



Verdala

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

verdala.org

MSA



Professional Development at VIS



At VIS, we strongly believe that the cornerstone of providing high-quality education lies in the continuous professional development of our staff. Our commitment to professional growth ensures that our educators are equipped with cutting-edge skills and knowledge, directly impacting the quality of education that our students receive.



Investing in our educators

We invest in a diverse range of Professional Development opportunities that allow our teachers and support staff to stay at the forefront of educational innovations and research. This includes access to international conferences, specialised workshops, and collaborative training sessions designed to refine their teaching practices. By encouraging a culture of continuous learning, we empower our educators to develop their professional skills and personal aspirations.



Collaborative learning environment

Our staff members are encouraged to share knowledge and learn from one another in this vibrant community of learners. Our professional development programmes promote collaboration among staff, leading to a more integrated approach to teaching and learning. This collegial environment enhances the school experience for our students, and makes VIS an engaging and fulfilling place to work.



Tailored professional growth

Recognising the unique talents and interests of each staff member, we offer tailored professional development plans. VIS supports all staff members in pursuing their specific professional goals, and this personalised approach ensures that our staff are not just meeting but exceeding the standards of international education.



Impact on student success

The direct beneficiary of our robust professional development programme is, without a doubt, our students. Educators who are continually learning and growing bring innovative teaching methods and a refreshed enthusiasm to their classrooms. This leads to improved student outcomes, enhanced engagement, and a school culture that values curiosity and creativity.

Our Learning

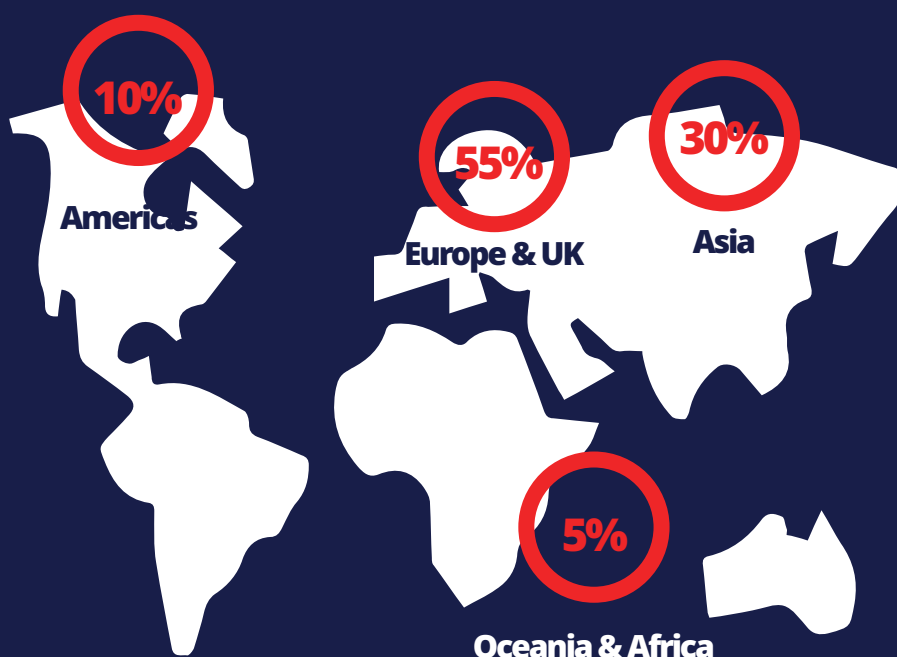
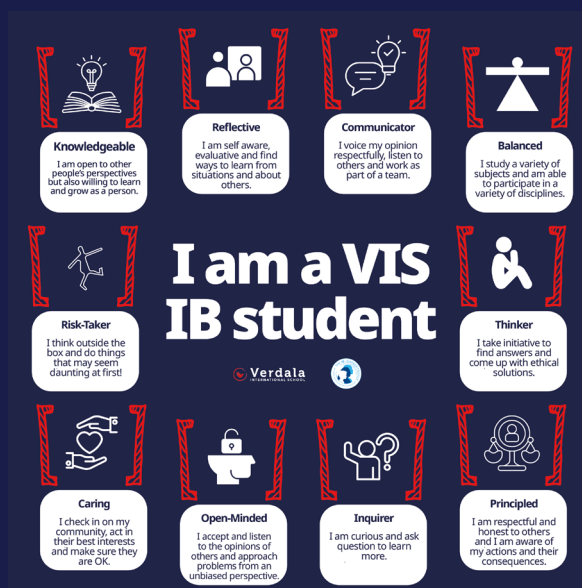
Our Inclusive Learning Culture

