

Questions and Answers 2016-17

1. What will be the currency for the fees in the 2017-2018 Academic Year

The school will revert to using US Dollars for the collection of fees in the future.

2. Is the tuition plan going to remain in US Dollars?

At this moment the intention is to stay with the US Dollar for the foreseeable future.

3. When was the BISI tuition plan last in US Dollars?

The tuition plans before 2012-13 were always in US Dollars. Details of tuition plans for the last five years are available on the school web site

4. Why did BISI decide to change currency after the 2012-13 academic year?

BISI is situated within the boundaries of the European geographical region and it seemed to be more logical at the time to adopt European currencies to have stability within the same trading zone rather than stay with the US dollar. The Euro and Pound are amongst the five major reserve, convertible currencies. They are globally available and convenient to exchange. The spectacular fluctuations in these two currencies could not have been foreseen.

5. In which currency are the majority of BISI's expenses?

The majority of BISI's expenses are in US Dollars.

6. What are the major expenditures?

Salaries, rent, line of credit, overseas orders, membership of various educational organisations, advertising, recruitment are major expenses of the school. Due to the unstable global market conditions, more goods are now being quoted in US Dollar terms.

7. What happens when European currencies fall with respect to the US Dollar?

Small fluctuations in European currencies could be absorbed within the school finances. However, it proved impossible to compensate for the substantial currency fluctuations which occurred. The 12 month decline of the GB Pound with respect to the US Dollar has been the worst in 31 years. Furthermore, the Brexit vote has made both the Euro and the GB Pound even more unstable.

8. Having taken the decision to move to a tuition plan in US Dollars, how was the level of fees for the 2017-18 academic year determined?

The new tuition plan was set by increasing 2012 Full Payment Tuition plan by 10% in US Dollar terms.

9. What currencies do parents prefer?

When the school adopted the Euro after 2012-13 there were a number of parents who disapproved of the move. The same was true when the GB Pound was adopted. Unfortunately there seems to be no clear currency preference between various members of the community.

10. Why are we making the change?

The major objective of BISI is to provide outstanding education without compromise. Even at these most unstable financial times BISI has delivered on this objective. Additionally, in January 2017 BISI will open its fully owned City Campus. BISI is proud to deliver on its promises and moving to the US Dollar will support us in sustaining our financial viability in the current global political and economic climate.

11. Will the tuition be increased in the future?

BISI will do its utmost keeping the inflationary adjustments to the minimum. BISI is increasing its tuition fees only 10% over 2012-13 fees in Dollar terms. This compares well with non-profit international foundation schools in Istanbul.

12. How does BISI compare with other international schools in Istanbul?

BISI has two campuses, one in the City catering for pre and primary school children and one in Zekeriyakoy catering for students between the ages of 2 ½ and 18. We are the only school in Istanbul accredited by the Council of British International Schools, we are also accredited by both the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. BISI is the only school in Istanbul accredited by all three of these bodies. We are an IB World School and we are a Cambridge International Examinations centre. We have small class sizes, with a current staff student ratio of 1:4 in secondary school and 1:8 in the pre and primary school. Our teachers are highly qualified, all with full international teaching qualifications, several with Master's degrees and four Doctors of Philosophy.

There are some schools in Istanbul which accept foreign students but are not accredited by international agencies. To be accredited a school must be inspected by a team organised by the accrediting agency. It is possible simply to join the accrediting agency as a member without undergoing such an inspection. When looking at international schools we advise parents to ask whether a school has been fully accredited or not. Inspection reports should be available online.

BISI employs a full time university counsellor who works individually with parents and students over the last five years of school in order to advise them on the optimum course and university placement following graduation from BISI. Students from BISI have, in recent years, been accepted by some of the top universities around the world for example, Cambridge, Imperial College London, London School of Economics, The University of British Columbia, Charles University in Prague and many others as listed on our Alumni page on our website. Our NEASC Accreditation allows our students to be accepted into US universities with their High School Diploma.

BISI has enjoyed a 100% pass rate in the full IB Diploma for the last four years and has maintained an above world average student points score over the same period. In summary, from our Guiding Statements, we “educate students in a stimulating environment to the highest possible academic standards”.