



# SABIS®

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## Newsletter

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### Headline News

#### SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. hosts 2016 U.S. Directors' Meeting

Each year SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. in Minnesota, U.S., hosts the SABIS® U.S. Directors' Meeting, a 2-day event designed to assess progress, re-align goals and objectives, and identify areas of focus for the academic year. The 2016 SABIS® U.S. Directors' meeting took place on November 27-28, 2016, and brought together a total of 51 attendees including school directors from the region's 12 schools (11 public charter schools and 1 private school), SABIS® board members, senior corporate staff, and heads of department (Academics, Business Development, ELA Curriculum Development, Finance, IT, Legal, Marketing, Operations), and employees from SABIS®'s U.S. regional centers.

With a unifying theme of "Empowering Future Generations," the meeting included presentations and interactive sessions led by a wide range of attendees as well as opportunities for networking. Topics covered leadership, staff and student retention, school improvement processes, building school culture, engaging students, and social and emotional behaviors. Directors also took part in specific training on SABIS® 360 for Directors, a tool developed by SABIS® to help streamline academic monitoring and ensure full visibility of the learning process for each student.

As a culmination of the annual meeting, directors were invited to attend an awards dinner along with the staff of SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. At the dinner, schools were recognized for outstanding performance in a number of areas such as academic performance and student retention, and individuals were honored for achieving years of service milestones with the organization.

Following the meeting, attendees shared their feedback:

*"It's a great honor to be part of an organization that is committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged students through education. The U.S. Directors' Meeting always serves as a reminder of the important mission we're on together. I'm always left feeling re-energized!"* said Jose Afonso, SABIS® Director – U.S. Business Development.

*"After attending the U.S. Directors' Meeting, I felt validated and supported in my role as Director. The key takeaways I left with were: the importance of establishing a school culture committee at my school to directly address our school climate; the enormous, positive impact that SABIS® 360 can have on productivity; and the incredible responsibility I as Director have to motivate and energize my students and staff,"* said Frederick Randall IV, School Director, Collegiate Charter School of Lowell.

For more information on employment or alumni news within the SABIS® Network, access our websites:

[sabis.net](http://sabis.net) | [careers.sabis.net](http://careers.sabis.net) | [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net)

The SABIS® Network has been actively educating students in the U.S. since 1985, when The International School of Minnesota was opened. The establishment of this private school was followed by several public charter schools starting in 1995. All of the network's schools in the U.S. are served by SABIS® Educational Systems, INC. and follow the proven SABIS® approach.

Click [here](#) for more information about SABIS®'s U.S. network of schools.

## SABIS® Speaks at Education Investment MENA Conference in Dubai

As a leader in the education industry, SABIS® is often invited to speak at conferences around the world. In November 2016, SABIS® was invited to participate once again in the [Education Investment MENA Conference](#). Established in 2012, Education Investment MENA is the region's largest platform dedicated to creating investment and partnership opportunities for education businesses. The conference brings together regulators, ministries, educators, investors, financiers, entrepreneurs, and solution providers to seek out new investment, development, and expansion partners from across the region and around the world.

The 2016 event took place in Dubai, U.A.E., on November 22-23 and featured a number of education experts and high-profile speakers. SABIS® President Carl Bistany represented the organization at the event and participated as a panelist in "The Big Debate: What will be the biggest driver of value in education business in MENA?" Bistany discussed the value that a well-structured educational system can bring to students and the importance of providing students with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that will equip them to achieve success in an unknown future. He also delved into the challenges faced by educational organizations when stakeholders have differing priorities.



*SABIS® President Carl Bistany (middle) with fellow panelists at the Education Investment MENA conference held in Dubai*

In addition to providing a forum for SABIS® to share its experience in the education market in the Middle East, the conference also opened the door to introduce SABIS®'s latest foray into the African continent. Mark DeSario, Chief Executive Officer of [Investbridge Capital](#), a leading private investment firm that is working with SABIS® on a project that aims to open over 10 schools in Africa over the next three to five years, spoke at the conference about opportunities in Africa that are driving K-12 education expansion on the continent. He also discussed the partnership with SABIS®, which will bring the world-class SABIS® education to Africa, and gave investors insight into the booming private education sector there.

As a successful organization with a rich history and proven track record in delivering a top-quality education to students around

the world, SABIS® is often invited to share its experience at high-profile events. To stay informed about upcoming events that SABIS® will be participating in, follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

## International Academy of Trenton Moves to Permanent Campus

The International Academy of Trenton Charter School (IAT), a SABIS® public charter school located in New Jersey, U.S., recently moved to its permanent campus.

### INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF TRENTON



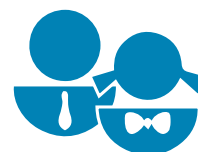
Located in:  
**New Jersey, U.S.**



Founded in:  
**2014**



Enrollment:  
**535**



Currently Serving  
**K-5**

IAT opened in 2014 and welcomed 354 students in Kindergarten through Grade 3. Housed on a temporary campus while the search was underway for a permanent location, the school grew to an enrollment of 535 students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 and outgrew its facilities.

In February 2017, however, the school moved to a permanent home in the former *Trenton Times* building. Once a historical fixture in the city, the *Trenton Times* building stood empty after being vacated by the newspaper in 2011. In the years that followed, the building began to crumble from disrepair, its windows boarded up and graffiti covering the walls. That was until the building was acquired in 2015 by Highmark School Development and identified as the permanent home for IAT. Since then, the 80,000 square foot, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century building and the six acres it stands on have been undergoing extensive refurbishment and are now ready to function as a 21<sup>st</sup> century school.

The school and campus are now home to IAT's current students and offer ample opportunity to accommodate up to 1,200 future students as the school gradually continues to expand its offerings to include Kindergarten through Grade 12.

To see photos of the school's renovation process in progress, click [here](#). To learn more about IAT or enroll your child, visit [iat.sabis.net](http://iat.sabis.net).

## SABIS® Holds First Regional Finance Meeting

On October 20 and 21, 2016, participants from SABIS® Network schools in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Syria, and the U.A.E. met with SABIS® senior corporate finance and accounting personnel in Lebanon for the first Regional Finance Meeting. The 2-day conference involved all 42 participants in discussions and workshops on a wide range of topics including generating financial reports, school audit procedures, internal auditing, and accounting and finance policies and procedures.

*"The aim of the conference was to bring together all key players in an open dialogue under one roof," explained Mr. Jean Ayoub, SABIS® Chief Financial Officer. "It was a great opportunity to network professionally and communicate face-to-face on issues of mutual concern."*

The meeting kicked off with keynote speeches from the SABIS® President Carl Bistany and SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad, both of whom took the opportunity to emphasize the critical importance of a sound financial environment that allows the organization as a whole to continue offering an outstanding education to a growing number of students.

The agenda for the meeting included workshops on the classification of assets and expenses, monthly financial reports and year-end audits, accounting data back-up, inter-company regular reconciliation and settlement of due balances, budget preparation and control of capital expenditures and expenses, and key performance indicators for chief accountants.



*Participants in attendance at the Regional Finance Meeting held in Lebanon*

Feedback from the participants was extremely positive: *"The meeting provided us with an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and further equip us with the tools needed for the success of our school,"* commented Adnan Shamshir, Accounts Manager at International School of Choueifat – Lahore. According to Oussama Loubani, Business Manager at the International School of Choueifat – Doha, *"The research, depth of understanding of user interfaces, and the interesting presentations made the conference a huge success."*

As a global organization, SABIS® often holds regional and international meetings that bring together senior staff from across the network to ensure that everyone is aligned and working toward the same goals. Events such as academic conferences, directors' meetings, and the Regional Finance Meeting are examples of the many ways that SABIS® ensures the continuity and success of its operations. If you would like to learn more about regional and international meetings, read future SABIS® Newsletters.

## World-Renowned Choir Performs at SIS-Adma

On December 6, 2016, the SABIS® Board and the administration and staff of SABIS® International School – Adma (SIS-Adma) hosted an end-of-year concert entitled "Hands United in Peace" at the Charles Saad Performance Hall at SIS-Adma. Approximately 350 people including distinguished guests and VIPs were invited to a special concert by the world-renowned Notre Dame University Choir and the Liceo Regina Margherita Orchestra and Choir, featuring Soprano Artemisa Repa.



*The "Hands United in Peace" end-of-year concert at SIS-Adma*

On the night, Mrs. Leila Saad, SABIS® Co-founder, welcomed the guests. *"This evening is a traditional celebration of peace on earth, a celebration of triumph of love over hatred and hope over despair, and lights in our hearts a hope for better days."* The spirit of her welcome was reflected in the multicultural songs and hymns performed in Arabic, English, French, and Latin. In fact, the Russian singers in the Liceo Regina Margherita Orchestra and Choir even learned Arabic hymns and sang them along with the Lebanese singers in the Notre Dame University Choir, reinforcing a spirit of unity, harmony, and understanding.

The Notre Dame University Choir was founded in 1993 and has performed more than 300 concerts worldwide. The Liceo Regina Margherita Di Palermo Choir and Orchestra was founded in 2003 and includes more than 80 members.

To watch the concert video, click [here](#). To learn more about SABIS® International School – Adma and the school's many events, visit [sisadma.sabis.net/news](http://sisadma.sabis.net/news).

