



INSTITUT
MONTANA – My Place to Grow®
ZUGERBERG



INSTITUT MONTANA ZUGERBERG, SWITZERLAND

Swiss International Day & Boarding School

For students aged 6-19

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Letter from the Director

I grew up at this school, as did my brother and later my son. It was our home away from home, where we were surrounded by nature as we learned new ideas, experienced an enriching curriculum and created a community that remains close-knit and continues to expand globally.

Institut Montana is more than a school, it's a place to grow. It is an idea with strong roots, embedded with almost 100 years of experience that guide our school and students' development and will continue to do so for decades to come. Just like a tree is able to withstand various and drastic changes that the world goes through, so too does our school and our students.

We ensure their own roots are thickly grown with forward-thinking education, adaptable skills, personalised care and our founding values of internationalism, individualism and integration. This is how our legacy has been maintained for so long and will continue to do so – a legacy that we hope you will become a part of as well.

Our mission is not just to have you learn about multiculturalism but live it every day – in the classroom, with extracurricular activities and amongst your peers. You will grasp what it means to be Swiss, to be international and to be open-minded. We will provide with the tools that allow you to grow into a great scholar, to receive an internationally recognised diploma and ultimately lead you to a successful career overall.

Thus, our school really is your place to grow.

ALEXANDER BINER
 Director & President of the Board of Directors
 Montana Alumnus, 1970-1978

Accreditations & Memberships



COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS (CIS)

CIS is a membership community working collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals. Global citizenship is the centre of everything CIS does to support its members.



Cambridge International School

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares school students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. Their international qualifications are recognised by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career.



IB WORLD SCHOOL

The IB prepares students to succeed in a world where facts and fiction merge in the news, and where asking the right questions is a crucial skill that will allow them to flourish long after they've left our school. We are supported by IB teachers and coordinators who develop and promote the IB's curriculums since 1987.

Maturitätsausweise durch den Kanton Zug anerkannt

CANTON ZUG - DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In education, Canton Zug develops framework conditions for the municipal schools, taking into account the inter-cantonal school coordination. Since 1936, our Swiss Matura has been recognised by the canton and the federal Swiss government.



SWISS LEARNING

The 11 high schools endorsed by the Swiss Learning project all meet strict criteria. A key requirement is the ability to demonstrate a long tradition of educational excellence with at least 50-years' experience in providing education and boarding facilities.



BOARDING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) is the United Kingdom Association serving and representing member boarding schools, training staff and promoting boarding education in both independent and state boarding schools.



Our History

Our story begins in 1926, when Dr Max Husmann first opened the doors of Institut Montana as an all-boys school. Dr Max Husmann had seen what the atrocities that World War I brought about and believed that if he could bring students from various parts of the world together to cohabit and learn, they would soon realise that they have more commonalities than differences and would be able to go on to create a better world.

Thus, he founded our school on three principle values:

INTERNATIONALISM - to see the world. The planet that Dr Husmann knew was a place ravaged by war and nationalism. His belief was that being open-minded and culturally aware would create global citizens who are tolerant and respectful of others. We continue to direct our students down this path with our international environment where students are exposed to new cultures, opinions and ideas. They also benefit and learn from our own home – Switzerland, as they gain a global mindset that is ready to tackle any challenges that appear in our increasingly complex and interconnected world.

INDIVIDUALISM - to reach their full potential. We understand that no one person is the same. Everyone has their own unique capabilities and talents and we foster these strengths with personalised care, attention and support. Whether students want to become a doctor, artist, businessman or anything else, we help turn those goals into reality by making our school a place to grow. Our students develop into well-rounded individuals who bring the best version of themselves to university and beyond.

INTEGRATION - to be prepared for life in a holistic way. Whether it is settling on a business deal, visiting a new country or being in a relationship, our students are taught how to adapt and deal with various environments. Our students are flexible, versatile and adaptable. They are equipped with a plethora of resources that enable them to navigate through a vast sea of disruptions and changes that come through life experiences and an ever-changing world.



