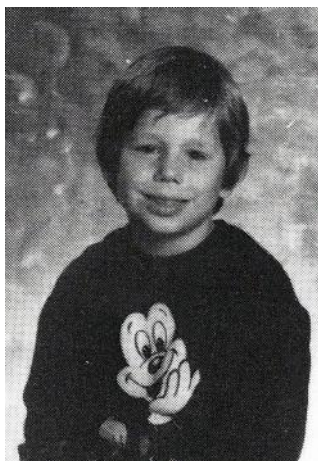
To the next generation of AISV graduates, Elina offers heartfelt advice:

"Don't wait for perfection. Try the thing, take the risk, raise your hand. The path rarely looks like what you planned, but every step teaches you something you'll need later. And remember: you're allowed to be proud of how far you've come while still working on where you want to go."

From AISV lifer to global changemaker and startup storyteller, Elina continues to lead with curiosity, courage, and clarity — proving that the strongest foundations begin with a supportive community and a willingness to step into the unknown.

Bjarni Kai Nash

Class of '01



From Global Institutions to Personal Freedom

When Bjarni thinks back to his early years at AISV (1987–1992), the memories are vivid and full of joy.

"Honestly: happiness!" he says.

Though he left in the middle of his Elementary School years, his time at AISV left a lasting impression. He remembers basketball tournaments in the gym, baseball games around Vienna, and Welch's grape soda from the vending machine. The library, big theater productions, and even tennis lessons from his dad on the school courts are still crystal clear in his mind.

A Life of Movement and Meaning

After AISV, Bjarni's family moved to Sri Lanka, then back to the UK, where he completed high school and university. However, the urge to explore never left him.

"I got ants in my pants and decided I needed to venture overseas again."

His career took him across Europe and deep into the world of international institutions.

From pouring pints at a pub in Copenhagen, to impactful roles with the EU and the UN, Bjarni's journey reads like a world map:

Europol in The Hague

- The European Securities and Markets Authority in Paris (where he met his Czech wife)
- The EU Asylum Agency in Malta
- The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (again in The Hague)
- And finally, The European Union Agency for the Space Programme in Prague

But when his daughter Šárka was born, Bjarni made a bold move: he left his high-powered international career to become a full-time father. The family relocated to Opava, a small city in the east of the Czech Republic, where he embraced a new chapter.

"I have such a close bond with my first daughter from being at home every day for her first two years," he reflects. "And five years later, we've just welcomed our second daughter, Karolína."

Helping Others Redefine Success

Alongside fatherhood, Bjarni began what started as a passion project and grew into a full-fledged business:

FU Money Coach — a coaching company helping expats, EU/UN professionals, and high earners create lives of real freedom, purpose, and balance.

Despite being seen as "successful" for much of his life, Bjarni realized he was living paycheck to paycheck, with little savings and no long-term financial security. That wake-up call led him to rethink everything.

"I was one paycheck away from disaster. So I took myself off autopilot and fixed my relationship with money, and my entire lifestyle."

Now, through values-based financial coaching, he helps others do the same. His clients learn to redefine wealth, make intentional choices, and build the kind of lives they don't need a vacation from — without the pressure of taking big risks or becoming someone they're not.

"I help people get wealthy quietly — not to chase status, but to gain freedom."

Advice to AISV Seniors

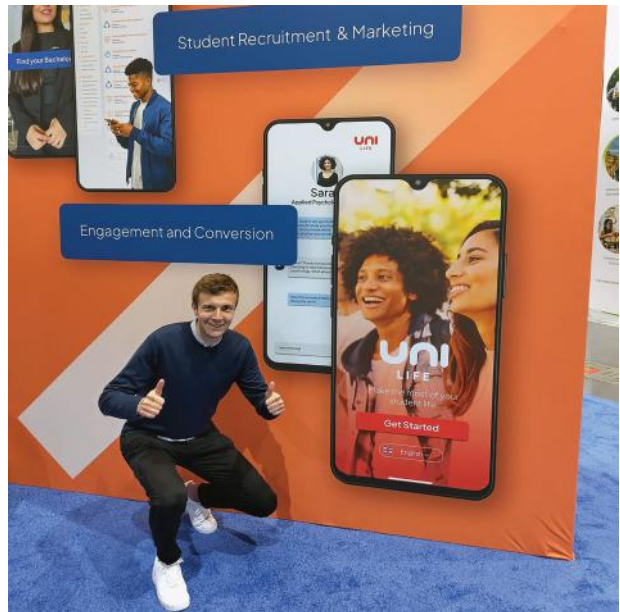
Bjarni offers one clear and compelling message to today's graduates:

"Freedom is more important than status. Get wealthy discreetly, and let someone else waste their money on symbols trying to impress people who don't care or don't matter."

His journey — from Vienna to Sri Lanka, from courtrooms in The Hague to coaching calls in the Czech Republic — is a powerful reminder that success doesn't have to look like a title or a pay grade. Sometimes, real success is simply the freedom to live on your own terms.

Look him up on LinkedIn: FU Money Coach – Bjarni Kai Nash

Joep Annega Class of '14



Turning Student Life into a Startup

When Joep reflects on his time at AISV, it's with a mix of nostalgia and respect — not just for the friendships and fun, but for the challenge.

