



Kaohsiung American School

High School Profile 2023-24

Kaohsiung American School challenges students to achieve academic excellence and prepares them to be balanced individuals, independent learners, and global citizens.

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UCAS center number 45991



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College representatives: To schedule an on-campus or virtual event, please visit kas.tw/visitors or contact Rachel Chen at rchen@kas.tw.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Located in Taiwan's second-largest metropolitan area, Kaohsiung American School was founded in 1989 to serve expatriate and internationally-minded families in southern Taiwan. KAS is affiliated with the Kaohsiung branch of the American Institute in Taiwan, an office of the U.S. Department of State which is represented on our Board of Directors. KAS is a private, non-profit, co-educational K-12 school with over 750 students, 260 of whom are in grades 9-12.

Through holistic, inclusive learning in academics, athletics, and the arts, we foster passionate and curious critical thinkers who grow into aware, ethical, and cooperative global citizens. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, we award an American high school diploma to all our graduates. In high school, learning is guided by the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma programs, and all students have the opportunity to earn the IB Diploma.

COVID-19 IMPACT STATEMENT

The Class of 2024 transitioned to high school and IB courses during the disruptions of the pandemic. Co-curricular programming including athletics, clubs, and opportunities for extended learning were significantly limited for this cohort from their Grade 9 to Grade 11 years.

As high school sophomores in the spring of the 2021-22 academic year, the Class of 2024 experienced Taiwan's most serious Covid outbreak. Members of our community were infected, leading KAS to transition to virtual learning in spring 2022. Co-curricular activities and SAT administrations were affected and in many cases completely canceled.

Many students in our Class of 2024 struggled temporarily in the Grade 10 year. As a cohort, they have rebounded to tackle the most challenging set of IB courses and participate in the most diverse set of student-run clubs in our institutional history.



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

In grades 11–12, a majority of our students complete the IB Diploma Program, comprised of six academic courses from at least five of the six subject groups in addition to the Extended Essay, Theory of Knowledge course (TOK), and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).

Some students opt out of the full IB Diploma for a more flexible program of study which includes multiple IB courses, and many such students are candidates for IB course certificates.

The IB Diploma and combinations of other offerings allow our students to access a high level of rigor through multiple pathways.

All KAS students who meet graduation requirements receive an American high school diploma.

GRADING SCALE

We do not rank students. We calculate a weighted GPA on a 4.33 scale, A+ through F, for all classes in grades 9 through 12. IB courses at Higher Level are weighted with an extra quality point.

COUNSELING PRACTICES

Students are advised to apply to no more than 10 global universities. An application from a KAS student is a well-considered one.

The KAS college counseling office follows the National Association for College Admission Counseling's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission. We hold memberships in the International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) and the International School Counseling Association (ISCA).



Graduation requirements

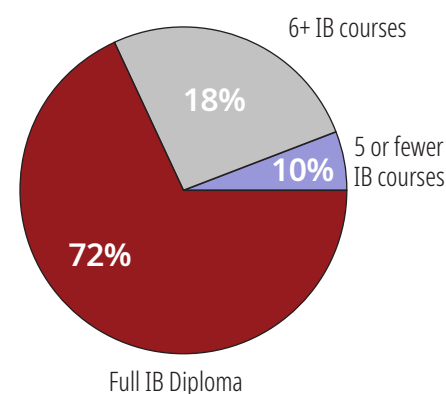
Subject area	Credits
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Social studies	3
World languages	3
Physical education	1
Art	1
Electives	5

Curriculum rigor, grades 11–12

Most demanding	Full IB Diploma, or 6+ IB courses with 3+ DP courses at Higher Level
Very demanding	6+ IB courses
Demanding	5 or fewer IB courses with KAS courses

Curriculum choices

Class of 2024, anticipated



Course list, Class of 2024

Language & literature	English 9; English 10; English 12; IBDP Language A: Chinese Language & Literature HL/SL*; IBDP Language A: English Language & Literature HL/SL*; IBDP Language A: English Literature HL/SL*; IBDP Language A: Literature SL (School Supported Self-Taught)*; Pre-DP Chinese
Language acquisition	High School ELL; Japanese 3; Japanese 4; Spanish 1; Spanish 3; Spanish 4; IBDP Japanese B SL*; IBDP Spanish <i>ab initio</i> SL*; IBDP Spanish B SL*
Individuals & societies	19th Century Humanities; Business Studies; Global Studies; IBDP Business Management HL/SL*; IBDP History HL/SL*; IBDP Economics HL/SL*; U.S. History
Science	Biology; Chemistry; Forensic Science; IBDP Biology HL/SL*; IBDP Chemistry HL/SL*; IBDP Physics HL/SL*
Mathematics	Algebra 1; Algebra 2; Geometry; IBDP Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches HL*; IBDP Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation HL/SL*; Precalculus
Visual & performing arts	Advanced Art*; Choir Ensemble; High School Art; High School Music; IBDP Music HL/SL*; IBDP Visual Arts HL/SL*; Instrumental Music
Electives & physical education	Design Technology & Computer Science; Digital Media; Film Studies; IBDP Computer Science HL/SL*; IB Diploma Core (incl. TOK)*; Introduction to Computer Science; Personal Fitness; Physical Education & Health

*An asterisk denotes Advanced or IB courses which represent our highest level of rigor.