Timeline

- 1915 ○ Dr Max Husmann earned his doctorate at ETH Zurich and set up his own school, Institut Minerva, for students who were working towards entrance to the same university. It was here that he began to develop a reputation as an outstanding teacher.
- 1926 ○ Dr Max Husmann opened the doors of Institut Montana with six students in hopes to bring together different cultures and nationalities to create mutual understanding and avoid future wars.
- 1933 ○ Italy recognises Institut Montana as an official school abroad.
- 1935 ○ The foundation of the Dutch, Austrian and English sections at Institut Montana.
- 1936 ○ The Canton of Zug accredits our Swiss Matura programme.
- 1939/1945 ○ During World War II, the Felsenegg building was requisitioned for housing soldiers; refugees were brought up to the Zugerberg Mountain and Husmann took in families with young children at the Juventus building. All the students of Institut Montana resided in the Schonfels building.
- FEBRUARY/MAY 1945 ○ Dr Max Husmann was deeply involved in Operation Sunrise, where he brought together his contacts in Switzerland and Italy and used his mediating skills to help negotiate an armistice in northern Italy. Thus, cementing him as a peacemaker.
- 12 JANUARY 1946 ○ The Max Husmann Foundation was created to safeguard the principles that inspired him to start Institut Montana. It is no coincidence that the foundation day was on the birthday of one of the fathers of holistic education, Johann Pestalozzi, who was born in Zurich in 12 January 1746.
- AUGUST 1945 ○ Felsenegg was used by the Red Cross to care for children released from the Buchenwald Concentration Camp.
- WINTER 1947/8 ○ The famous painter and graphic artist, Hans Tomamichel, was selected to create our emblem which can still be seen on our logo today.
- 1952 ○ The inauguration of the American section also known as the American High School.
- SUMMER 1959 ○ The first Institut Montana survey was done which explored how students felt about their school life which was very innovative for the time.
- 10 JULY 1966 ○ The Montana Club was founded, on the school's 40th anniversary as a means to keep alumni connected to their second home and family.
- 1987 ○ The International Baccalaureate Organisation makes us an official International Baccalaureate (IB) School where we can then offer the IGCSE and IB Diploma Programme (IBDP).
- 2016 ○ The 90th anniversary of Institut Montana.
- 2018 ○ Our bilingual secondary school opens its' doors.

Montana Today

For almost 100 years, we have dedicated ourselves to offering students a life-changing and rewarding experience that will shape you into becoming a global-minded citizen with endless possibilities.



INSPIRATIONAL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE TEACHERS

Behind every outstanding student is an exceptional teacher and we ensure this greatness by carefully selecting teachers who match our mission of providing you with a well-rounded education that allows you to reach your full potential. About 80% of our faculty has an advanced degree meaning they are experts in their field and will not only impart their wisdom onto you but also inspire you. Our faculty is equipped with the know-how to enhance your strengths and improve on your weaknesses. They are available outside of class time as well should you need extra support. We understand that not everyone learns the same and that is why our small class sizes and individualised support will let you thrive.



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The spirit of our school is defined by our 300 students with over 40 nationalities. It's an international and close-knit community that grows into your second family. It's a place where you know each other by name. It's where you build lifelong bonds and friendships that go beyond your time with us on campus. It's where you can learn another language or two. It's where you share a meal, room or opinion with someone from a different country. It's where you get academically challenged. It's where you learn a new hobby or master a skill. It's where you become a well-rounded individual in a supportive environment that makes you feel like you belong. It's where you become you.

A PERSONALISED APPROACH WITH EVERY STEP

Your personalised path already begins before you start with us during our admissions process. We will assess your academic background and strengths and placed you based on that and our entry requirements into the programme that best suits your needs. As soon as you step foot on our campus, you will be assigned a class advisor who will meet with you regularly to ensure that a supportive living and learning environment is being maintained. Our staff and faculty will make you feel capable and cared for so that your goals can be realised, and you will be prepared for any upcoming challenges in life.