"It already feels like a lifetime ago," he says. "But also, stressful. IB is still one of the hardest things I've ever done. Even harder than running a business at times."

Joep joined AISV for his junior and senior years (2012–2014), and he made the most of it. His favorite memories include the varsity football seasons, along with international tournaments in Milan and Munich, and two memorable events hosted at home in Vienna. Those experiences on and off the field left a lasting impression.

From AISV to Entrepreneurship

After graduating in 2014, Joep returned to the Netherlands to study International Business at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. While completing his Bachelor's degree, he launched both a Master's program in Business Information and a startup — a bold move, but one that proved pivotal.

"As Uni-Life took off, I decided to drop out of my Master's. It was a tough decision, but a great one in hindsight."

And that leap of faith paid off.

Introducing Uni-Life: Connecting Students Before They Even Arrive

Joep's idea for Uni-Life was sparked by personal experience. Austria was actually the ninth country he had lived in by the age of sixteen. Constantly moving meant he'd learned how to adapt quickly, but he noticed that wasn't the case for everyone.

"During university, I realized many students struggled to find their footing in the first few weeks. That's when the idea clicked — a platform to help students connect with each other, events, and communities from day one."

He pitched the concept to his university, secured funding, and Uni-Life was born.

Today, Uni-Life helps universities around the world connect with prospective students before they accept their offers, turning uncertainty into excitement. The platform allows admitted students to meet future classmates, explore events, and get a sense of community early on, giving universities a powerful way to stand out in an increasingly competitive landscape.

"When students apply, they apply to many schools. We help universities make sure those students choose them."

Advice to AISV Seniors

To the next generation of graduates, Joep offers these two key pieces of advice:

"First, however stressful senior year may be, try to enjoy it. Before you know it, you'll have graduated ten years ago and miss the days."

"Second, head off to university with an open mind. It's not your GPA or lectures that will shape you most — it's the people you meet, the clubs you join, and the moments that push you out of your comfort zone. That's where the real growth happens."

From the football field at AISV to founding a tech company that now partners with universities around the world, Joep has carved a path defined by curiosity, bold decisions, and a commitment to building communities, even before they begin.

65th Anniversary Alumni Reunion December 2024 in New York



Class of 1985 Reunion April 2025 in Vienna



Class of 1995 and 2000 Reunion June 2025 in Vienna



Class of 2005 Reunion July 2025 in Vienna



Recent Alumni Events

Recognizing Our Commitment to International Education

We are proud to announce that AISV has officially received International Re-Accreditation from both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) following the evaluation visit in January 2025. This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in international education.

The CIS global membership includes more than 1,500 schools and universities across 120 countries. AISV is honored to be part of this worldwide network dedicated to fostering socially responsible global citizens and connecting ideas and cultures around the world.

In their report, the evaluating team affirmed several key areas of our school. They validated our school mission and purpose as an authentic reflection of AISV's unique context and history. They acknowledged the strength of our Community Survey data, which highlights valuable insights into our learners and broader community. They also accepted our financial documentation as evidence of sound fiscal stewardship and long-term planning. Finally, the team endorsed our interpretation of the CIS Community Survey findings and the actions we have taken in response.

The evaluation visit, conducted from January 19–24, 2025, included seven trained peer evaluators (four from CIS and three from MSA). During their time on campus, they reviewed our self-study report, examined supporting evidence, met with stakeholders, observed classrooms and daily school life, and compiled a report outlining commendations and recommendations for continuous growth.

The CIS–MSA accreditation framework encompasses eight domains and 57 standards, guided by four core areas: purpose and direction, learning and teaching, global citizenship, and well-being. AISV was recognized for meeting 40 standards, exceeding 14, and having no standards rated as partially met (a commendable achievement).

Looking ahead, our next step is to carefully review the full 43-page evaluation report, reflect on the commendations and recommendations, and use these insights to shape our next five-year Strategic Plan. This work will help us continue strengthening our school and ensuring meaningful, sustained improvement. We are encouraged by the report's affirming feedback and energized by the opportunities ahead. In the spirit of our Core Value Aspire, we will pursue our passions, imagine the possibilities, and make them real.



Celebrating Our Eco-School Certification

We are absolutely delighted to announce that AISV has officially received International Eco-School Certification from the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) following our recent comprehensive evaluation visit by Dr. Marti Hendrichs.

This achievement represents the culmination of nearly two years of dedicated effort across our entire school community. The Eco-Schools program certification process has been challenging yet incredibly rewarding,

reflecting our unwavering commitment to environmental education and sustainable practices.

During the evaluation visit, Dr. Hendrichs had the opportunity to engage with our students, faculty, and staff, who demonstrated exceptional knowledge and passion for our environmental initiatives.

We are proud of how our community showcased the meaningful work we've been doing together.



AIS Vienna Receives Prestigious QPA Award for Athletic Excellence



We are thrilled to announce that AIS Vienna is one of the first two international schools in the world – and the first in Europe – to receive the prestigious Quality Program Assessment (QPA) Award. This honor, accredited by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in the United States, recognizes excellence in athletic program administration. Winners are announced annually in December.