## Academics

### Impressive University Acceptances for 2016 SABIS® Network Graduates

As a network of schools with an active presence on five continents, SABIS® educates students from nearly every country in the world. Through the implementation of the SABIS® Educational System™, each school in the network aims to help students achieve their full potential and prepare them for admission to the college or university of their choice, wherever it may be located. The list of college and universities to which 2016 graduates from the network were accepted shows the efficacy of the system in meeting this objective.

In 2016, 26 SABIS® Network schools graduated a total of 1,868 students. The graduates were accepted to 519 colleges and universities in 42 different countries from Australia to Yemen. The U.S. and U.K. led the field with the largest number of acceptances, with 276 and 66, respectively.



*"Although admissions requirements vary from university to university and country to country, our students have an advantage," stated Angus Slesser, School Director, ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main, a SABIS® Network school in Frankfurt, Germany. "They have a strong academic base that helps them achieve amazing external examination results. They also well-developed inter-personal skills and a track record of active engagement in their school and the community through the SABIS Student Life Organization®. On top of these distinguishing features is the reputation that has been built by past SABIS® Network graduates while at university. It's an ideal combination."*

The highest ranking colleges and universities in the world were among those accepting 2016 SABIS® Network graduates. In fact, seven of the top 10 universities including Stanford, MIT, Harvard, Princeton, Imperial College London, the University of Chicago, and the University of California – Berkeley accepted 2016 network graduates. In total, 50% of the world's Top 200 universities as ranked by the U.K. Times Educational Supplement accepted the network's 2016 graduates.

SABIS® is committed to preparing students for successful admission to college or university. Once admitted, the network's graduates build on their foundation of academics and life skills and go on to distinguish themselves in all walks of life.

Click [here](#) to download the full list of 2016 SABIS® College and University Acceptances.

## ILS™: Helping Prepare Students for the Future

SABIS® is committed to delivering a high-quality education that meets students' needs both now and in the future. Along with helping students build a solid academic foundation, SABIS® Network schools prepare students to engage as independent, lifelong learners, a quality that is becoming more and more essential with the exponential rate of change in the world today. The SABIS® Interactive Learning System™ (ILS™) is one of the tools developed by SABIS® and used in the network to help nurture students as independent learners.

The ILS™ is a learning platform that streamlines the learning process by connecting students and teachers through digital devices (tablets) in the classroom. At the start of an ILS™ lesson, students log in to their tablets and read through the explanation of a particular point or topic. Once they have read through the explanation, they move on to complete a set of questions associated with the point. As students in the class answer the questions, the ILS™ software allows teachers to actively monitor each student's performance and take appropriate action based on real-time mastery. Equipped with the knowledge of exactly which students have accurately applied a concept and which have not, the teacher can decide to offer further explanation of the point or opt for additional examples to ensure that all students in the classroom are learning. When the teacher has established that all students in the classroom have sufficiently understood the point, he or she moves on to the next point.

*"ILS™ promotes real-time learning and develops students' capacities as independent learners, giving teachers on-the-spot information about individual student mastery and empowering students to be the driving force in the learning process," explained Ghassan Kansou, SABIS® VP – Academic Development.*

ILS™ is currently implemented in SABIS® Network schools in Lebanon and the U.A.E. in levels E through L (typically grades 3-10). To date, ILS™ lessons include mathematics, science, and

English grammar, with the French and Arabic recently launched at the SABIS® International School – Adma in Lebanon. Plans are underway to launch ILS™ across the network gradually.

## IT

### Introducing the SABIS® Digital Platform

As a leading, education management organization, SABIS® is committed to ongoing research and development in order to optimize student outcomes and enhance the learning experience for everyone involved. Most recently, and in line with this commitment, SABIS® introduced the SABIS® Digital Platform, a new generation platform designed to facilitate information sharing and communication among parents, students, and staff.

A step ahead of SABIS® WebSchool, the information portal previously used to connect SABIS® Network school users, the SABIS® Digital Platform retains the features that users have come to rely on to follow the learning process. Now instead of logging in to WebSchool, users log on to the SABIS® Digital Platform ([digitalplatform.sabis.net](https://digitalplatform.sabis.net)). Students can view and download academic material, keep track of courses and academic performance, view an updated schedule and school calendar, as well as stay up-to-date with the latest school announcements. And parents can keep informed about their child's academic performance and school involvement.



Beyond these features, however, the SABIS® Digital Platform offers users many new benefits. Located on an all-new cloud infrastructure, the SABIS® Digital Platform is capable of supporting thousands of users at the same time. The platform also features an all-new design that is responsive to any device – computer, mobile device, tablet, etc.