A TRACK FOR EVERY STUDENT

From the age of 6 to 19, we cover and assess your needs based on your learning capabilities and university destination. For grades 1-6, you will learn in both English and German as you start to develop your language skills and learning comprehension. If you don't meet the criteria after to immediately go on to our other sections, our bilingual secondary school will help you build up a stronger academic foundation to later thrive in your studies. You can then end your studies by joining our international school which offers the IGCSE, IB and a High School Diploma, all of which are internationally recognised. Or, you can continue to our Swiss high school to earn your Swiss Matura and gain direct entry into a Swiss university, the choice is yours.

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NATIONALITIES

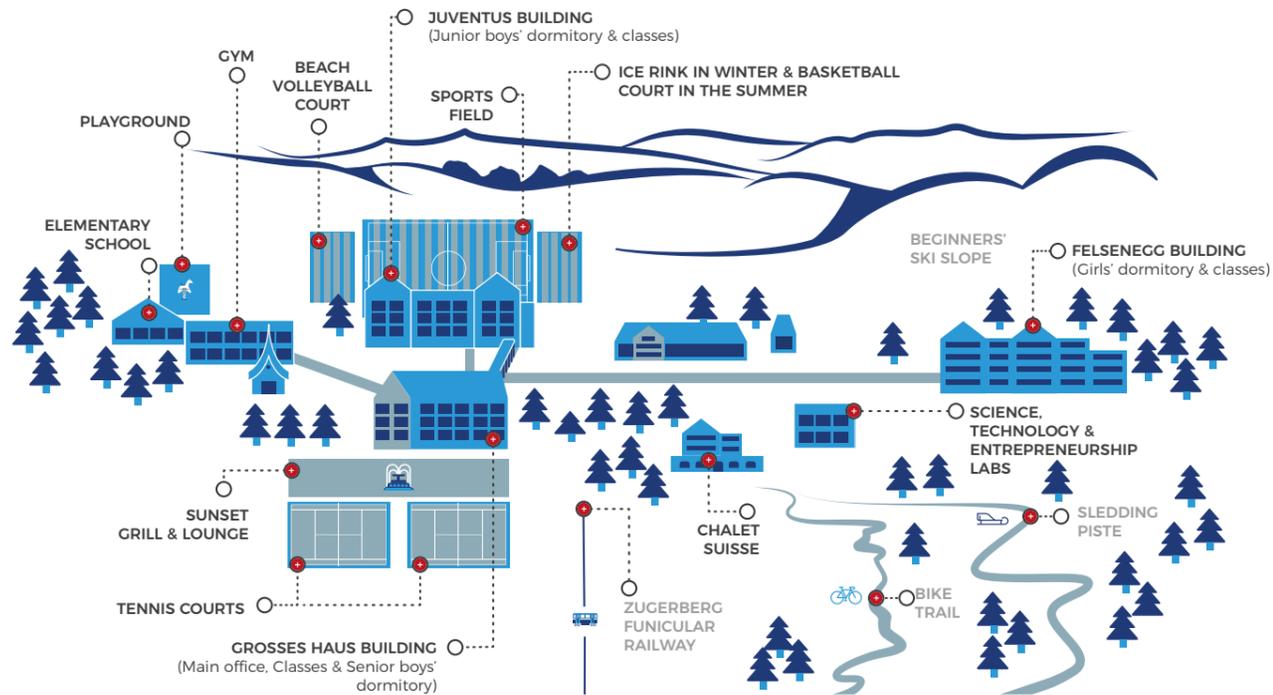
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STUDENTS



OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Whether you study with us for a semester, a year or even all 12 years, once your time with us is up, you will become a part of our global alumni community. Some of our notable members include: John F. Kerry, 2004 US Presidential Nominee and 2013-2017 Secretary of State; Nicolas Hayek Jr., CEO of Swatch Group, Willem P.C. Stemmer, scientist honoured with the Charles Star Draper Prize in 2011 for the pioneering contributions to directed evolution which won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2018 and March Forster, director of movies such as James Bond: Quantum of Solace and the list goes on. You will also gain access to our online portal which keeps you up-to-date on regional and global reunions, job opportunities from fellow alumni as well as news from the school. The world of opportunities we offer go well beyond your time on campus.