The QPA process is an in-depth and rigorous evaluation of an athletic program, setting a global benchmark for excellence. While international schools undergo regular accreditation by various external agencies, no other assessment evaluates athletics as comprehensively as the QPA.

To earn this distinction, a school must have an athletic administrator who is an active NIAAA member and score over 80% in each of the 10 assessment categories, which include: Philosophy, Educational Compatibility, Mentoring Staff & Student Leaders, Program Safety &

Risk Management, Communication, Budget, Personnel, Sports Medicine, Innovation & Creative Leadership Strategies.

Until 2023, only 67 schools had received the QPA Award. In 2024, AIS Vienna and Escuela Internacional Sampedrana (EIS) in Honduras became the first-ever international schools to achieve this recognition — a milestone in international school athletics.

We are incredibly proud of our Athletics Department for this achievement and their commitment to excellence, leadership, and student development. A great big thank you goes out to Nick DeForest, Assistant Director of the Events Office, and Lucija Perktold, ASA Coordinator and Assistant to the Events Office, who were both instrumental in pulling all the necessary data and information together.

Learn more about the [NIAAA and the QPA Award](#).

A Celebration of Young Performers on the World Stage

From November 5 through 10, a group of our AISV Theater students had the unforgettable opportunity to represent our school on stage in Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Their journey began earlier this year, when students submitted video entries for the 2025 Magnum Opus International Speech & Drama Competition, a global celebration of creativity and performance excellence.

Out of thousands of entries worldwide, one of our Grade 11 students placed third in the Solo Performance category with a powerful rendition of *OCD* by Neil Hilborn, while three other Grade 11 students earned third place in the Group Performance category with their dynamic interpretation of *The Philadelphia* by David Ives. Their success led to an invitation to showcase their work at Carnegie Hall.

Between rehearsals and the showcase, the group immersed themselves in the city's vibrant theater scene. They visited iconic landmarks and attended three outstanding Broadway productions. Each performance offered new perspectives on storytelling, design, and performance, sparking discussions that carried long into

the night and deepening the students' understanding of live theater.

"It was inspiring to see our students' hard work recognized on an international level," said Mrs. Jensen-Hengstler, who co-led the trip. "They didn't just perform beautifully; they represented our community with confidence, curiosity, and heart." Reflecting on the experience, Mr. Williams added: "This trip wasn't only about performing. It was about belonging to a global community of young artists who believe in the power of theater to connect and inspire."

The Magnum Opus International Speech & Drama Competition aims to inspire creativity, confidence, and cultural exchange among the next generation of artists. The AIS Vienna team was proud to take its place among this global community.

Standing on the stage of Carnegie Hall was both humbling and exhilarating, a moment that will stay with the students for years to come. Their achievements mark not only a milestone in their artistic journeys but also a proud moment for the AIS Vienna community.



Higher Education Placements Awarded to the Class of 2025

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

As of September 2025, our students have been accepted to the following universities. The number following the university indicates the number of students accepted (if greater than one).

The students from the Class of 2025 received **239** acceptances at **135** institutions in **19** countries/regions.

Austria

FH Campus Wien
Sigmund Freud University
University of Applied
Sciences Wiener Neustadt

Canada

McGill University(3)
The University of British
Columbia, Vancouver (4)
University of Alberta (3)
University of Toronto (5)
University of Waterloo (2)

Cyprus

European University Cyprus
(2)
University of Nicosia (2)

France

EDHEC Business School
ESCP Business School,
Paris (3)
Paris College of Art

Germany

Julius Maximilian University
of Würzburg
Universität Regensburg
University of Erlangen-
Nuremberg

Greece

Aristotle University School
of Medicine
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
University of Crete - School
of Medicine

Ireland

Atlantic Technological
University Sligo
Munster Technological
University (MTU)

Technological University
Dublin, Bolton Street
Trinity College Dublin - The
University of Dublin
University College Dublin

Italy

Bocconi University (4)
Luiss University

Japan

Sophia University

Netherlands

Maastricht University (2)
University College
Maastricht
University of Amsterdam (2)
Vrije Universiteit,
Amsterdam

Romania

University of Medicine,
Pharmacy, Science and
Technology of Targu Mures

Singapore

Singapore Management
University

Spain

Escuela Superior de
Adminstracion y Direccion
de Empresas ESADE (2)
IE University (8)

Sweden

Karolinska Institutet

Thailand

Chulalongkorn University

Turkey

Bogazici University

United Kingdom

Abertay University Dundee
Arts University
Bournemouth
City University of London
(5)
Coventry University
Edinburgh Napier University
Falmouth University
Goldsmiths, University of
London
Hult International Business
School
King's College London (13)
Kingston University
Lancaster University
London School of
Economics and Political
Science
Northeastern University,
London
Queen Mary University of
London (6)
Regent's University London
Robert Gordon University
University College London
(11)
University of Bath (4)
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol (4)
University of Chester
University of Edinburgh (8)
University of Hertfordshire
University of Leeds
University of Manchester (4)
University of Portsmouth
University of Reading
University of Southampton
University of St Andrews (7)
University of Sunderland
University of Sussex
University of Warwick (6)
University of Westminster
University of York