In an effort to keep parents fully informed of their child's day-to-day experiences in school, the platform gives parents the option of customizing push notifications about exams, attendance, and downloads, among other things. Through the new platform, parents can also enjoy an enhanced, two-way communication with the school that allows them to register their child for the next academic year, re-enroll for school activities, give permission for school trips, and much more.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the new SABIS® Digital Platform is the scope of development that it holds for future enhancements and features. In the works for the platform are exciting, interactive student learning tools such as quizzes, SABIS® On-Demand Tutoring (ODT) videos, and the option to submit homework assignments, collaborate with other students, and connect with teachers. In the future, multi-lingual support in Arabic, English, French, German, Kurdish, and German will be available on the platform. Plans are also in the works to use the SABIS® Digital Platform as the core element for online schooling by providing students access to courses online.

"We are committed at SABIS® to developing IT products that give students and parents a better educational experience. The SABIS® Digital Platform reflects this commitment. With the SABIS® Digital Platform, we have a platform that can accommodate new and exciting products to enhance students' educational experience," commented Mr. Serge Bakhos, SABIS® Vice President – Information Technology, Creative Design, and Book Publishing.

SABIS® is committed to the development of tools and systems that optimize learning outcomes and support a positive educational experience for everyone involved. In today's rapidly-evolving digital era, the SABIS® Digital Platform is a platform developed by SABIS® to do just that.

Parents and students in SABIS® Network schools can access the SABIS® Digital Platform by visiting [digitalplatform.sabis.net](http://digitalplatform.sabis.net).



**SABIS®**

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

The SABIS® Educational Services Information Technology Department was appraised at Level 3 of the **CMMI Institute's Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI)** and has successfully engaged in aligning its processes to **ISO 9001:2008**.

**CMMI** is a software development process improvement approach that provides organizations with the essential elements of an effective, process-based methodology.



**ISO 9001**  
**BUREAU VERITAS**  
Certification



**ISO 9001:2008** is an international standard that specifies requirements for an organization's **Quality Management System**. It focuses on meeting customer expectations and delivering customer satisfaction.

## AGILE METHODOLOGY

SABIS® IT follows the *Agile Methodology* that promotes *adaptive planning, evolutionary development, and continuous delivery, while consistently increasing the quality of the deliverables*.

*Education for a changing world.*

Americas | Europe | Africa | Middle East & Asia

[sabis.net](http://sabis.net)

**SLO®**

## Shadow Teachers® Gain Traction across the Network

The SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) is a distinctive and integral part of daily life at SABIS® Network schools around the world. Through involvement in eight SLO® departments (Academic, Discipline, Management, Sports & Health, Activities, Outreach, Lower School, Social Responsibility), students have the opportunity to develop important life skills, improve academic standards, and get involved in their school community.

One example of how students play an active role in their school community is the Shadow Teacher® program. Shadow Teachers® are students who excel in specific subjects and who volunteer or are chosen to assist their teacher by conducting a lesson after thorough training and preparation. The Shadow Teacher® program not only helps ensure that learning continues even in the event of teacher absence, but also offers a real-life context in which students can develop self-confidence and practice leadership, presentation, and organization skills.

There are numerous examples from around the SABIS® Network of just how valuable and effective Shadow Teaching® is:

At the International School of Choueifat – Lahore (ISC-Lahore) in Pakistan, Shadow Teachers® acquire necessary skills throughout the year. They practice public speaking and leadership skills, which assist them in delivering the material in a classroom setting. They also learn how to organize content so that it can be taught in an effective and efficient way. Having acquired the skills needed, Shadow Teachers® at ISC-Lahore have a specially-designated event in which to showcase their skills: Shadow Teachers® Week. From October 24-27, 2016, and on November 1, 2016, over 200 ISC-Lahore Shadow Teachers® in grades 2-12 successfully led lessons.



*A Shadow Teacher® leads a French lesson at ISC-Lahore*

At the International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main (ISF) in Frankfurt, Germany, Shadow Teaching® has been used to boost preparation for final exams. This year, ISF students in grades 3 through 9 were given the opportunity to act as Shadow Teachers® to help their classmates prepare for final exams. Approximately 150 lessons were taught by Shadow Teachers® who reviewed and clarified material covered throughout the term.

In Kurdistan, Iraq, Shadow Teaching® proved to be particularly valuable. On the first day of school after the winter break, a number of ISC-Erbil teachers and staff who had gone on vacation were unable to fly back to Kurdistan due to poor weather

conditions in the region. Fortunately, ISC-Erbil Shadow Teachers® jumped in to assist the school's alumni who had volunteered to help, and together they were able to save the day, leading the classes until the teachers could return. *"Our alumni and ISC-Erbil Shadow Teachers® did an amazing job and exceeded all our expectations,"* commented Mr. Stephan Kleynhans, ISC-Erbil School Director. *"This was a truly inspiring experience that shows the strength of the Shadow Teaching® program and the collaborative spirit that exists in our school community."*

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) schools in Kurdistan have also caught on to Shadow Teaching®. At Sardam International School, students are so excited about Shadow Teaching® that the school is holding weekly Shadow Teaching® workshops throughout the academic year for students in grades 3-10. During the workshops, Shadow Teachers® are trained to teach English, math, science, and Arabic under the supervision of their teachers and school staff.



