

Schule Schloss Salem

Session 24/25

Admissions Policy

Preamble

At Salem, we value the diversity of our community. We are committed to supporting the different needs of the members of our community as far as possible.

Our pedagogical approach is based on the school founders' vision of developing in our students the sense of responsibility for one's neighbour.

At the school's foundation after WWI Kurt Hahn chose the Parable of the Good Samaritan as its motto to express the expectation that Salemers recognize, respect and support their neighbour in any context. The values, freedoms and rights enshrined in the UN Human Rights Charter and the Basic Law of Germany, both formulated after WWII, form the broader framework of this approach.

Our staff and students come from a range of different cultural and religious contexts and value systems. We therefore protect the freedom of thought and speech of every member of the school community in balance with mutual respect.

In particular, we are conscious of our responsibility for our students as they develop all aspects of their identities and personalities.

We aim to offer an environment in which to explore, as far as appropriate to their age, different orientations – be it political, religious, cultural, gender-related or sexual - and in which to learn how to have reflected and mindful discourse within the boundaries of our values.

This would exclude disparaging comments and behaviour related to and expressive of racism, extremism, misogyny, religious intolerance, homophobia and queer phobia.

Our Policy

The key criterion in our decision on the admission of a student is whether we can realistically see that their time at Salem, which is a challenging environment in many different ways, is an experience of positive growth, using the opportunities the school environment, our academic systems and life in our community offer to the fullest possible extent.

Our admission teams aim to give each admission process the time and depth required to make this the right decision for a prospective student. The admission procedure involves meetings and interviews, assessment, exchange of documentation and sometimes 'taster stays' at the school and is the beginning of an open, transparent collaboration between school and family in the interest of both the student and the community.

Our Practice

Terms of Admission

There is no specific closing date for applications. However, an application should be sent to us during the school year prior to the planned entry, using the information and forms provided on our website. Deadlines for scholarships will be posted on our website. Similarly, deadlines for applicants who need a student visa will be posted, as the visa issuing procedure might take a substantial amount of time.

Language criteria:

Applicants for the German school system (Abitur) must have a German language proficiency level corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). For grade 11, a language certificate level C1 is required.

In the absence of any documented English language schooling, applicants for the IB Diploma Programme must have an English language proficiency level corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). We accept certificates from all common institutions. For grade 11, a language certificate level C1 is required, e.g. CAE.

Please consult our Language Policy for further details

Academic criteria:

Applicants for grade 11 must present an academic exam corresponding to the German “Mittlere Reife” or the GCSE with a subject combination complying with Abitur regulations, plus a year in the Oberstufe (the last three years) of the German Abitur. Applicants for IB1 must present the “Mittlere Reife” or the GCSE from grade 10 and have ten consecutive years of schooling. No specific grade average is required.

All applicants must pass placement tests in different subjects.

Admission Procedure

Admission to Salem, while having distinct elements and steps, is a process that is both holistic and bespoke, looking at every young person wanting to explore our school in their own right. In the following, key stages are outlined.

The completed Application Form including the Personal Statement – handwritten by the applicant themselves – should be sent to the Admissions Office.

The language certificate as well as the listed documents on page 2 of the form should be included, especially a full set of copies of report cards from grade 5 onward.

The Admissions Office checks all documents and hands over the application to the corresponding counsellor at *Schule Schloss Salem*.

An individual appointment with both the Admissions Coordinator and the IB or Abitur Coordinator will then be scheduled online or on the respective school campus. This comprises interviews, a tour of the school campus, and placement tests in different subjects. At this stage, a key theme is why a young person wants to join Salem – what they expect from it and what they might bring to it.

At a follow-up interview, results of placement tests, subject choices and the suitability of the system aspired to are all discussed. At this stage, there is also consideration of the next steps after Salem. For example, our Career Counselling are involved to advise on subject choices in either system.

After acceptance, the completed Registration Forms as well as the required documents, i.e. copy of birth certificate, should be sent to the Admission Office.

The *Salem School and Boarding Contract* is sent to the parents for their signatures. Students 18 years and older are also obliged to sign the contract.

In case of need, please be aware of visa regulations from your home country. It can take up to several months or more for processing a student visa.

The first trimester is considered a trial period.

Policy to be updated annually by the Executive, the Heads of Boarding, the Admissions Team and the Director of Studies' Team for the subsequent session.