United States

American University
Baylor University
Boston College
Brigham Young University
Hawaii Campus
California State University,
Chico
Clemson University
College of William & Mary
Duquesne University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
University-Daytona Beach
Emerson College
Fordham University (2)
George Mason University
(2)
George Washington
University (2)
Georgia Institute of
Technology (2)
James Madison
University(4)
Louisiana State University
(3)
Loyola University Chicago
Macalester College
Mississippi State University
(2)
Montana State University
(2)
New York University
Northeastern University
Old Dominion University
Pennsylvania State
University, University Park
Radford University (2)
Rhodes College
Roosevelt University -
Chicago Campus
Sam Houston State
University
Savannah College of Art and
Design

Spring Hill College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University (2)
Texas State University
The University of Texas at
Austin
Tufts University
University of Alabama (2)
University of Arizona
University of Colorado at
Colorado Springs
University of Colorado
Boulder (3)
University of Denver
University of Florida (2)
University of Hawaii at
Manoa
University of Houston
University of Illinois at
Chicago
University of Illinois at
Urbana Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Mary
Washington
University of Michigan Ann
Arbor (2)
University of Mississippi
University of New Haven
University of North Florida
University of San Diego
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Southern
California
University of Washington-
Tacoma Campus
University of West Florida
Virginia Tech
Washington State
University, Pullman
Wesleyan University
Williams College

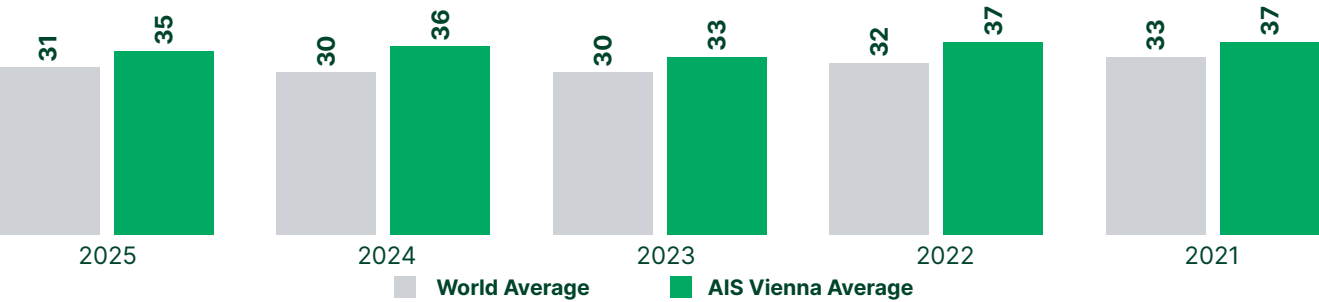
Please note: this acceptance list is based on information provided by students and their families as of September 2025.

Celebrating Achievement: Our IB Results

Congratulations to our Class of 2025 High School students and teachers for a terrific set of scores on this past school year's IB exams! As an inclusive, open-enrollment program that offers students the opportunity to achieve at all levels, we are pleased to announce a 98% pass rate for the class of 2025.

Our May 2025 cohort has an average score of 35 including 12 students scoring 40 or higher.