Our learning culture is built on a foundation of mutual respect amongst students, staff, and the wider school community. This respect fosters an atmosphere where every individual feels valued and understood, contributing to a sense of belonging and security.

The school prides itself on its commitment to inclusivity. Each student, regardless of background, ability, or belief, is provided with equal opportunities to learn and grow. This inclusive approach ensures that educational experiences are tailored to meet the diverse needs of each student, enabling them to thrive academically and socially.

The IB Continuum

Learning at VIS is guided by the International Baccalaureate framework, ensuring a comprehensive and challenging education. We are fully authorised to offer the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP), the IB Career-related Programme (IBCP), and the IB Middle Years Programme (IBMYP), enriching our students with a globally recognised curriculum that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and intercultural understanding. We are currently pursuing candidacy for the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and aim to become the only IB Continuum school on the Maltese islands.



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NATIONALITIES

At VIS, we take pride in our diversity, considering it a source of strength and an integral aspect of our School community.

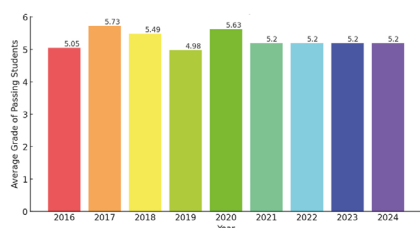
Our IB Profile

VIS currently offers the Diploma Programme (IBDP), Career-related Programme (IBCP), and Middle Years Programme (MYP). Our Primary Years Programme (PYP) is currently in the candidacy stage, and upon its full authorisation, VIS will become the only IB continuum school in Malta. This distinction will place us among a select group of schools worldwide providing a continuous, integrated IB education from primary through to secondary levels, preparing students to excel in a global community.

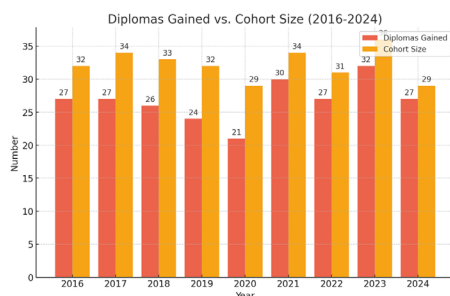


Diploma Statistics 2016-2024

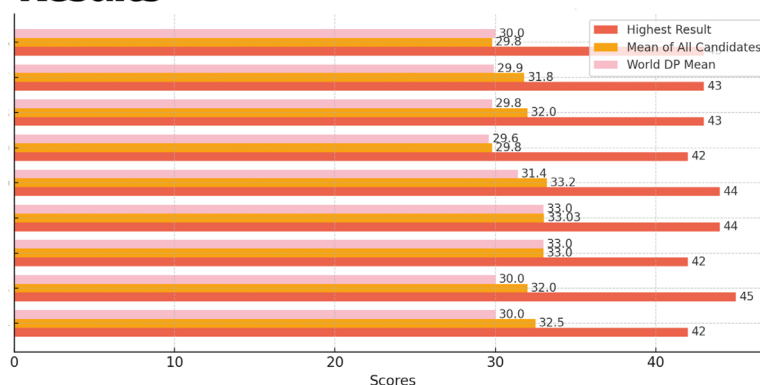
Average Grade Trends of Passing Students