Your Home Away from Home



Our 60-acre campus can be found along the crest of the Zugerberg Mountain at about 1000 metres above sea level. Here, you will find our campus offers which offers the seclusion and security needed to study without distractions and to feel a sense of belonging in our community. Thanks to our strategic location, you can ski cross-country on the various slopes found just outside of our door or grab a sledge and ride down some hills with friends in the winter. You can mountain bike over two kilometres of trails in the summer. Or, you can simply sit on a bench and admire a beautiful sunset, unless you're lucky enough to see it right outside your bedroom window.

Not only that, but we are also well-connected to other major cities in Switzerland such as Zurich, one of the financial hubs of Switzerland and even Lucerne, the birthplace of tourism. Being just one-hour away by train from Zurich International Airport means you can also enjoy plenty of weekend excursions to other major European cities such as London, Paris and Rome – thus calling the world your classroom.

Our location will inspire you and be a home away from home.



CLASSROOMS

Our four buildings offer various classrooms designed for optimal learning and concentration. We ensure that class sizes never exceed 15 students so that you can get the personal care and attention needed to succeed. We have science labs to learn hands-on chemistry experiments, well-lit rooms for your comfort and strategically designated areas depending on your academic programme to ensure that you have enough time to get from one class to another.



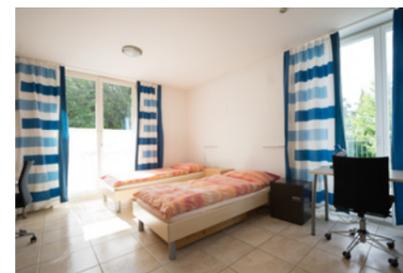
DORMITORIES

At our boarding school, we have three boarding houses, one of which you will be assigned to base on your age and gender. You will also have house parents who will be your first point of contact for anything from homesickness to the common cold. You will also make friends from different countries who will teach you about their culture as you share yours. Our international and dedicated boarding staff at our school will support you to develop your social and academic skills so that you can reach your full potential. You will learn to appreciate others, build social skills, make lifelong friends and become an independent individual.



BUILDINGS

Our various school facilities each serve a purpose to maximise your comfort and feeling of safety. Our main building, the Schönfels building also known as "Grosses Haus", is the epicentre of school life as it holds several administrative offices, classrooms, dining hall and the "Blue Room" common area where you can play a round of billiards or table football. Our Felsenegg building is a newly renovated building holds our girls' dormitory, study hall, fitness room, classrooms, administrative offices as well as our library and media centre. We also have our art studio here where your creativity will flow from the canvas to our walls. Next to this building is our Art Nouveau Auditorium, known as the Aula, where we hold several events such as our graduation. We aim to ensure you feel at home here and that's why you will have everything you require to meet your personal and academic needs.



A World of Opportunities Awaits You

At Institut Montana, we put the focus on the individual – on you. That means, before you even step foot on campus, we will carefully review with you and your family all of your strengths and weaknesses alongside your ultimate goal to set you on an academic path that will see you thrive. After all, when you succeed, we succeed.



Your Academic Pathway

At Institut Montana, we understand that every individual has their own unique capabilities and ways of learning. Thus, by keeping you at the centre of what we do, we can ensure that we take you to where you need to go, academically as well as personally



BILINGUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADES 1-6

Our immersive bilingual educational programme in English and German offers a curriculum based on the Canton of Zug. Starting at the age of six, you will benefit from an individualised supported, round-the-clock care and a unique afternoon care programme.



BILINGUAL SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADES 7-9

Our secondary school programme is designed to give you additional support should you not meet the requirements to gain direct entry into one of our higher-level sections or to earn the Swiss Secondary Certificate.