*A Shadow Teacher® in action at Sardam International School in Kurdistan*

*"We are so glad to have this opportunity to display our skills in front of other Shadow Teachers® and school staff,"* said Zaid Mohamad, a Shadow Teacher® in Grade 10.

Shadow Teaching® workshops are also being set up at Linwood Public Charter School (LPCS), a SABIS® public charter school located in Louisiana, U.S. In response to students' interest in Shadow Teaching®, the school regularly organizes special workshops for students in grades 6-8 to improve their communication and leadership skills and help them become more impactful as a positive role models in the classroom.

Shadow Teaching® in all SABIS® Network schools around the world empowers students and equips them with the skills needed to shape their personality, improve academic standards, and prepare them for the future. Through Shadow Teaching as well as other SLO® initiatives and activities, students develop confidence, motivation, compassion, and ambition.

If you would like to learn more about how SLO® is making an impact in schools and their communities, visit the [In the News](#) section on [sabis.net](#).

## Participants Learn New Skills at Middle School Student Life Training Camp

SABIS® is committed to providing a high-quality, college-preparatory education to all students in SABIS® Network schools around the world. Students of all ages have the opportunity to develop their skills through the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®). Those who have the potential and desire to serve as leaders have the opportunity to apply

to attend annual training camps such as the Middle School Student Life Training Camp, which is held each summer for selected SLO® prefects from the network's U.S. schools that go up to Grade 8.

The most recent Middle School Student Life Training Camp took place from July 27 to 30, 2016, in Michigan, U.S. The camp brought together 15 SLO® prefects and five Student Life Coordinators from SABIS® U.S. public charter schools including SABIS® International School-Phoenix (SIS-Phoenix), Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS), the International Academy of Saginaw (IAS), Linwood Public Charter School (LPCS), and Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy (MMLA). The students who attended the camp went through an application process and were chosen based on specific criteria such as academic and discipline records and involvement in SLO®. Those in attendance participated in three days of workshops, seminars, and team-building activities aimed at enhancing their leadership and communication skills, among other things. Camp participants also got the chance to visit Michigan tourist attractions such as the Henry Ford Museum and Mackinac Island.

*"Our expectation for the students who participated in the Student Life Training Camp is to spread their newly-acquired knowledge to all the other prefects [in their schools] through mini-camps and seminars to ensure that all prefects are trained,"* explained Mr. Roger Soweid, SABIS® Corporate Director – Student Life and Student Management.



*Participants at the Middle School Student Life Training Camp pose for a group photo*

Feedback from students and staff was extremely positive. One student noted that the camp had helped improve his public speaking skills; another mentioned that she had returned from the camp with more confidence in herself as a leader.

*"SIS-Phoenix students who attended the 2016 Middle School Student Life Training Camp went back to school highly motivated and determined to tackle the challenge of going above and beyond this academic year. They took great delight in forging new relationships with their counterparts in other SABIS® public charter schools and benefitted from brainstorming sessions and leadership activities,"* said Abel Perales III, Student Life Coordinator at SIS-Phoenix.

Students who participate in the Middle School Student Life Training Camp return to their schools committed to making a difference in their schools and in their community. The skills they learn at the camp enable them to reach out to others at school and promote a healthy educational atmosphere for others.

For details about SLO®, visit [sabis.net](#).



## SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

### SABIS® Alumni Support their Alma Mater

The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is an association that unites all SABIS® Network graduates around the world. Through the formation of SAGA chapters, SAGA gives alumni the opportunity to build upon friendships that were formed during school years by providing a platform to stay in touch. The chapters also give members the chance to give back to their alma mater.

Here are some of the most recent efforts undertaken by SAGA chapters.

In Egypt, the SAGA Cairo chapter organized ongoing tutoring sessions for students in grades 9 through 12 at ISC-Cairo and ISC-6 October. Alumni were invited to tutor students in a wide range of subjects for three hours per week on campus. Through these sessions, students and alumni built strong ties of friendship, and students were able to optimize their academic performance.

In Lebanon, SIS-Adma launched the SIS-Adma Alumni Association at a special dinner held on December 27, 2016. Over 120 of the school's graduates attended the event at which SABIS® Vice President Victor Saad spoke: *"It is so rewarding for me to see such a large number of alumni present, especially those who now reside outside Lebanon. It is also remarkable that every graduating class since [the school's] inception is represented here tonight. This is a reflection of the emotional ties that continue to bind us, making us all a part of the SABIS® family —long after graduation."*



*SIS-Adma alumni pose for a group photo at the official launch of the school's alumni association*

At ISC-Koura, members of the alumni association look for ways to bond with students at the school and to build friendships through different activities on campus. One of the activities planned during the 2016-17 academic year was a basketball game between alumni and current students. ISC-Koura alumni played against students in grades 11 and 12. The association has planned similar activities, which will take place every two weeks, to bring together ISC-Koura graduates, students, and staff through fun and interactive events.

