

ISB TUITION ASSISTANCE FAQS

Q. What is Tuition Assistance? Is it a scholarship?

A. ISB's Tuition Assistance program is a school-funded, need-based program, reflecting the school's core value of diversity and inclusion. Tuition Assistance is not a government or merit scholarship, nor is it based on a child's language background or nationality. Families must demonstrate financial need in order to qualify and the award they receive is an outright grant from the school.

ISB strives to offer awards that will make it possible for families to enroll at ISB but we also believe that the primary responsibility for paying for tuition rests with the parents; ISB's Tuition Assistance program is therefore a supplement to parent contributions towards their child's tuition and aims to bridge the gap between what a family is able to afford towards tuition, and the full cost of annual fees.

Q. What is the maximum award a family can receive?

A. We have a wide range of awards representing the socio-economic diversity at ISB: from 10% of tuition to up to 90% of tuition for those families demonstrating significant need. ISB does not grant 100% awards; all families contribute to the best of their ability towards their child's education and the school's fiscal health.

Q. Can families apply for Tuition Assistance at any grade level?

A. Yes, families can apply at any grade level though priority is given to the Kindergarten through 8th grade program; we therefore have very limited funding for Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten with priority going to qualifying sibling applicants.

Q. If I enroll at ISB without Tuition Assistance, can I apply the following year?

A. We strongly recommend that families embarking in the admissions process think carefully about how independent school tuition will fit into their family budget. We recommend that if a family feels they might need assistance, they apply for it at the time of the admissions application and not wait. ISB, like other independent schools, relies on tuitions in order to operate the school and fix its yearly operating budget.

Q. How does ISB determine Tuition Assistance awards?

A. ISB uses SSS (School and Student Services for Financial Aid) to process and analyze all tuition assistance applications. SSS takes many factors into account when estimating a family's financial contribution towards tuition. Some things taken into consideration include: family income, assets, real estate equity, mortgage or rental payments, employer allowances, number of children in the family. This helps SSS determine what a family's discretionary income looks like and what portion of that income can reasonably be prioritized towards tuition payment. The more discretionary income a family has, the higher the expected contribution towards tuition.

Q. How do I apply for Tuition Assistance?

A. Families must indicate on their admissions application that they wish to apply for Tuition Assistance. ISB uses the School & Student Services (SSS) module hosted by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) to process those applications. You can access the application by following this link: <http://sssbynais.org/parents>
Families must fill out a Parent Financial Statement and submit last year's tax returns and W2's or recent pay stubs.

Q. If I apply for Tuition Assistance, can I expect to receive an award?

A. While it is a strong part of ISB's mission to support socio-economic diversity in the school, and close to 30% of families in the community receive some form of assistance, the requests for tuition assistance far exceed our allocated budget which needs to cover both new requests for assistance as well as renewal for current ISB families receiving assistance. We therefore can only meet the needs of some of our applicant families who qualify for assistance. We also carefully weigh the allocation and distribution of assistance by grade, division and language track.

Q. If I receive an award this year, can I expect to receive it in following years?

A. When ISB determines its Tuition Assistance awards, the school makes every effort to project for the long-term so that the award can span the child's enrollment at the school. This is why we ask families to reapply every year: we know that families' financial situations can fluctuate and we want to respond to those changes accordingly by either adjusting the tuition assistance award up or down year by year.

Q. How does ISB finance its Tuition Assistance program? Does ISB receive external money to cover Tuition Assistance?

A. ISB values a wide range of diversity, including socio-economic diversity. For this reason, the school sets aside a portion of its own operating budget to finance the Tuition Assistance program. Unlike colleges and universities, however, independent schools do not have access to federal or state scholarship programs.

Q. Do I earn too much to be considered for Tuition Assistance?

A. Families with a range of incomes may qualify for Tuition Assistance depending on their situation but all families who choose tuition-charging schools make tuition payments a priority in their family budget.

Q. Can I apply for Tuition Assistance at any time of the year?

A. ISB generally gives out its Tuition Assistance awards during its primary cycle of admission with an application deadline of December 31st and families being notified of both admissions decisions and Tuition Assistance awards in February. The school may occasionally have additional funds to consider families who apply off-cycle (in the spring and summer for September enrollment) but it is best to contact the Admissions Office first to ask whether there is still a possibility for consideration for Tuition Assistance.

Q. Does applying for Tuition Assistance influence the admissions decision?

A. Admissions decisions are made first. Once ISB has determined its pool of candidates, the Tuition Assistance Committee determines possible awards. Both processes are distinct from each other.

Q. What does ISB's inclusive tuition cover? Are there other school fees?

A. ISB has an inclusive fee that covers all school materials and books, and school trips. Families receiving Tuition Assistance will receive the same percentage of assistance for additional fee-charging programs such as school lunch and the after school program.

Q. Does ISB offer payment plans?

A. Yes, families can choose between three different payment plans after they pay the initial non-refundable enrollment deposit at the time of their admissions acceptance. (The enrollment deposit is credited towards tuition. If a family receives tuition assistance, the deposit will be adjusted to reflect the percentage of assistance they receive):

- 1) *One payment plan*: tuition is paid in full, by July 1.
- 2) *Two payment plan*: tuition is paid in two equal installments – 50% due by July 1 and 50% due by October 1.
- 3) *10 month payment plan*: tuition is spread over ten months. Payment is due each month starting July 1 through April 1. There is an additional \$100 administrative fee associated with this plan.

Q. Can international families apply for Tuition Assistance?

A. Yes, international families can apply and must fill out the Parent Financial Statement to the best of their ability. In lieu of tax returns, ISB will send the family an additional form to fill out.

Q. What is the French Bourse?

A. Families with at least one parent who has French citizenship may qualify for a Bourse scolaire through the French government. The Bourse is also a need-based award and families must submit an application and financial information to the French Consulate for consideration.

We recommend that families look carefully at the qualifying criteria as annual incomes and real estate assets over a certain threshold render families ineligible for the Bourse.

For additional information on applying for the Bourse, please see:

<http://www.aefe.fr/scolarité/bourses-scolaires/faq-bourses-scolaires>

Q. If my child is a French citizen, does he/she receive special consideration?

A. ISB's Tuition Assistance program is not meant as a recruitment tool. We give Tuition Assistance awards equally to families who apply for the Spanish track as the French track.