Average IB Diploma Points Awarded 2021-2025

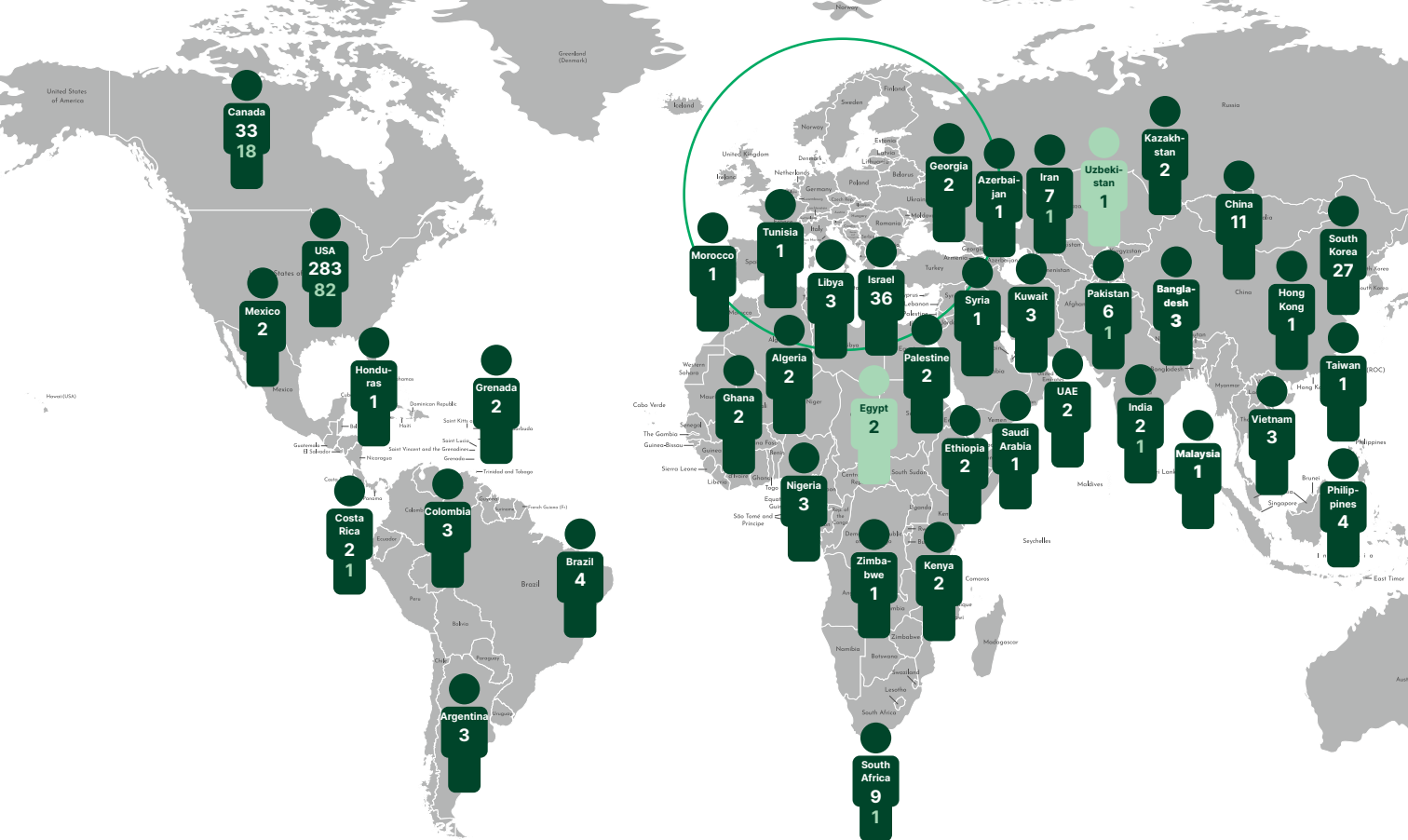


Teacher Facts & Figures

We pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching and we celebrate every one of our internationally diverse teachers. They are fully committed to upholding our Core Values — Respect, Aspire, and Achieve — which are directly linked to student learning at AIS Vienna.

Facts & Figures
About the
People Who Help
Make AIS Vienna
Special

Faculty Members	106
Countries Represented	16
Teachers with Advanced Degrees	89%
Student-Teacher Ratio	7:1



Celebrating Our International Community



Students

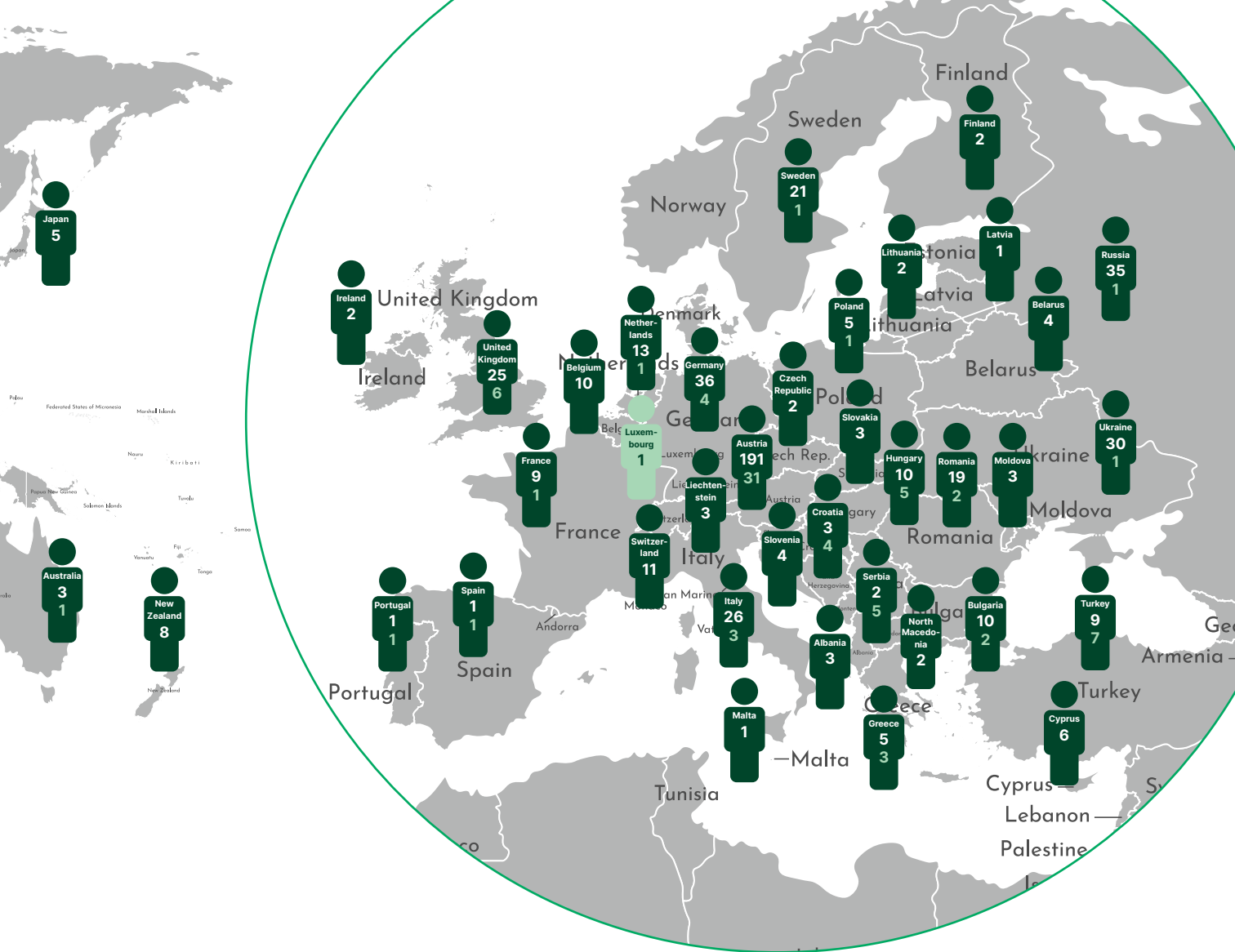
At AIS Vienna we take pride in our diverse international community, which includes students, teachers and staff of many ethnicities, languages, religions, and nationalities. We celebrate diversity and difference throughout the year at many school events, from International Day to the International Food Festival, to concerts, art shows and more. All in all, 77 countries are included in the makeup of our 2025-2026 student body.