Long after graduation, alumni from SABIS® Network schools maintain strong ties with their alma mater. Through the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA), alumni are able

to give back to their school and make a difference in the lives of students.

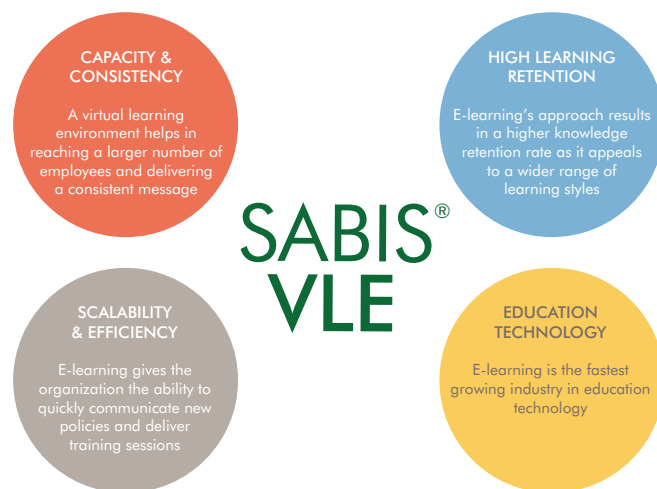
For information about the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA), visit [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net).

## SPDI

### Welcome to the Era of Virtual Learning!

As the SABIS® Network continuously expands, so does the demand for tailored, targeted professional development. In response to this new reality, the SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI) launched a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) on February 2, 2017. This new digital platform will ensure that employees in the SABIS® Network have ready access to a wide range of online learning opportunities as well as traditional classroom workshops conducted by SPDI.

*"There are countless benefits to virtual learning, and recent statistics show that the E-learning industry is the fastest growing industry in education technology,"* explains Jimmy Char, Director – Training and Talent Development at SABIS®. *"The VLE will offer employees in the SABIS® Network around the world the opportunity to participate in self-directed programs at their convenience."*



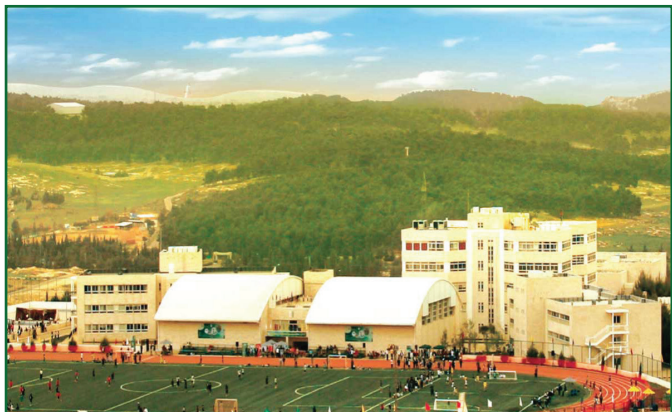
Available online courses include those that are specific to SABIS® such as "Academic Quality Controller Training," "Teacher Orientation," and "The SABIS Point System®," as well as a variety of technical, behavioral, and functional courses which will help employees enhance their skills and performance. Examples of these courses include "Communicating for Leadership Success," "Coaching for Peak Performance," "Making Meetings Work," "Retaining Talent," "Building and Sustaining Trust," "Driving Change," "Microsoft Office E-learning," and much more.

All employees in the SABIS® Network can access the VLE by logging on to [spdi-vle.sabis.net](http://spdi-vle.sabis.net). After finishing a course, employees are required to complete a set of retention checks. These checks ensure that learning has taken place and that it is being used effectively on the job.

**Watch** Aschwicke Hall School Director John Nicholson discuss how his team is benefiting from the VLE.

## Feature School

### International School of Choueifat – Amman



#### Celebrating 20 Years of Achievement!

The International School of Choueifat – Amman (ISC-Amman) in Jordan opened its doors in September 1997 to Jordanian and international students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Over the next two decades, the school grew to nearly 1,500 students and became an integral part of the community.

Throughout the 2016-17 academic year the school has planned a series of events and festivities in celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you would like to learn more about these events, please follow the school's [Facebook](#) page.



*A group of young ISC-Amman students celebrate their school's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

#### Academic Achievements

ISC-Amman is a member of the global SABIS® Network and implements the SABIS® Educational System™, a comprehensive academic program that has been developed and refined for over a century. The system gives students a solid foundation of knowledge and skills that prepare them for success in a changing world.