Diplomas Obtained Vs. Cohort Size

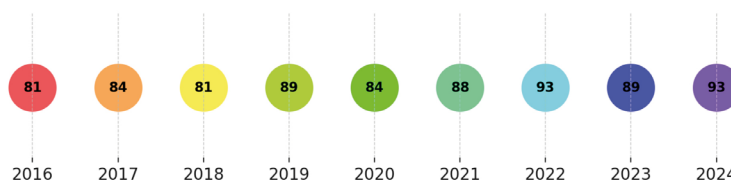


Results



% of Candidates Who Were Awarded an IB Diploma

% of candidates who were awarded an IB Diploma



Our Campus & History

Our History

Founded in 1976, our school initially served as a day school for children of employees in the oil industry. It first made its home within the historical Verdala Barracks in Cospicua, deriving its name from the nearby Verdala Gate. This gate, constructed in the 17th century by the Knights of St. John, was named in honour of the French Grand Master Hugues Loubenx De Verdale. In 1987, the school moved to its current location at Fort Pembroke, a 19th-century British coastal fort built between 1875 and 1879 to protect the northeastern approaches to the Grand Harbour.

Our Campus

Our Middle and High Schools are situated in the original barracks buildings, while the High School occupies the fort's distinctive hexagonal centre. Continuing our tradition of academic excellence, we introduced our first International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) in 1995, further enriching our educational offerings.

Exciting Developments The New Build

Scheduled for completion in April 2026, our ambitious new building project will further enhance our campus. This eco-forward development is set to house the Early Years and Kindergarten programmes, providing them with state-of-the-art facilities tailored to young learners' needs. This expansion reflects our dedication to improving and adapting our facilities to meet the growing needs of our community while also enriching the learning experience for all students.



1582



1976



2024



2026



Living in Malta

Benefits for Expats

English as a first language

Given that English is an official language in Malta, it's easy to engage with both the local and expatriate communities. This accessibility greatly facilitates communication, integration, and access to a wide array of services and cultural experiences, enhancing the overall experience for English-speaking newcomers.

Family-Friendly Environment

Malta is known for its family-oriented culture. The society is welcoming, and there are numerous family-centric activities and events throughout the year.

Healthcare Services

The healthcare system in Malta is of a high standard. Public healthcare is accessible to all residents, and private healthcare options are available with reasonable insurance plans, ensuring comprehensive medical care for families.

Lifestyle and Recreation

Malta offers a Mediterranean lifestyle with a balance of work and leisure, while the pleasant climate facilitates outdoor activities all year round, which is great for family outings and weekend explorations.

Community and Networking

One of the School's greatest strengths is our staff community, which thrives within Malta's vibrant and supportive expat environment. Newcomers will find a variety of expat groups and clubs that are invaluable for networking and socialising, easing the transition into our community.

Safety and Security

With its low crime rates, Malta is considered a safe place to raise a family. The peaceful environment adds to the quality of life and reduces the stress often associated with relocating to a new country.

Compact Size

Malta's small size means that commuting times are generally short, allowing for more family time and less stress. This also means that amenities, beaches, and cultural sites are never too far away.

Cost of Living in Malta

The cost of living in Malta for expats is relatively moderate compared to other European countries, but it can vary significantly depending on lifestyle choices and location. Urban areas like Sliema and St. Julian's tend to be pricier, especially in terms of rent. Daily essentials, groceries, and public transportation are reasonably priced, although utility costs can be high due to the island's reliance on imported energy. Eating out and entertainment are affordable, contributing to a good quality of life. Overall, while the cost of living in prime locations can be akin to larger European cities, careful planning can make living in Malta quite manageable for expats.

Housing

Housing in Malta offers a variety of options for expats, ranging from modern apartments to traditional Maltese townhouses. The cost of housing varies by location, with central and northern areas like Sliema, St. Julian's, and Valletta being more expensive. More affordable options can be found in southern and central parts of the island. Rental prices for a standard two-bedroom apartment can range from €800 to over €1,500 per month, depending on the area and amenities. Buying property is also popular, supported by government schemes and incentives for foreign buyers, making Malta an attractive option for both renters and potential homeowners.

Transportation

Transportation in Malta is affordable and accessible, with various options for expats. Public buses cover most areas, and a monthly pass costs around €30-€40. While buses are budget-friendly, they can be crowded and less reliable during peak times. Many expats opt for driving, and car rentals or purchases are common, though road congestion and limited parking can be challenges in busy areas. Fuel prices are comparable to other European countries. Malta's compact size means that commutes are generally short, and ferry services between the main islands of Malta and Gozo provide additional transportation options.

