

Global Recognition of CIS International Accreditation

For schools,
parents, and
students

Q What is CIS International Accreditation?

A CIS International Accreditation is a rigorous school-wide evaluative process that measures alignment with internationally-benchmarked standards and provides guidance for continuous improvement.

Through their achievement of these standards, CIS-Accredited schools have been verified as delivering high-quality international education focused on the development of knowledge, skills and attributes necessary to prepare students as global citizens. Students educated at CIS-Accredited schools are sought after by universities around the world due to the rigour of their international education and their preparation for life no matter where their paths may take them.

Q What kind of assurance does accreditation provide? Do CIS or national accreditation agencies validate a school's curriculum or the conferral of a diploma?

A While each agency verifies that a rigorous curriculum and student assessment system are in place and fully articulated, none of the agencies prescribe nor verify that the programmes or assessments are from or linked to any one country.

It is important to recognize that CIS and national accreditation agencies in the US-the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)-each accredit the school and not the curriculum or diploma.

Q If a student graduates and receives a high school diploma from a CIS-Accredited school, are they eligible for admission to US colleges and universities?

A Yes. Universities located in the U.S. can choose whether or not to consider accreditation as a requirement for admission. For US universities that do consider school accreditation as part of their admission requirements, CIS International Accreditation is recognized as accreditation conferred by an US regional accreditation organization.

Q If a student transfers from a CIS-Accredited school to a school that is accredited by the local government, how will their transcript be viewed by their new school?

A The school can refer to the CIS website (www.cois.org) to verify that the student has been educated at a school that has achieved high standards in all aspects of international education. CIS International Accreditation itself has been validated and is accepted by governmental agencies and associations internationally as a mark of quality assurance.



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How is CIS International Accreditation different from accreditation conferred by US accreditation agencies?

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CIS developed its accreditation protocol to reflect leading international practices, peer-reviewed by experienced international educators. Our accreditation standards are unique, with an international focus on student learning, student well-being and global citizenship. A school's achievement of CIS International Accreditation results in recognition by governmental Ministries and Departments of Education around the world based upon the verified quality and rigour of the education it provides, similar to the recognition a school would receive in a country through a national accrediting body. CIS focuses on international school improvement specifically related to our charter as a global not-for-profit organization.

When a school requests dual accreditation from CIS and for example, a US accreditation agency (MSA, NEASC, or WASC), the CIS International Accreditation Protocol is the framework and protocol used as the basis for the joint evaluation of international schools.

The impact and range of use of the CIS International Accreditation Protocol spans across 122 countries in 600 schools. As of April 2019, schools completing dual accreditation using the CIS International Accreditation Protocol include 179 with NEASC, 70 with WASC and 63 with MSA.

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Do universities recognize CIS International Accreditation?

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2017 survey results indicate that 93% of our member institutions actively seek out and consider students from CIS-Accredited schools for admission. CIS hosts over 30 student recruitment events annually to connect our university members with students from CIS-Accredited schools. More than 500 universities participate in these events each year.

It is important to recognize that each accrediting agency, CIS, NEASC, MSA and WASC, accredits the school and not the curriculum or diploma. While each agency verifies that a rigorous curriculum and student assessment system are in place and fully articulated, none of the agencies prescribe nor verify that the programmes or assessments are from or linked to any one country.

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How do other regional school associations recognise CIS membership and accreditation?

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The Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA), the British Schools of the Middle East (BSME) and the Federation of British International Schools in Southeast Asia (FOBISIA) each recognise the validity of CIS International Accreditation as a mark of quality assurance as they consider schools for membership in their respective associations.

In other countries, specific types of accreditation may be mandated by the government for schools that are not regulated by the Ministry or Department of Education. For more information, please visit our [website](http://www.cois.org).

Q If a university recognizes CIS International Accreditation does this mean that the student will be accepted at that university?

A No. Even if a university recognizes CIS International Accreditation as part of their admission criteria, they may have additional requirements for acceptance based upon the student's individual assessments. It is important to verify each university's minimum admission requirements to determine how they will assess a student's performance in school.

Q What is the relationship between CIS and the International Baccalaureate (IB)?

A As a membership and accreditation organization, CIS evaluates all aspects of school life, educationally and operationally. The [IB](#) authorizes the adoption and evaluates the implementation and use of the IB curriculum at a school.

CIS and the IB work together so that schools can align their IB re-authorization visits at the same time as CIS International Accreditation evaluation visits, saving the school effort and time. We merge our respective evaluation processes, with the IB evaluating its curriculum and how it has been implemented as part of the CIS International Accreditation protocol.

Q Do national governments recognize CIS International Accreditation?

A CIS International Accreditation is recognized by many governments in the world. For more information about a specific government, please contact CIS at info@cois.org.

Q How is the quality of the CIS International Accreditation protocol validated?

A CIS is itself accredited by the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation ([ICAISA](#)), an over-arching professional association which "accredits the accreditors". CIS is a member of ICAISA to influence and improve the accreditation of independent schools while submitting to the evaluation and validation of the quality of our own accreditation process. CIS has voluntarily submitted to a rigorous and impartial review of its accreditation protocol and has demonstrated adherence to ICAISA Criteria for Effective Independent School Accreditation Practices.

Q What is the International Alliance for School Accreditation? Why is CIS a member of the Alliance and why is this important?

A The [Alliance](#) is a coalition of regional, national, and international accrediting bodies, whose purpose is to bring forward the best in accreditation while giving these bodies a unifying voice; helping to advance the standard and quality in the accreditation of education worldwide.

For more information contact CIS at info@cois.org.