ISC-Amman offers a challenging, college-preparatory curriculum that prepares students for a wide range of external examinations - Advanced Placement® (AP®), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), and Advanced Level (A Level). Outstanding performance of ISC-Amman students on these external examinations has gained the school and its students public recognition. In fact, in February 2016 under the

patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Mired Bin Ra'ad, the school held a "High Achievers Award Ceremony" for students who achieved top scores in the world and in the country. Awards went to 30 ISC-Amman students who fulfilled one of three requirements: (1) earned an A\* or A on IGCSE or A Level exams, (2) earned full grades in the SAT subject tests and 2,000 points or more out of 2,400 on the SAT I, or (3) scored 5 on AP® exams.



*Thirty ISC-Amman students receive awards at the 2016 High Achiever Awards ceremony*

In November 2016, 19 Queen Rania Outstanding UK Learner Awards were presented to 10 ISC-Amman students for achieving top scores in the world and in the country on A Levels and IGCSEs.

Outstanding external exam performance coupled with a solid foundation of knowledge and skills position ISC-Amman graduates for acceptance to top universities in Jordan, the MENA region, and around the world. ISC-Amman graduates from 2015 and 2016 are pursuing their studies at Johns Hopkins University (U.S.), SOAS University of London (U.K.), Hotel Institute Montreux HIM (Switzerland), the University of Jordan (Jordan), and the University of British Columbia (Canada) to name a few. Their choice of undergraduate programs covers a wide range of areas including social media, architecture, medicine, hospitality management, engineering, art and design, political science, and biomedical engineering.

#### An Active and Engaging Student Life

In addition to offering an outstanding education, ISC-Amman offers students a rich and engaging student life. Through the SABIS® Student Life Organization® (SLO®) at the school, students benefit from a wide range of clubs, activities, and extracurricular activities that allow them to develop new skills, explore new interests, and learn the value of being active contributors to their communities. Some of the clubs and activities offered include Model United Nations (MUN), Lego®, and public speaking; academic events including spelling bees, "Wheel of Math," and Jeopardy®; sports like soccer and basketball; and activities, such as the very popular "Door Decorating Contest," "The Amazing Race," and "Blue Monster" night.

In the summer of 2016, SLO® prefects set up a summer internship program that gave ISC-Amman high school students the opportunity to complete an internship in well-reputed companies, banks, law firms, and hospitals. According to Rakan Al Majali, a Grade 11 student who participated in the internship program, "It was an enriching experience. It helped me realize that my passion toward medicine is genuine. The



program allowed me to access certain sections within the hospital that I had never been to before, such as the operating room, endoscopy section, and the ICCS. I would definitely recommend this program to all the high school students. Joining the program was one of the best decisions I have made."

The ISC-Amman SLO® is also committed to making a difference in the lives of others. One of the best examples is the Habitat for Humanity project. In coordination with [Habitat for Humanity Jordan](#), a non-governmental organization (NGO) that "helps build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter," ISC-Amman 9<sup>th</sup> graders volunteer to improve the housing and living conditions of low-income families in Jordan. The students who have been involved in the project put this [video](#) together about their experience.



*ISC-Amman student volunteers building a shelter for a family in need*

Another example of ISC-Amman's commitment to making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate is "200 Smiles Day." On November 12, 2016, the ISC-Amman SLO® invited 200 orphans to the school and planned a day full of fun, games, and activities including soccer, jumping castles, and tug of war.

*"SLO®, to me, is the most beautiful thing at school. It gives the school a feeling of joy and achievement. Being part of SLO® is a real source of pride for me."*

— Samir Shamieh, ISC-Amman Student

### A Sense of Belonging

Among ISC-Amman's achievements is the sense of belonging that encompasses the entire school community. Efforts abound to create a fun, dynamic, and engaging school environment. For example, on "Crazy Hat Day," all students were asked to come to school wearing an original and fun hat of their choice. "Our school is fun, we love it!" exclaimed one young student that day. "Reading with the Director" is another example of a positive initiative. As part of this program, the School Director selects a book to read and discuss with each grade in the school.

Students are encouraged to read the selected book and discuss their favorite characters, experiences, and how they would rewrite the ending with the School Director. Not only does the initiative help promote a love of reading, but it also helps develop a strong rapport between the students and Director.



*ISC-Amman students on Crazy Hat Day*

The strong community spirit at ISC-Amman spills over at the end of the academic year into the summer. Over the summer months, many students join the school's popular summer camp. Students aged 5 to 15 can choose from a number of tailor-made summer programs including sports camps for swimming or football. There is also a summer adventure camp that includes archery, survival skills, horseback riding, outdoor living skills, and camping. Another of the school's popular summer programs is the "Discover Jordan Camp." Participants in this camp get to discover the country's rich historical heritage. The summer program at ISC-Amman also includes a specialized camp for children aged 3 to 5. The ISC-Amman summer camp is open to all students, including students enrolled in other schools. (If you would like to inquire about the camp, contact the ISC-Amman school administration at +962 6 4291133.)