IB courses score distribution, Class of 2023

Averages are by individual course, weighted to students per course

Score	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	KAS average	World average
Language & literature	1	9	24	22	2	0	0	4.74	4.90
Language acquisition	4	7	12	5	1	0	0	5.26	4.97
Individuals & societies	6	15	21	9	6	1	0	5.04	4.92
Science	2	13	16	17	22	4	0	4.24	4.41
Mathematics	2	6	12	15	12	3	1	4.19	4.41
Arts	0	1	3	6	1	0	0	4.37	4.29

23%
bilingual diplomas

32
average
DP score

44
highest
DP score

SAT, Class of 2023

	mean
Evidence-based reading & writing	583
Math	678
Composite	1263

We do not have significant ACT data to report.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

All KAS students complete 40 hours of service in the community before graduation. Over 70% of students participate in a student-led service club. IB Diploma candidates additionally fulfill the Creativity, Activity, Service requirement. Examples of service in recent years include teaching English and contributing to infrastructure projects in an Indigenous Taiwanese community.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Future Leader Program: KAS students apply to a selective program for internships at local technology companies, health care institutions, NGOs, and universities. Students are matched with a mentor who fits their professional or academic interests to guide them through a substantive internship experience. Students must complete 40 hours and participate in evaluation and reflection.

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice: In accordance with our school values, we are proud of our institutional commitment to inclusion and social justice. Our approach to inclusive learning and support, faculty committees, and student clubs all reflect this commitment. We affirmatively seek to include and empower BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals within our community; they are represented within our student body, our faculty, and our senior leadership team.

ATHLETICS

Badminton

Soccer (JV/Varsity)

Basketball (JV/Varsity)

Swimming (JV/Varsity)

Cross Country

Volleyball (JV/Varsity)

KAS teams compete in the Association of International Schools in Asia (AISA) and the Taiwan International School Sports Association (TISSA).



6

athletic teams

60+

varsity positions
available, 9-12

30+

multi-school
athletic events

STUDENT-LED CLUBS

Clubs are the fabric of our school community. From Robotics to Spectrum LGBTQ/Allyship to Art for Charity, students create their own opportunities to curate their passions and organize their peers.

89%

student
participation
in clubs

30

students in DEIJ and
identity-affirming
clubs

63%

of club presidents
identify as female

93

HS students in
academic clubs

167

HS students in
creativity &
identity clubs

185

HS students
in community
service clubs

97

HS students
in STEM clubs



University matriculations 2021–2023

We have included the past three years of matriculations to indicate the diversity of institutions KAS students attend. The number of matriculated students per institution is indicated.

UNITED STATES

Arizona State University (3)
 Barnard College
 Beloit College
 Boston College
 Boston University (5)
 Brandeis University
 California Institute of Technology
 California Northstate University
 Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo
 Carleton College (3)
 Carnegie Mellon University
 Claremont McKenna College
 College of William & Mary
 Emory University (2)
 Fordham University
 George Washington University
 Grinnell College (2)
 Johns Hopkins University
 New York University (5)
 Northeastern University (7)
 Pace University
 Parsons School of Design (2)
 Pasadena City College
 Pennsylvania State University (3)
 Pepperdine University
 Pitzer College
 Pomona College
 Pratt Institute
 Purdue University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (2)
 Rutgers University–New Brunswick
 San Diego State University (2)
 San Francisco State University

Southern California Institute of Architecture
 Stony Brook University
 Syracuse University (2)
 University of California, Berkeley (6)
 University of California, Davis (3)
 University of California, Irvine (2)
 University of California, Los Angeles (2)
 University of California, Riverside (2)
 University of California, San Diego (4)
 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (9)
 University of Iowa
 University of Massachusetts Amherst
 University of Michigan–Ann Arbor (3)
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Pittsburgh (2)
 University of San Francisco
 University of South Dakota
 University of Southern California (2)
 University of Washington–Seattle (5)
 Virginia Tech
 Wake Forest University (2)
 Wellesley College
 Wentworth Institute of Technology

CANADA

Brock University (2)
 Fraser International College
 Langara College
 LaSalle College Vancouver
 McGill University
 University of British Columbia (5)
 University of Calgary
 University of Toronto (8)
 University of Victoria
 University of Waterloo

Western University
 York University

EAST ASIA

Hanyang University
 National Sun-Yat Sen University
 Sophia University
 Temple University Japan (2)
 University of Hong Kong

CONTINENTAL EUROPE

Carl Benz School of Engineering
 CEU San Pablo University
 CREAPOLE École de Création Management
 École Hôtelière de Lausanne
 HAN University of Applied Sciences
 Paris Institute of Political Studies
 Radboud University
 Universidad de San Pablo
 University College Maastricht
 Wageningen University & Research Centre

UNITED KINGDOM

Brighton Metropolitan College
 King's College London (2)
 Oxford Brookes University
 Queen Mary University of London (2)
 Royal Veterinary College
 University of Leeds

AUSTRALIA

Queensland University of Technology
 University of New South Wales
 University of Queensland (2)
 University of Sydney

Class of 2023
 destinations

77%
 USA

10%
 Canada

4%
 UK

4%
 Australia

2%
 Europe

2%
 Asia



Kaohsiung American School

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