Faculty & Staff

The core of excellence at AIS Vienna is our talented faculty and administration. Each of the three academic divisions (Elementary, Middle, and High School) is headed by an experienced principal with a record of excellence. In addition, our Senior Leadership Team includes the School Director, the Director of Teaching & Learning, the Director of Events, the Director of Technology, the Human Resources Manager, and the

Total student body: **780 students**



Business Manager. There are also trained and experienced counselors in each of the three divisions, resource staff, and librarians for the Elementary School, and the Middle and High School. A full-time nurse practitioner oversees the school's health unit.

The AIS Vienna Faculty numbers over 100 individual teachers. More than 85% hold advanced degrees, with several having earned

doctorates. A substantial majority are U.S. citizens, though the rest hail from around the globe. All AIS Vienna teachers are dedicated professionals who are committed to each student, providing them with extraordinary and personalized care. Each faculty member devotes time to their individual, ongoing development, attending regional and international conferences, IB training, and subject-specific workshops.

AIS Vienna employees range in age from 26-67, with an average and median age of around 47. The average stay of a staff member at AISV is over 10 years, which greatly enhances the school's stability and continuity.

Thirty countries are included in the makeup of our 2025-2026 faculty and staff.

Please note: As with many international schools, AIS Vienna has a significant number of students and staff with more than one nationality. Our community members' origins are clearly more complex than our data can capture.

Welcome to the Extraordinary

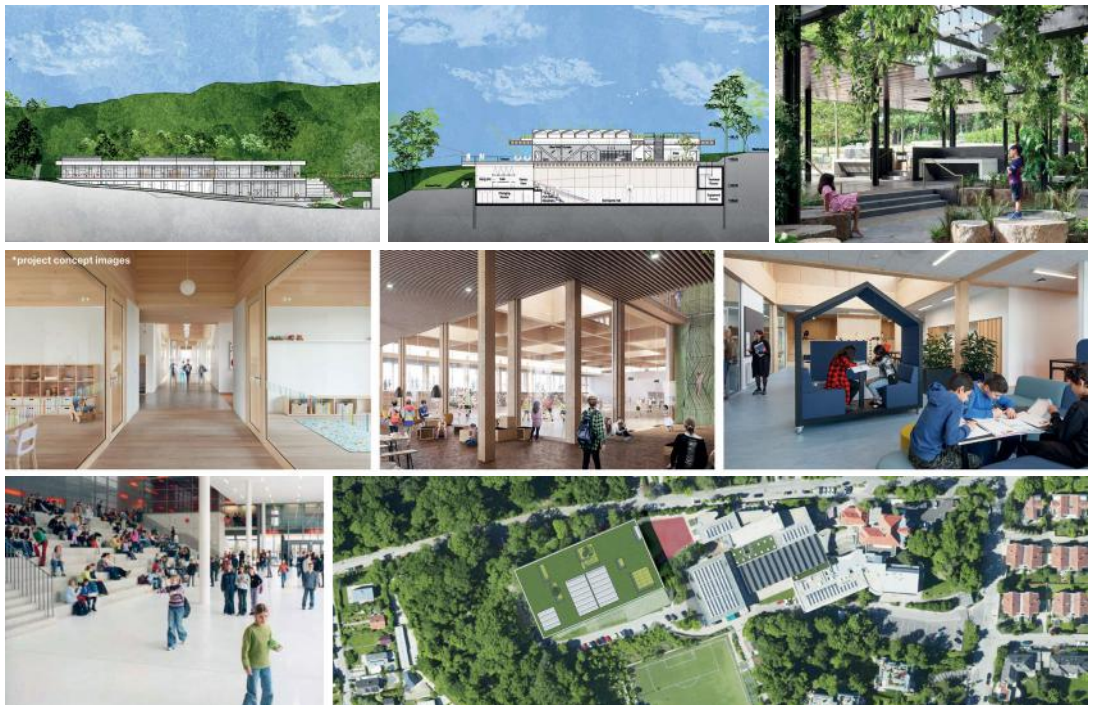
As guided by our Strategic Plan, AIS Vienna is committed to continuously investing in spaces that support innovative learning. We are excited to be preparing for a new project that will optimize numerous areas across our campus for future generations of Knights.