*ISC-Amman summer camp participants creating a makeshift channelling system*

To witness the strong sense of belonging and community that exists among ISC-Amman students, watch this video, entitled "[We are ISC-Amman.](#)"

## Cultural Awareness

ISC-Amman is committed to developing a generation of students who are culturally-aware and open to the world. *International Day* is a wonderful example of how the school promotes cultural awareness in a fun, positive, and inspiring manner. On Saturday, October 29, 2016, ISC-Amman held their second annual International Day entitled "Walk around the World." Students and faculty worked together to set up decorative representations of various countries around the world. Every continent was staged in a different location throughout the school, with booths providing food and cultural information. For example, the African booth was set up as though it were within an actual jungle inside the administration office; the cafeteria was converted to a complete rendition of the Asian continent; and in the Americas section, Hollywood was recreated complete with a red carpet.

If you would like to watch a short video about ISC-Amman's International Day, click [here](#).



*Scotland represented at ISC-Amman International Day*

For the past 20 years, ISC-Amman has delivered a high-quality education to students. The school has prepared students to succeed on external exams and helped open the door to top universities. Beyond academics, ISC-Amman's students have a strong sense of belonging, a commitment to giving back to their communities, and an openness to world cultures.

*"ISC-Amman raises a well-rounded generation that is ready for the world."*

— Dr. Catherine Al-Ashram Cubain, MD,  
ISC-Amman parent

If you would like to learn more about ISC-Amman, visit [iscamman.sabis.net](http://iscamman.sabis.net) or follow their [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) pages.

## Alumna in the Spotlight

**Rawan Ashraf Lasheen, ISC-Cairo,  
Class of 2011**



*Rawan Ashraf Lasheen*

**This is the story of a young girl who embraced all opportunities that her school had to offer and grew into a confident, outgoing young woman.**

Rawan Ashraf Lasheen joined the International School of Choueifat – Sharjah, a SABIS® Network school in the U.A.E., as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader in 2001. In 2004, when her family moved to Egypt, Rawan transferred to the International School of Choueifat – Cairo, where she studied until she graduated in 2011.

As a student at ISC-Cairo, Rawan was dedicated to her studies and was determined to learn as much as she could. Rawan credits the rigorous and challenging SABIS® Educational System™ implemented at the school for instilling in her strong time management skills and the ability to manage stress and overcome obstacles. "At school there was a strong focus on academics, so we worked hard and learned a lot. As a result, university didn't feel like a struggle in any way," said Rawan.

During her time at ISC-Cairo, Rawan was a dynamic student who participated in a variety of sports and activities. She took advantage of all the facilities ISC-Cairo had to offer and really immersed herself in the school. Rawan participated in art competitions and played basketball, volleyball, and tennis. She also spent a large amount of time at the school library, a place she remembers as her "study hub."

Being so involved in the school helped Rawan grow from a shy, quiet young girl into a self-assured young woman with the confidence to pursue a career on television. "No one would have expected me to be a T.V. anchor after having been such a shy and quiet student. By joining all these sports, I started to make lifelong friends and became more sociable and outgoing," she says.

Rawan was also a member SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®). In high school, she was appointed as Head Prefect of the SLO® Academic Department. She also dedicated a great deal of



her time to community service projects. Her involvement in SLO® helped her develop a sense of determination and dedication.

When Rawan graduated from ISC-Cairo in 2011, she was accepted at Hult Business School, American University of Cairo, Misr International University, and German University in Cairo. She chose to attend American University of Cairo (AUC), where she went on to pursue a degree in Mass Communication. At university, Rawan used the skills and knowledge instilled in her at ISC-Cairo to succeed. *"My first two years at university were extremely easy for me because ISC-Cairo had prepared me so well, especially by teaching me time management. Most importantly though, ISC-Cairo taught me to aim high and learn as much as I could from every opportunity I came across."*

After graduating from AUC, Rawan worked as a T.V. anchor at a local station in Egypt. Today, she is working at Al Ghad channel in Cairo and pursuing her graduate studies at AUC in T.V. and Digital Journalism. At Al Ghad, Rawan is the youngest in-house reporter and editor. Her work entails writing daily scripts for the news anchors on the "Daily News Bulletin" and recording voice-overs to introduce news reports.

We wish Rawan the best of luck and are looking forward to "watching" her career play out on television screens across Egypt!

If you are a graduate of a SABIS® Network school and would like to get in touch with old friends and classmates, visit [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net) and join the SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) now! SAGA is also on Facebook at [facebook.com/SABISalumni](https://facebook.com/SABISalumni).

*"ISC-Cairo taught me to aim high and learn as much as I could from every opportunity I came across."*

— Rawan Ashraf Lasheen, ISC-Cairo,  
Class of 2011



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