SWISS HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7-12

Our Swiss high school teaches various subjects in German, English and French based on the Swiss model. Upon successful completion, you will earn the prestigious Swiss Matura which is an ambitious and demanding secondary education diploma that opens the doors to all Swiss universities.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GRADES 7-12

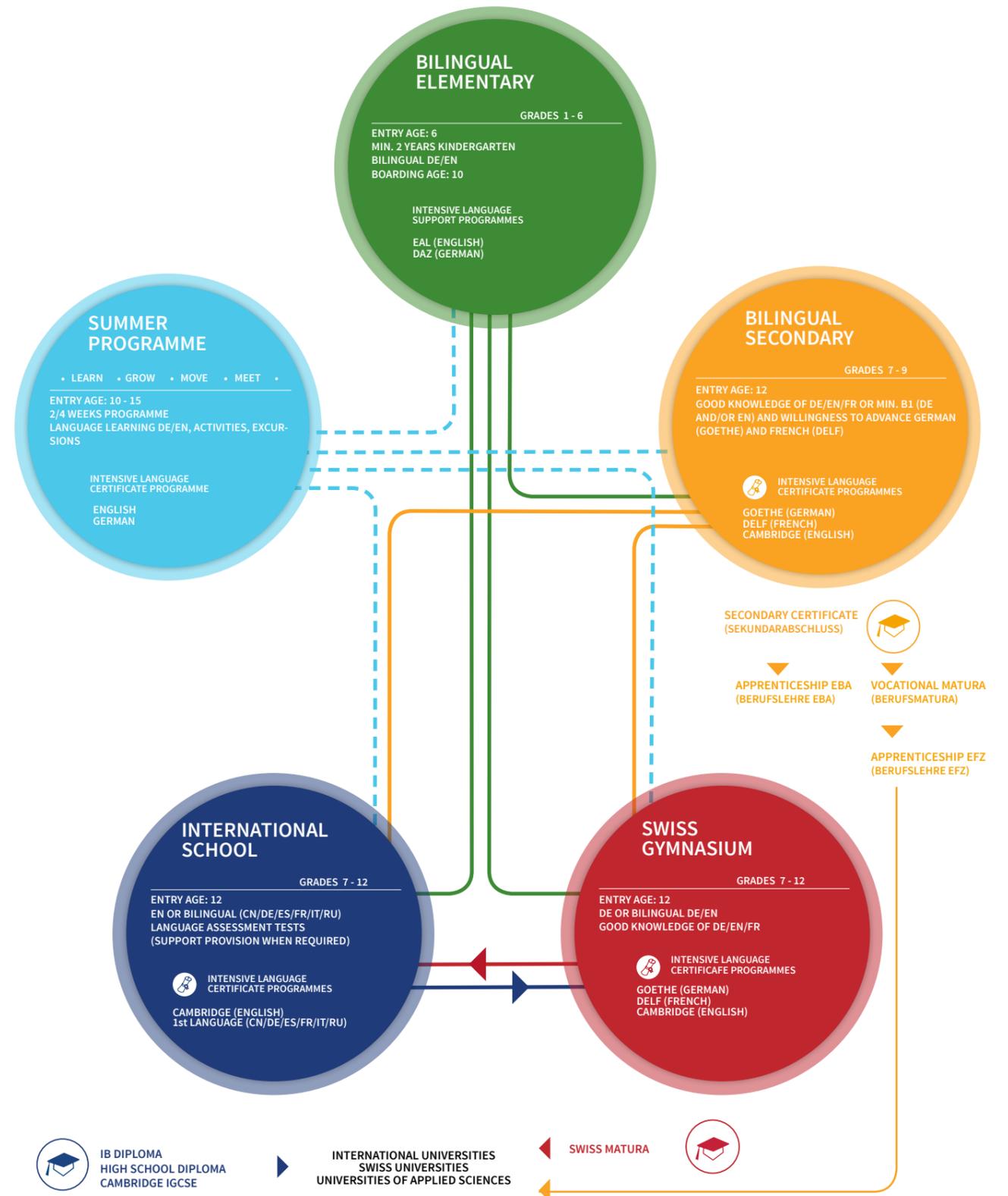
Our international school offers a diverse programme which allows you to obtain the official IGCSE certificate and then choose between a US High School Diploma or the IB Diploma Programme, depending on your needs and ideal university destination.



