



AMSTERDAM LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES ACADEMY

# School Brochure International Profile

## 2024 – 2025



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## **Foreword**

In the academic year 2024/2025, we are thrilled to announce the expansion of our curriculum with the introduction of an international profile. Our continuous efforts are aimed at achieving our overarching goals of sustaining and enhancing our position as an innovative, modern hybrid school, effectively bridging the gap between international and traditional Dutch educational institutions. In doing so, our primary focus is to address the needs and preferences of 21st-century learners, irrespective of their background, ethnicity, or mother tongue.

This brochure is tailored to (prospective) International Profile students and their parents, this version provides a concise introduction to our school, clarifying our educational values and approaches to teaching and learning. Furthermore, it provides comprehensive details regarding the International Profile.

Lenn Rosenkilde

International Profile Coordinator ALASCA

January 2024



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## Introduction to our school

ALASCA began with 90 students in August 2016, housed in two small temporary school buildings in the city centre of Amsterdam. Our school was launched with the explicit goal of enriching the city of Amsterdam with an innovative school boasting a unique and modern educational profile. The school offers education at the pre-university level, inspired by a Liberal Arts and Sciences approach. Our curriculum consists of modules and projects that are often interdisciplinary and sometimes thematic.

By the 2020/2021 academic year, marking our fifth year of operation, our student body expanded to 515 enrollees. The subsequent year, 2021/2022, marked the initiation of our group of International DP (Diploma Programme). Furthermore, we conducted our initial examination session in May 2023, with an impressive 89% success rate among our International Diploma Programme students.

### Educational approach

To help students to fulfil their potential and become the leaders, thinkers, academics, artists of tomorrow, we have developed our own educational approach. Key elements of this approach are:

1. We offer a broad academic development from a strong liberal arts and sciences curriculum with great attention paid to inquiry-based learning within interdisciplinary modules and projects. We thereby aim to offer students training and experience in analysing complex academic problems and real-life situations.
2. We encourage students to develop their 'moral compass', thereby aiming to help students in their moral citizenship, in both local and international contexts. We offer courses in philosophy and ethics, as well as yearly service-learning projects;
3. We provide students with a modern curriculum, focussing on essay writing, debating, coding and programming, research skills, (digital) design and art, and conceptual thought. Today's curricula however, always runs the risk of becoming outdated for tomorrow's challenges and problems. For that reason, we insist on helping students to develop metacognitive skills, enabling them to understand and manage their own learning and development in the years to come.

