BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHICAGO, SOUTH LOOP

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

CEEB 140666 UCAS 45910 IB3362

SCHOOL PROFILE 2026-27

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WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2001, the British International School of Chicago, South Loop (BISC-SL) is a leading, independent coeducational day school for students from Nursery through Year 13. Situated in the heart of downtown Chicago, our diverse student body represents over 42 nationalities, creating a rich tapestry of cultures and perspectives. At BISC-SL, we are committed to providing a personalized and rigorous college preparatory education that nurtures academic excellence and the development of essential life skills, such as problem-solving, resilience, creativity, well-being, and global citizenship.

As a proud member of the Nord Anglia Education family of schools, we offer a unique blend of individualized learning and global exposure. Our partnerships with world-renowned institutions like The Juilliard School, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and UNICEF enhance our curriculum, providing students with unparalleled opportunities in the arts, sciences, and social impact.

Through our Global Campus platform, students engage in worldwide learning experiences and participate in international travel, including a transformative service trip to Tanzania. At BISC-SL, we ignite curiosity, fuel ambition, and foster a lifelong passion for learning in every student.

GRADING SYSTEM

At BISC-SL, we prioritize a holistic approach to education, focusing on each student's individual growth and achievements rather than conventional ranking or weighted grading systems. Unlike traditional U.S. high schools, we do not calculate or report GPAs, allowing us to emphasize personalized learning and development.

Lower High		I.B.	
A+	Outstanding	7 (A++)	Outstanding
A		6 (A+)	
A-	Very Good	5 (A)	Very Good
B+	Good	4 (B)	Good
B		3 (C)	Requires Improvement
B-		2 (D)	
C+	Requires Improvement	1 (F)	Fail
C			
D	Resit Grade*		
F	Fail		

IB EXAM RESULTS

The courses equip students to thrive in a fast-paced, interconnected world by providing a comprehensive curriculum. Through this program, our students acquire both broad and deep knowledge, preparing them to engage effectively in a global society and adapt to its ever-evolving demands.

Our IB curriculum closely mirrors the demands of university-level coursework, ensuring a seamless transition into higher education.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Students	56	23	35	26
Average Points	33.5	31	33	31.5
World Average	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.2
Passed	55	23	31	26

746 STUDENTS

193 HS STUDENTS

58 IN THE CLASS OF '27

42 HIGHEST IB POINT SCORE

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OUR CURRICULUM

(IGCSE) International General Certificate of Secondary Education

BISC-SL students in Grades 9 and 10 (Years 10 and 11) pursue the IGCSE, a rigorous curriculum that provides a strong foundation in core subjects. It emphasizes understanding and application of knowledge over rote memorization, fostering deeper learning and a better grasp of subjects.

Our students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent research skills while choosing from a wide range of subjects, enabling them to tailor their education to their interests and career aspirations.

The IGCSE also encourages participation in extracurricular activities, promoting a well-rounded education that develops social, leadership, and teamwork skills. These advantages make the IGCSE an excellent choice for students seeking a strong academic background with international opportunities.

Course options:

Compulsory Courses: Math, English, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, Physical Education, Entrepreneurship for Social Impact
Social Studies: Geography, History, Psychology
Performing Arts: Dance, Drama, Music
World Language: French, German, Mandarin, Spanish
Elective 1: Art & Design, Computer Science
Elective 2: Art & Design, Film, Engineering and Design, Sports Science

(IB) International Baccalaureate

Course Routes:

Based on their Year 10-11 performance, students in Years 12 & 13 follow one of the following IB course routes:

1.) **IB Diploma Programme** Students study six IB courses, three must be at Higher Level (HL) honors and three at Standard Level (SL).

2.) **IB Career-related Programme** students study up to 3 IB-courses at Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL) alongside a Career-related study.

The IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) at BISC-SL offers students in Grades 11 and 12 (Years 12 and 13) a dynamic and challenging education designed to foster international mindedness and intercultural understanding. This rigorous program prepares students to excel in diverse college environments and global settings.

The courses equip students to thrive in a fast-paced, interconnected world by providing a comprehensive curriculum. Through this program, our students acquire both broad and deep knowledge, preparing them to engage effectively in a global society and adapt to its ever-evolving demands.

Our IB curriculum closely mirrors the demands of university-level coursework, ensuring a seamless transition into higher education.

The IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) at BISC-SL offers students in Grades 11 and 12 (Years 12 and 13) a dynamic and engaging educational pathway that combines academic rigor with practical, career-focused learning. Designed for students with specific career interests, the program fosters international mindedness, intercultural understanding, and personal growth while preparing students for success in higher education, employment, and lifelong learning.