Bills

Electricity & water: Electricity bill is typically between €50 and €100, while the water bill usually ranges from €20 to €30 per month.

Internet: €30-€50 per month.

Mobile phone: €20-€30 per month.

Entertainment

Dinner in an upmarket restaurant: €50 - €70 per person.

Dinner in a bistro type restaurant: €15 - €25 per person.

Cinema ticket: Approx €8.

Monthly gym membership: €30 - €50.

Grocery Shopping

Grocery shopping in Malta caters well to families, offering a variety of both local and international products at reasonable prices. Families can expect to spend between €200 to €300 per month on groceries, depending on size and dietary preferences. Markets and supermarkets across the islands are stocked with fresh produce, meats, and seafood, essential for preparing healthy, home-cooked meals. For those times when cooking might not be an option, dining out remains affordable, with family meals at modest restaurants costing around €10-€15 per person.

Popular Products

Loaf of Bread: €1 - €1.35.

Milk 1L: €0.97 - €1.20

Tomatoes 1kg: €1.50 - €2.50.

Beer, bottle 0.5L: Supermarket €1.20 - €2.00. | Restaurant €3 - €6.

Wine, bottle: Supermarket €5 - €10. |

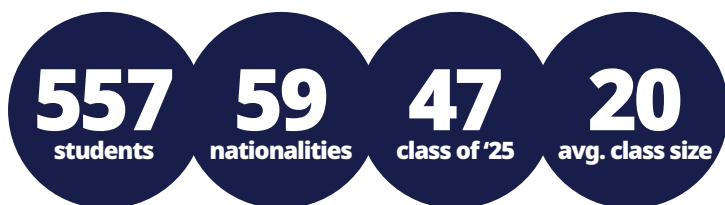
Restaurant €15 - €30.

Espresso: Cafe €1.50 - €2.50.



Our School

At A Glance



Our Story

Verdala International School (VIS) is an inclusive community celebrating diversity in all forms and valuing every member's contribution. Our strategic goal is to become Malta's first IB continuum school, embracing the IB philosophy to inspire critical thinking, self-confidence, and care in our students. We respect our historical roots while encouraging innovation and a holistic educational approach that encourages curiosity and integrates technology. The strength of our community is reflected in our daily ethos, promoting positive relationships within our school.

Our Vision

To be the international school of choice, celebrating diversity, empowering and inspiring future generations.

Our Mission

To ensure that all our students emerge as knowledgeable, inquisitive, and ethical contributors to our world. We are committed to creating a unique environment that nurtures academic learning while encouraging students to become open-minded, principled, and reflective individuals who appreciate the richness of our diverse, multicultural society.

Educational Philosophy

- To prepare our students to be ready for tomorrow's world by encouraging learning through inspirational education using 21st century learning methods.
- To create a unique environment where each student can grow and discover their true potential.
- To promote an enquiring mind with a thirst for knowledge.

- To embrace diversity in our multicultural society.
- We trust that a caring inclusive community will help build a sense of self-worth and a profound respect for others.

Our Definition of Learning

At VIS, learning involves developing the knowledge, skills, and understandings through inquiry-based and trans-disciplinary strategies, which prepare our lifelong learners for their future challenges. Effective learning occurs in a positive and nurturing environment, fostering a reflective growth mindset. This develops best in a context where students apply problem-solving skills to think critically and creatively in order to collaborate and take responsibility for their own learning.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Our commitment to inclusion is deeply embedded in our Anti-Discrimination Policy. This policy highlights our commitment to a school community where every member, regardless of their background, is respected and valued. Discrimination is not tolerated, and we strive to provide a variety of opportunities for our students to learn about and celebrate different cultures. Our values of respect and empathy are at the heart of this commitment.

