

**Tasis – The American School
Switzerland**

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Accreditation: New England Association of Schools & Colleges; and the European Council of International Schools

Programs: Elementary School, Middle School, High School, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, University and College Counseling, Learning Technologies, Learning Resource Center, Academic Travel Program, Summer Programs

Language of Instruction: English, Italian (in grades 1-8)

Campuses: Lugano, Switzerland; Surrey, England; Dorado, Puerto Rico

Housing: on-campus

Tuition: CHF 78,000

Culturally Speaking:

The historic, quaint town of Lugano has a charm guaranteed to make you feel at home the second you arrive. But don't get too cozy just yet...Switzerland is breathtakingly beautiful and the town of Lugano has much to see and do. Plenty of sightseeing, biking and an abundance of hiking that along with your studies, will keep you very busy throughout the Tasis school year. Let's start with the tourist train ride around town on the red arrow "La freccia rossa" and get to know the area. Take a visit to the Museum of Swiss Customs and learn how border guards have evolved, while gaining insight on their daily operations. If that sound exciting, perhaps a ride on a Lama might be more fun, as you climb a mountain and take in the view...the lama rides are a year-round thing. There's also the Alprose Chocolate Museum...not much explanation needed here and yes, they give away plenty of free samples! For the health-conscious, there's Nordic-walking, sports centers with swimming, a skating park and rock climbing, both indoors and out. As you know, art is subjective and many local artists display their work at some of the local galleries. There are well known artists on display, too and you're encouraged to take a tour of the many exhibitions on display throughout the year. And if that wasn't enough, take in a music festival – various classical, jazz, blues and contemporary festivals are scheduled yearly.

What Students Need to Know:

Félicitations à vous! You and your family have chosen one of the world's finest Boarding Schools to enrich your academic education. Tasis the American School, Switzerland, affords students more than practical classroom experience. At Tasis, Europe becomes the personal classroom, with many opportunities to

travel and study and learn firsthand about European culture and life. Some of the highlights might include a trip to southern France, an outdoor adventure in central Switzerland where you'll go rock climbing or caving, a jaunt over to Rome to learn about art history or music and photography in Venice. How about an Outward Bound trip to Germany, focusing on teamwork or visiting universities in the UK as you plan for your future? The faculty and staff at Tasis will do whatever they can to enhance your education abroad and make Tasis your home away from home.

What Parents Need to Know:

1. The counseling staff will give support to and work individually with, your child throughout their time at Tasis, as well as through the university/college application process.
2. Parents are an important part of Tasis and encouraged to participate in the TPA, as well as the governing Board. The Board works to find ways to enhance the Tasis school experience.

Tasis - The American School is situated in Montagnola, overlooking the beautiful and quaint lakeside resort village of Lugano in Switzerland. The Italian border is located just 20 minutes away and flights to cities around Europe are easily accessible from the Lugano airport.

Founded in 1955 by M. Crist Fleming, Tasis has the distinction of being the first American co-educational boarding program in Switzerland. Fleming designed Tasis with the desire to give American students the opportunity to flourish in high school and prepping them for college, all while giving them the opportunity to live in Europe. She wanted them to enjoy new cultures and being centrally located, she believed Lugano was the perfect place. Although mainly a boarding school, Tasis does offer a Day-school curriculum. There are 740 students enrolled, with an average of 15 students per classroom.

Courses are oriented strongly towards classical liberal arts tradition, with an emphasis on world cultures and the Western civilization. Tasis definitely takes advantage of its locale, bringing in speakers and artists from all over Europe, to help enhance the curriculum. The high school curriculum includes Core Knowledge, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, as well as an additional language component for IB students of English, Italian, Russian or German. On average, 60% of IB students receive a bilingual IB diploma.

Travel throughout Europe is encouraged, and in January the school closes for two weeks, as the students head for St. Moritz, to study and enjoy afternoons of skiing or other alpine sports.

Student Demographics

Total Enrollment: 740

Boarding School Students: 265

Countries Represented: 67

Languages Spoken: 35

Nationalities: 67

Highest IB Score: 42

Learning Resource Center: As Tasis does not have a full range of services geared toward students with special needs, those students needing the LRC can sometimes be accommodated only after testing. A comprehensive psycho educational evaluation must be completed within three years, to receive support. A Learning Support Plan (LSP) with teachers, parents and the student will be put into place after testing has been completed.

Academic Travel: Tasis considers Europe to be an enormous "classroom opportunity" for students, which is why the academic travel program is a requirement for students in middle and high school (included in fees). Students will travel throughout Europe and enjoy nature, music, art, biology, global service, leadership and teamwork exercises and college visits (for upper classmen). There are also weekend trips for students on a sign-up basis, using the school's mini-buses (with faculty) and those occasionally include rafting, skiing, hiking and camping or visits to cultural centers in Venice, Rome, Florence or Zurich.



Learning Technologies:

In today's world, technology has become an enormous part of everyone's lives. The Internet is a staple and advances in technology have changed the way we learn, communicate and work worldwide. Tasis has integrated the ISTE Standards within their learning curriculum and the use of technology. Classrooms are equipped with Mac computers, iPads, Apple TV, projector and audio system. All students, from elementary through high school are taught media skills from word processing, presentation creativity, effective and multilingual research, communication, etc.

Specific Areas of Study

International Baccalaureate Program- The IB Program is an academically demanding, comprehensive and very rigorous two-year program for students ages 16-19. Those students who desire a more challenging program or other students who need the IB program to gain entrance into the university of their choice, should apply to the IB program.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: There are many college-level AP courses offered at Tasis: Calculus, Art History, English, Economics, Biology, etc. Students are encouraged to take the courses and examinations, in order to receive college credit.

Awards and scholarships: There are three scholarships/awards given to students yearly, in recognition of achievement in academics, community service. Tasis maintains a \$2,000,000 scholarship and financial aid budget annually.



Residential Living

Advisor Program:

Residential living is an important part of life at Tasis and all Tasis students have an advisor to see them through their time in the community. The Advisor joins the students at dinner bi-weekly and gathers information about your student to ensure their comfort and ease, while away at school. The advisor is there to model, listen discipline, friend and counsel each student.

Proctor Program:

If you are an upperclassman in very high standing, you might be selected for the Proctor Program at Tasis. After submitting an application, the selection process is a review by your peers, who believe your leadership skills and commitment to the community would make you the perfect candidate. Good luck!

Student Government: The students at Tasis participate in running the school as Student Representatives and Officers through the Student Council, which is elected by the student body. The Council works with administrators to ensure the students have a voice and to discuss issues happening on campus, in both residential and academic life.

Sports and Athletics

All students are required to participate in sports, twice weekly at Tasis. For competitive athletics, Tasis has both varsity and junior varsity teams, competing with both Italian and Swiss schools in international school tournaments. Teams include swimming, skiing, tennis, soccer, badminton, basketball, golf and track and field.



Tasis is a part of three following leagues:



NISSA

European Sports
Conference

Swiss Group of International
Schools

Northern International
School Sports
Association

Tasis – The American School is a diverse global community, fostering the growth and independence students need, to thrive in the future and the world. Explore the possibilities. Embrace the opportunities at Tasis, The American School, Switzerland.