SUMMER SESSIONS AGES 10-15

Our summer sessions of 2- or 4-weeks during the months of July and August will have you improve your German or English with morning lectures based on the Common European Framework of Languages (CEFR). Your afternoons will be dedicated to activities that are split into two blocks: activities or themed workshops all while discovering our school before attending.

Montana Academic Programmes



Extracurricular Activities



We offer a variety of extracurricular activities so that you can explore your interests and create broader perspectives. You might even unlock a new passion that you never knew you had. For instance, our Entrepreneurship Programme will give you practical insights into the tycoon mindset as you brainstorm your own start-up idea and create a business plan with your group.

As you achieve success through these extracurricular activities, you will notice that your self-confidence will improve, and you might take further risks and master new skills. This could be taking on a black diamond slope when you go on a ski trip to Laax, for instance. You can bring back a trophy from one of the many interschool competitions that we participate in such as in football. You can ride down the over two kilometres of mountain bike trails that we have just next to our campus, racing alongside your friends. You might even step on centre stage at one of our choir or school theatre performances.

We have also welcomed various students whose main ambitions revolve around sports and created tailor-made programmes to fit their schedule.

Past examples include a student who was playing for the Zurich Grasshoppers Football Team, a professional Russian gymnast and a professional rower for our team in Zug. We understand the importance of these vocations and ensure the demanding training schedule can be met in order to keep this opportunity available.

We will also highly encourage you to engage in community service both on- and off-campus. If you're in the IB Diploma Programme at our international school, you will be required to commit yourself to a project as part of your CAS requirements. You will find this to be a meaningful experience as you help save turtles on a Greek island, raise awareness for Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) or work on forest conservation in Eastern Switzerland, for example.

With all these extracurricular activities to choose from, you will gain new skills such as goal setting, team work, prioritisation, problem solving and leadership. Not only will these experiences help make your university application shine, but you will also be able to take these skills to your career and your personal life.

Excellent University Placements



Our students continue their education at various colleges and universities worldwide. Here's a selection of some of the schools they've gone to.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:
ETH Zurich, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, EPFL – Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, University of Applied Sciences Chur & University of Vienna

BUSINESS:
University of St. Gallen (HSG), Hult International Business School, McGill University, Harvard Business School & Georgetown University

LIBERAL ARTS:
Yale University, Franklin University Switzerland, University of Denver, Wheaton College Massachusetts & Australian National University

HOSPITALITY:
Glion Institute of Higher Learning, IHTTI School of Hotel Management, Ecole Hoteliere Lausanne, Cesar Ritz College Le Bouveret & Les Roches International School of Hotel Management

ART:
Parson's School of Design in New York, New York Film Academy, University of the Arts – London, New York University & The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)



Our Global Alumni Community

Whether you spend a year, five or graduate from Institut Montana, you become a part of our global alumni community of over 7,000. The friendships made here last a lifetime. No matter where you go in the world, you will be warmly greeted by a fellow alumnus and get to live like a local to really experience the country to its fullest. Not only that, but our students continue their journey to top universities and successful careers which enables you to find a mentor, insider scoop on various universities and companies, internship opportunities as well as career tips.

What is really nice about Institut Montana is that it is out in nature and there are a lot of things that you can explore and do. Nowadays, I see so many people on their computers or mobile phones and we are just keeping our faces in front of screens more than ever before. The beautiful thing about our school is that you can go out and experience nature by sledding, running, hiking, biking, and anything else you can think of. You're able to take a break from your screen and go out on an adventure.