Over the coming years, AIS Vienna will begin construction on a completely reimagined heart of campus, which we will gain access to through the development of a new Athletic Center.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, we participated in a thorough feasibility study to gauge community interest in such an ambitious project. Thanks to feedback from current and former families, AISV's capital campaign will prioritize learning spaces, specifically the expansion of Middle School and High School classrooms, labs and common areas. These upgrades will include a spacious gathering area for the entire school and an upgraded Cafeteria. Moreover, replacing the existing Sports Hall ("Bubble") with a purpose-built Athletic Center will enable us to repurpose both on-campus gyms to create additional learning spaces for students.

Bringing this project to fruition will be a collective endeavor. We intend to garner support from the entire AISV community. While a portion of our funding will stem from reserves and financing, we also aspire to conduct a fundraising campaign to secure generous contributions. If you are interested in learning more about how to support our efforts, please contact our Advancement Team at Advancement@ais.at.

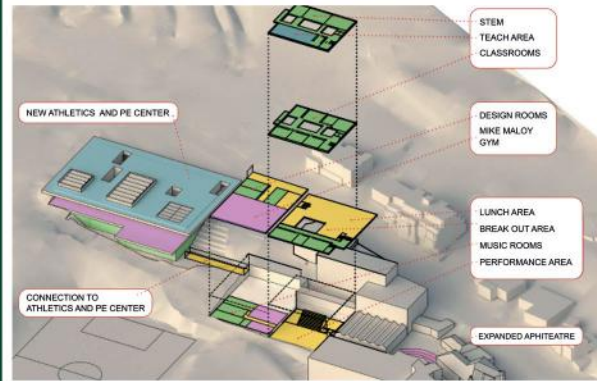
We are excited to explore countless opportunities for our learners as we transform our campus into a modern learning environment.





American
International
School
Vienna

One Project Two Phases



Phase One

A Majestic New Athletic Center

2025-2027

- 3 Large and 2 small gymnasiums
- 1 Dance room
- 2 Fitness rooms
- 1 Bouldering room
- Meeting rooms
- Change and shower facilities
- Athletic offices
- Additional learning spaces
- Café
- Break out, hang out and open spaces
- A beautiful winter garden
- Forest playground

"The new Athletics Center will serve as a beacon of excellence, setting new standards in sports and educational facilities across Europe."

Kathryn Miner, AISV Director

Phase Two

A New Heart of the School with Expanded Facilities

2025-2027

- Expanded classrooms for interactive learning
- 19 Additional learning spaces
- A breathtaking new atrium which can be used to advance the visual and performing arts
- State of the art robotics and technology labs
- New communal spaces for events and performances
- Expanded break out, hang out and open spaces
- Additional canteen and cafeteria space



"This transformation is more than just a physical upgrade; it's about creating a campus that strategically adapts to the changing needs of students. The changes aim to improve our facilities, enhance the learning experience and provide more opportunities for our children. It's about making our environment more engaging and suited to the unique needs of each student."

Matthew Werner, Chairman of the Board, AISV

- Universal design and fully accessible campus
- Climate fit buildings to KlimaAktiv standards
- A carbon neutral footprint
- Nestled in the AISV Biosphere and the Vienna Woods

Truly Visionary · Truly Vibrant · Truly AISV

Time to Say Goodbye



Class of 2025: Congratulations, Graduates!

Our Seniors have found new ways to learn, grow, connect and express themselves and have met challenges with curiosity and courage. We celebrate their accomplishments and their time with us at AIS Vienna. We know they have cultivated important skills and values for a successful future. As we watched them during their last year, they are truly a community of innovative learners realizing their chosen futures with courage, curiosity, and joy.

Our students' achievements are many and they are thrilled as they transition to university. Many thanks to our amazing counselors who supported Seniors and their parents in their search of their best fit universities to ensure a successful year and transition to the next phase of their lives. Thank you to our faculty who guided these students through the academic challenges of their senior year.

University acceptances from the previous three years can be found in our [High School Profile](#).



Retiring Staff & Faculty

People are at the center of our work, and AIS Vienna has said goodbye to a great number of faculty and staff over the years who had huge impacts on our program. In June 2025, we said farewell to four beloved faculty and staff members. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors and look forward to seeing them again someday.