Environmental Responsibility

We recognise the importance of environmental responsibility, integral to our Whole School Eco Charter. This charter emphasises our commitment to incorporating environmental education into our curriculum, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, we achieved Eco-Schools Green Flag status, reflecting our high environmental standards. We are dedicated to maintaining this status and making sustainable decisions that minimise our environmental impact, encouraging habits of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Graduation Requirements

All high school students enrolled at VIS are expected to earn the VIS high school diploma. Students must obtain a minimum of 24 credits. For further information on required graduation credits for IBDP, IBCP, and HS Diploma students. Students must achieve at least a 90% attendance rate to be awarded the relevant credits.

CAS & Service Learning

The school is committed to serving local and global communities, fostering social and academic skills for today's complex world. The High School program aligns with the VIS Mission, developing knowledgeable, inquisitive, ethical contributors. During the Diploma years, students must complete the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) program or Service Learning. They engage in activities like Spark15, Peace Lab, and Model United Nations, achieving individualized learning outcomes from the IB.



Our People

Our diverse team of over 150 staff members from around the world brings a wealth of experience and passion to our community. Many of our staff members consider Malta their long-term home, with tenures ranging from two to six years. We prioritise a close-knit, supportive atmosphere, focusing largely on personal and professional growth. Our core values of respect, integrity, dedication, and empathy not only guide us but also strengthen our commitment to nurturing and effective teaching, ensuring every student thrives and contributes positively to our community.



Our Values.



What Sets VIS Apart

Diversity - Teachers - Community - Student Success - Educational Excellence - Small Classes - Innovation - Graduates



VIS proudly stands as a beacon of global diversity in Malta, home to a vibrant tapestry of over 55 nationalities. This rich multicultural mix is not only one of the School's defining characteristics, but also a vital component of its community spirit. The students, faculty, and parents at VIS form an actively engaged and diverse community that enhances the learning experience and encourages an environment of inclusivity and global perspective.



While curriculum lays the groundwork for a robust educational framework, it is the teachers who truly embody the spirit and essence of a school. VIS is privileged to host a skilled and devoted faculty, comprising over 25 different nationalities, whose diverse experiences significantly enrich the educational journey. The School is committed to offering its educators a broad spectrum of state-of-the-art professional development opportunities globally, throughout the year.



Both parents and teachers are pivotal in shaping a student's educational journey. Their active involvement and guidance are crucial at every educational stage. At VIS, we emphasise the significant impact of engaged parents who participate in their children's learning, as it substantially enhances academic achievement and behaviour. We advocate for a close school-home partnership, offering numerous opportunities for parents to collaborate closely with the School.



Every student is unique, excelling in diverse areas from science and languages to arts and athletics. At VIS, we are committed to providing an environment where all students can explore their interests and pursue their passions with robust support. This commitment is exemplified by our 93% pass rate in the rigorous IB exams, underscoring our dedication to equipping every student with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed.



Academic excellence is a key priority, but our vision encompasses much more. We strive for more than just scholastic success; we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals. Our educational approach emphasises not only intellectual achievement but also the growth of social, emotional, physical, and creative capacities. This is supported by a rich selection of extracurriculars, including community service, leadership roles, student clubs, and after-school programmes, making these elements a vital part of the VIS educational experience.



Our teaching strategy focuses on tailored instruction, placing students at the forefront of their educational journey. We encourage curiosity and independence, motivating students to explore their interests and understand the significance and influence of knowledge. At VIS, we preserve a teacher-student ratio of about 16:1 to ensure small, intimate class sizes. Furthermore, we incorporate small workshop groups within classes to accommodate various learning styles and facilitate comprehension for all students.



We have established a robust technological foundation underpinning our ambitious technology programme, driven by committed leadership. Digital intelligence, integral to our teaching, equips students with vital digital skills. We create data-driven, adaptive environments enhancing learning and innovation. Our commitment extends to equitable access to technology and professional development, ensuring an inclusive environment where every student can thrive, supporting creative educational processes that meet the dynamic needs of modern education.



VIS consistently achieves pass rates and average scores in the IBDP that are consistently above global averages. The substantial accomplishments of our students in this rigorous academic programme, within an inclusive school environment, reflect their dedication as well as the strong support from our faculty and families. Graduates of VIS depart with strong results, earning admission to a diverse array of competitive colleges and universities worldwide.

Get in Touch

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CONNECT WITH US

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