Geza Scholtz, Class of 2001



I had two favourite teachers who were very sincere and considerate. They put a lot of effort in making sure that the students understood their subjects. Not only that, but they played a major role in our upbringing as boarding students as they were our mentors so to speak. Today, I own an establishment in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia which focuses on preserving the history of the old town. I believe my love for history from a young age had a lot to do with that. I owe them a lot.

Mansour Al Zamil, Class of 1979



The benefits of studying in an international environment are tremendous. First and foremost, you get to really know and grow with people from all kinds of different backgrounds. You get to learn about them, their home and culture, while experiencing life together on campus. This instantly creates a bond and empathy, which I think is essential in our global world today.

Geraldine Dulex, Class of 2002



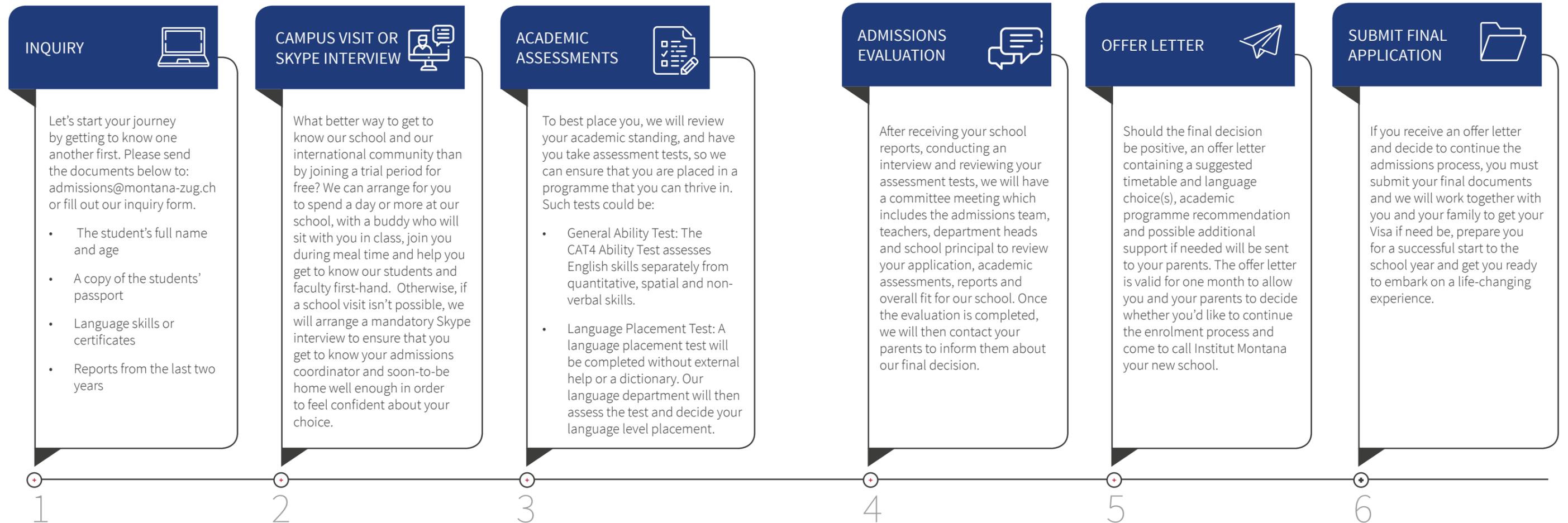
Thanks to the social and people skills acquired, I believe graduates here are better prepared for relationship building which, in my perception, is key in any career.

Gaudenz Biveroni, Class of 2001

Start Your Journey with Us



Our thorough admissions process ensures that you meet the academic requirements and personal values that will ensure you fit and develop in our multicultural community. We review each candidate on a case-by-case basis to define their individual needs and admission into a recommended educational programme. Thanks to our rolling admissions, we admit students throughout the year, although we recommend admission at the beginning of every semester. There is no application deadline. However, to ensure a place at our school, we recommend sending in your application as soon as possible to avoid being put on our waiting list.



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Accreditations & Memberships



Maturitätsausweise durch den Kanton Zug anerkannt



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