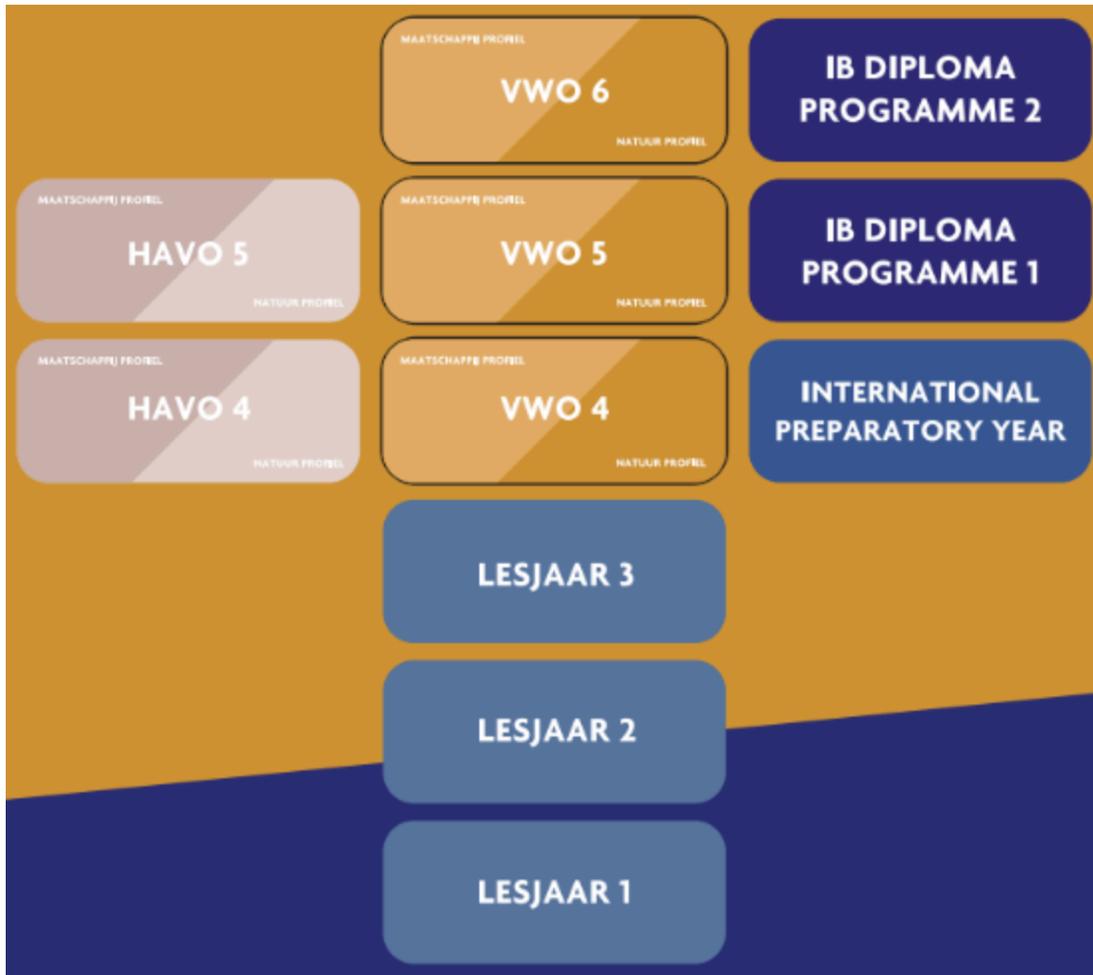
## The International Profile at ALASCA

### General curriculum structure

During our junior years (years 1 to 3), our school implements a 'Dutch core curriculum' that is mandatory for all students aged 11-15. This core curriculum includes various modules and projects, covering all learning outcomes as prescribed by the Dutch Ministry of Education. Alongside the core curriculum, students have the opportunity to choose elective modules (keuzemodules), enabling them to expand and deepen their knowledge and skills. For students who require additional time and/or support in completing (parts of) the core curriculum, there are options to participate in 'deficiency modules.'

In the senior phase of our school, encompassing years 4 and above (ages 15-18), students have the flexibility to choose from three tracks:

1. **Dutch havo Track** (Higher General Secondary Education): This track spans two years, covering school years 4 and 5, and prepares students for higher vocational education. Completion of the Havo program also grants eligibility for enrolment in vwo or IB tracks.
2. **Dutch vwo Track** (Pre-University Education): This track spans three years, covering school years 4, 5, and 6, and represents the Dutch pre-university track.
3. **International Profile Track:** This track spans three years, with Year 4 designated as the International Preparatory Year (IPY), Year 5 and Year 6 comprising the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). This track is the international pre-university programme where students will be able to obtain a bilingual internationally recognised diploma (twee-talig internationaal erkend diploma door universiteiten).



**School career flow chart:** havo: Senior General Secondary Education; vwo: pre-University Education (vwo+ refers to the additional academic challenges offered at our school); IPY: International Preparatory Year; IB DP: International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Orange indicates “final year / external examinations”

Currently, we stand as the sole school in Amsterdam offering students the unique opportunity to choose for an alternative to the Dutch tweede fase profiles within an International Profile. Furthermore, in the International Profile our commitment is to offer a curriculum that aligns with our educational values, providing an alternative to the curricula offered by other Dutch and international schools. This curriculum is tailored to meet the specific needs and preferences of our student population. Over the three years of the International Profile, we aim to facilitate an exchange programme with another international school. Presently, we are collaborating with ies Manacor in Mallorca, Spain.

In the ALASCA International Profile, students will participate in the following courses:

<b>International Profile Year 4 - International Preparatory Year (IPY)</b>	<b>International Preparatory Year Subjects (CONCEPT)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dutch</li> <li>2. English</li> <li>3. Spanish or Independent German Study with School Guidance for external admissions</li> <li>4. Eras of Inquiries (History   Philosophy)</li> <li>5. Applied Economic Principles (Economics &amp; Business)</li> <li>6. Perspectives on Societal Studies (Social Studies   Philosophy)</li> <li>7. Mathematics Levels: Fundamentals to Advance (Equivalent of Dutch Mathematics A/B/D)</li> <li>8. Living Systems and Behavioural Dynamics (Biology   Psychology)</li> <li>9. Visual Creativity and Tech Craft (Arts   Technology)</li> <li>10. Physical Education / PE</li> </ol>	
<b>International Profile Year 5 and Year 6 - Diploma Programme (DP)</b>	
<b>Core subjects</b>	<b>Diploma Subjects</b> Each student is required to take at least three (but no more than four) subjects at the Higher Level (HL) and the remaining subjects at Standard Level (SL).
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Theory of Knowledge (ToK) <i>As a thoughtful and purposeful inquiry into different ways of knowing, and into different kinds of knowledge, TOK is composed almost entirely of questions.</i></li> <li>2. Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) <i>Students are required to undertake a CAS project. The project challenges students to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>show initiative</i></li> <li>b. <i>demonstrate perseverance</i></li> <li>c. <i>develop skills such as collaboration, problem solving and decision making.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Extended Essay (EE) <i>The extended essay is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.</i></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Language A: Dutch Language and Literature (HL)</li> <li>1. Language A: English Language and Literature (HL/SL)</li> <li>2. Language Acquisition: Dutch ab initio (SL) <i>Dutch for individuals who are not native speakers.</i></li> <li>3. Psychology (HL) <i>Study human behaviour from a cognitive, biological and social perspective.</i></li> <li>4. Design Technology (SL) <i>Designing products and understanding materials.</i></li> <li>5. Maths Application and Interpretation (SL/HL)</li> <li>6. Visual Arts (SL/HL) <i>Making and comparing different types of art and artistic styles.</i></li> </ol>

We expect to expand the number of subjects offered in the next few years.