Kathy Heedles
MS/HS Choir and Fine Arts
38 years at AIS Vienna



Cindy Harrison
HS Mathematics
29 years at AIS Vienna

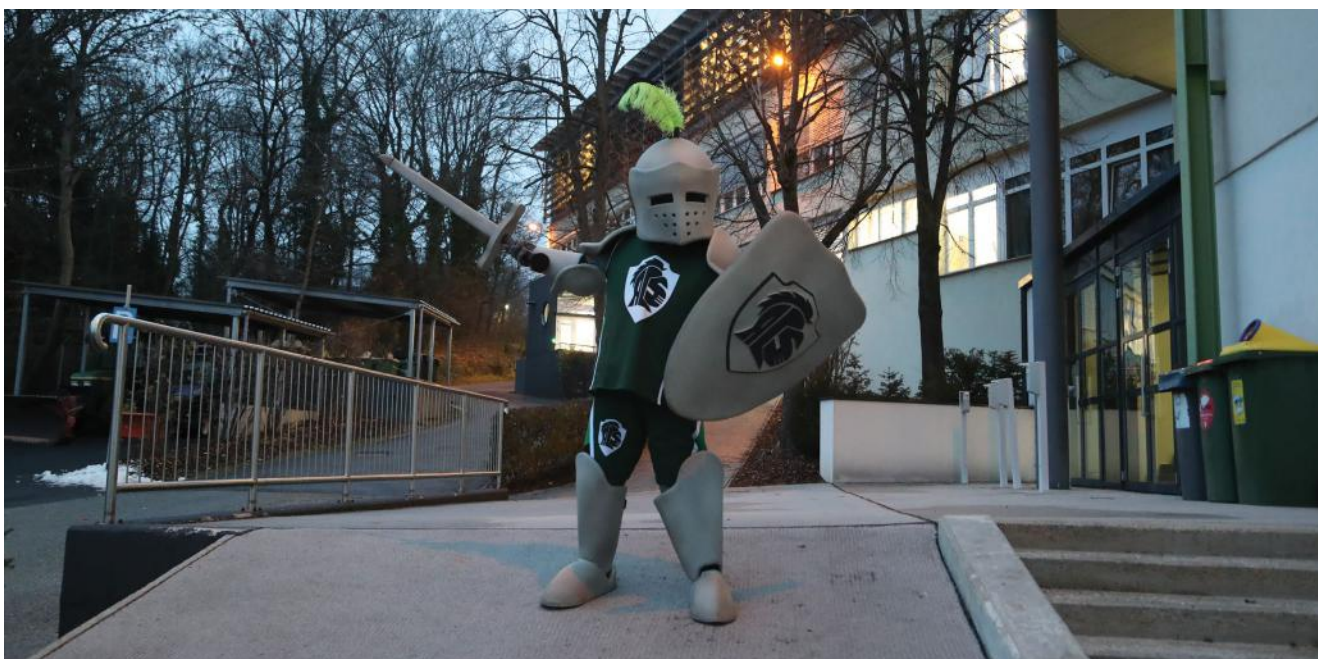


Susanne Püls
Chief Accountant
17 years at AIS Vienna



Radinka Nikolic
Cleaning Staff
11 years at AIS Vienna

Once a Knight, always a Knight!



Sad Farewells

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our following fellow Knights. Our thoughts are with their families and friends. We will miss them dearly.



Eleanor Anderson
Former Elementary School Teacher



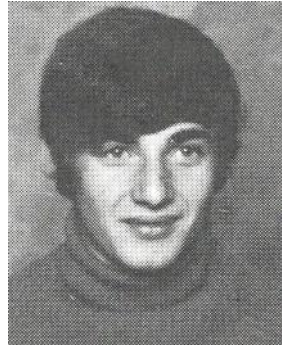
Warren Adams
Former Middle School Principal & Science Teacher



Terry Walker
Former Middle/High School Principal



James "Jim" Venner
Class of '70



Peter Behrens
Class of '72



Daniel Bridi
Class of '81



Florian Doppel-Prix
Class of '90



Kara Dooley (Karode)
Class of '97

Alumni Portal

The [AIS Vienna Alumni Portal](#) is run through our School Information System (Veracross) and offers alumni easy access to an alumni directory, news, photos, and more! Providing current contact information enables alumni to reconnect with former classmates, make professional networking connections, and stay in the loop with upcoming reunions and school events. Please contact alumni@ais.at if you have any questions about accessing the Alumni Portal.

Alumni Class Reps

Thank you to all of our Alumni Class Representatives for representing your class so well! For the complete list of Class Representatives, log in to the [AIS Vienna Alumni Portal](#).

Giving To AIS Vienna

Friendships. Mentors. Moments of personal growth. The AIS Vienna experience doesn't last long, but it accounts for an extraordinary amount of lifelong memories.

During this time of year, when it's typical for all of us to look back on those special people and places that have shaped our lives, please help us to keep the Knight experience unforgettable by making your gift to AIS Vienna today.

Regular contributions by alumni, friends, parents, faculty, and staff provide the standard of excellence that makes attending AIS Vienna an unforgettable, life-changing experience.

Your gift every year makes a difference every day!

[Learn more](#) about giving back to AIS Vienna through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.





AIS Vienna Networks

To keep up with the latest happenings at AIS Vienna, follow us on the channels below. (We post great stuff, trust us!)



www.facebook.com/AISVienna



www.instagram.com/ais_vienna



www.linkedin.com/school/aisvienna/



www.youtube.com/aisvienna



www.ais.at/social-media-landing

**The print issue of our *GlobeSpotter* features a number of website links.
Please visit the AIS Vienna website (www.ais.at) to access this online content.**







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