Through a unique combination of Diploma Program courses, career-related studies, and the IBCP core, students develop both specialized knowledge and transferable skills that are highly valued in today's rapidly evolving global landscape. The program encourages students to become confident, reflective, and responsible young professionals who can navigate complex challenges and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Our IBCP curriculum bridges academic study with real-world application, enabling students to make meaningful connections between their learning and future aspirations.

On the next page, we have created a side-by-side comparison of our IBDP and IBCP programs.

IB Diploma Programme (IBDP)
Grades: 11 and 12 (Years 12 and 13)

Focus: Broad and academically rigorous university preparation

IB Courses: Students study six IB courses

Higher Level (HL): Three courses must be taken at HL

Standard Level (SL): Three courses are taken at SL

Curriculum: Provides broad and deep academic knowledge across multiple subject areas

University Preparation: Designed to prepare students for a wide range of university environments and rigorous higher education

International Mindedness: Develops international mindedness and intercultural understanding

Core Requirements: Extended Essay; Theory of Knowledge; Creativity, Activity & Service (CAS)

Learning Approach: Emphasizes academic depth, breadth, critical thinking, and independent learning

Best suited for: Students seeking a broad, academically intensive IB pathway and university preparation

Outcome: Broad academic preparation for higher education and global opportunities

IB Career-related Programme (IBCP)
Grades: 11 and 12 (Years 12 and 13)

Focus: Academic study combined with practical, career-focused learning

IB Courses: Students study up to three IB courses

Higher Level (HL): Students may take courses at HL or SL

Standard Level (SL): Students may take courses at SL or HL

Curriculum: Combines academic study with specialized career-related learning

University Preparation: Prepares students for higher education while also providing practical preparation for employment and future careers

International Mindedness: Develops international mindedness and intercultural understanding

Core Requirements: Personal & Professional Skills; Community Engagement; Reflective Project; Language & Cultural Studies

Learning Approach: Connects academic learning with real-world applications and future career aspirations

Additional Opportunities: BTEC Advanced Subsidiary Diploma in Business; Arizona State University Dual Enrollment Program

Best suited for: Students with specific career interests who want to combine academic study with career-related learning

Outcome: Combination of academic qualifications, career-related experience, transferable skills, and preparation for higher education or employment

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UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCES 2024-2026

Albion College
American University - District of Columbia
Arizona State University
Augustana College
Ball State University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bates College
Baylor University
Belmont University
Bentley University
Boston College - Massachusetts
Boston University
Bradley University
Bucknell University
Butler University
CEU San Pablo University
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice
California Institute of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Chulalongkorn University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Colby College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University in the City of New York
Cornell University
Creighton University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke Kunshan University
EHL
ESADE Business School
ESCP Business School - Paris
ESCP Business School
ESMOD France
Elmhurst University
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach
Emerson College
Esade Barcelona
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus
Goldsmiths, University of London
Gonzaga University
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Howard University
IE University - Madrid Campus
Illinois College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Imperial College London
Indiana State University
Indiana University-Bloomington
Ithaca College
Jefferson (Philadelphia University + Thomas Jefferson University)
Kent State University at Kent
Kenyon College
King's College London, University of London
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lancaster University
Lehigh University
Leiden University
Lewis & Clark College
London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
Loughborough University
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Macalester College
Manhattan University
Marist University
Marquette University
Massachusetts College of Art and Design
McGill University
Miami University-Oxford
Michigan State University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Northeastern Illinois University
Northeastern University London
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Ohio State University-Main Campus
Ohio University-Main Campus
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon State University
Paris College of Art
Pepperdine University
Point Park University
Polimoda - The Fashion School
Pratt Institute-Main
Princeton University
Purdue University-Main Campus
Queen Mary University of London
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rhodes College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Roosevelt University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Royal Holloway, University of London
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Saint Louis University
Saint Peter's University
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Skidmore College
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
Stetson University
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A & M University-College Station
Texas Christian University
The American University of Paris
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
The New School
The Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus
The Posse Foundation
The University of Alabama
The University of Edinburgh
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville
The University of Texas at Dallas
Trinity College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
UCL (University College London)
Union College
Universidad Europea de Madrid
University College Dublin
University of Aberdeen
University of Arizona
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bradford
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California-Irvine
University of California-San Diego
University of California-Santa Barbara
University of California-Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati-Main Campus
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of East Anglia UEA
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Glasgow
University of Groningen
University of Hartford
University of Idaho
University of Illinois Chicago
University of Illinois Springfield
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Leeds
University of Louisville
University of Manchester
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
University of Massachusetts-Boston
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of New Mexico-Main Campus
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Sheffield
University of South Carolina-Columbia
University of Southern California
University of St Andrews
University of Sussex
University of Toronto
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia-Main Campus
University of Washington-Seattle Campus
University of Washington-Tacoma Campus
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of York
University of the Arts London
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St Louis
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Western Illinois University
Whitman College
William & Mary