### First year of the International Profile, the Preparatory Year (IPY)

During this year, students who are committed to obtaining an international diploma will embark on an English-language curriculum. Here, they will develop the essential skills to enhance their prospects of successfully completing the International Programme. It's important to note that once students enter the International Profile, they cannot revert to the Dutch maatschappij or natuur profiel in 5 vwo at ALASCA.

### Second year of the International Profile, the Diploma Programme (DP1)

Students at ALASCA, as well as transfers from other schools or students coming from abroad, still have the opportunity to commence the International Profile in DP1.

The Diploma Programme serves as the pre-academic curriculum, preparing students for their international exams and admission to universities or universities of applied sciences (Hogeschool). Throughout the first and second terms of DP1, students gain a deeper understanding of how the perspectives of the six subject disciplines complement each other. On a practical level, they become familiar with the coursework expectations for the internal assessment (part of the international exam). Towards the end of the year, students will engage in a mock examination, receiving predicted grades for the final exam and pre-university applications.

### Third year of the International Profile, the Diploma Programme (DP2)

In DP2 classes, students continue to enhance their knowledge and skills within the core topics and diploma subjects, preparing for the final exams.

Students provide evidence of their learning progress through various products: the extended essay, the Theory of Knowledge essay, a portfolio of CAS experiences, and various items for the Internal Assessment of the six diploma subjects.

In the third term of this year, Term 7, DP2 students undergo a second mock exam week, serving as a trial experience of the setting and requirements of the official examination session. The fourth term includes the May exams and concludes in the first week of July when the exam results are published. Consequently, students are involved in exams from the end of April until mid-May, thus foregoing a Spring Break.

### Time table

The timetable at ALASCA looks like this:

08.30h	School building open
09.00h	Lesson 1
12.00h	Lunch break
12.30h	Lesson 2
15.00h	Lesson 3 or extended study time
16.30h	School building closed

### Parental Contribution for IB Diploma Programme students



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Parents/guardians of students who follow the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme pay a parental contribution to cover the additional costs of this programme such as the annual fee to the International Baccalaureate Organisation and the exam fees.

This parental contribution does not include the costs for international travel nor does it cover the costs for resitting exams.

The annual parental fee is €1250,- per year.

This fee covers the following costs<sup>1</sup>:

Student activities and additional learning materials	€650,-
Examination fees (total costs made in DP2 are approx €700) <sup>2</sup>	€350,-
Costs to remain authorised as an IB World school	€200,-
Solidarity fund IBDP <sup>3</sup>	€50,-

## Admission to the International Profile in Year One (Preparatory Year)

Enrolment in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme will be open to the following categories of students:

- Students with a 3 vwo report card of their school providing admission to 4 vwo;
- Students with a havo report card and special circumstances to apply for the International Profile e.g. English speaking at home.
- Any other students who are proficient in English and have an academic record sufficient to enter year 4 of pre-university education (vwo).
- All students are required to hand in a motivation letter.

## Admission to the International Profile in Year Two (Diploma Programme)

Enrolment in the IB Diploma Programme will be open to the following categories of students:

- Students with a 4 vwo report card of their school providing admission to 5 vwo;
- Students with a full havo diploma;

<sup>1</sup> Costs could be adjusted for academic year 2024-2025

<sup>2</sup> Excluding the exam fees for re-sitting of exam papers

<sup>3</sup> The multi-year IB solidarity fund is used to financially support talented students and their parents when they cannot fully meet the costs of participating in the IB Diploma Programme



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- Any other students who are proficient in Dutch and English and have an academic record sufficient to enter year 5 of pre-university education (vwo), such as a certificate of completion for the MYP of another international certificate or diploma.
- All students are required to hand in a motivation letter.

Due to the challenging and academic nature of the Diploma Programme and the limited number of places available, admission is selective. All students interested in enrollment in our Diploma Programme are invited to enter our [admissions procedure](#).

## Esprit schools

ALASCA is part of a larger school board: Esprit scholengroep. Esprit scholengroep consists of 15 schools, offering both primary and secondary education.

More information about Esprit Schools is available at:

<https://www.espritscholen.nl/home/over-esprit/about-esprit-school>

## Contact:

For admission advice: [decanaat@alasca.espritscholen.nl](mailto:decanaat@alasca.espritscholen.nl) (career counsellors)

E-mail International Profile: [contact.int@alasca.espritscholen.nl](mailto:contact.int@alasca.espritscholen.nl)

General information: [info@alasca.espritscholen.nl](mailto:info@alasca.espritscholen.nl)