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## Headline News

### Accountability Drives SABIS® 2017 Directors' Meeting

As a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents, SABIS® values accountability and prides itself on helping all students, regardless of which SABIS® Network school they attend, achieve their full potential. The main factor enabling the consistent delivery of a high-quality education is the SABIS® Educational System™, which is constantly evolving in order to keep up with the demands of a changing world. To ensure that school directors and senior administrators in SABIS® Network schools are informed about the latest the system has to offer, SABIS® holds an annual, global Directors' Meeting.

The 2017 SABIS® Directors' Meeting was held from July 3-8, 2017, in Athens, Greece, where close to 100 attendees, including SABIS® school directors, senior SABIS® personnel, and SABIS® Board members, learned about new developments, networked, and prepared for the coming year.



SABIS® Directors' Meeting 2017 participants pose for a group photo

Attendees at the meeting took part in presentations and participated in interactive sessions that reinforced an important theme: *Accountability: The Key to a High Performance Culture.*

In welcoming those in attendance, SABIS® Co-Founder Leila Saad laid the foundation and focus for the meetings ahead. "Accountability starts with us, and our actions should be a model to emulate," she said. "Set the bar high and let everyone see that the set target is achievable. Accountability and high expectations will bring out the best in people."

SABIS® President Carl Bistany echoed the co-founder's sentiments in his keynote speech to kick off the meeting. "Accountability is inherent in our core values," he said, "and it drives us to achieve our core purpose. It is key to our success, and as a school and SABIS® leaders, you all hold the key. The key you hold is comprised of many different elements, all of which have to work together in order to create a high performance culture that unlocks the potential of our students."

Plenary and regional breakout sessions followed over the course of four days and culminated in a three-hour, interactive training session conducted by Linda Galindo, accountability consultant, speaker, and author. Galindo gave SABIS® and school leaders insight into how to use accountability to empower themselves "to speak the truth, to focus on what matters, and to achieve the results they agree to produce."

Feedback from those in attendance at the meeting was overwhelmingly positive:

*"The accountability theme was very appropriate and meaningful. As a result of the training, I have a set of tools that I am ready to use to make sure my team is working to its fullest potential."* – Jacobus Gericke, Director of SABIS® SUN International School, Baku, Azerbaijan

*"The choice of topics and flow of this year's meeting contributed to a very positive experience overall."* – Karen Reuter, Director of SABIS® International Charter School, Springfield, Massachusetts

Attendees left the meeting prepared for the year ahead and with clear action plans to instill accountability in their schools.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

## SIS-Costa Verde Welcomes its First Students

At the start of the 2017-18 academic year, the newest school in the SABIS® Network, the **SABIS® International School – Costa Verde** (SIS-Costa Verde), opened its doors to its first students, and when the morning bell sounded on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 91 excited, young students in Pre-Kindergarten 3 through Grade 4 headed through the school's gates.

SIS-Costa Verde is situated on a 5.7 hectare campus within the Costa Verde Development Project, approximately 30 kilometers west of Panama City, Panama. In addition to 91 students, the school community is comprised of a team of 30 administrators, teachers, and staff members.



*Students at SIS-Costa Verde enjoying their first lesson at their new school*

*"I am both elated and excited about the opening of the school,"* commented Mr. Abi Moisés De Castro, SIS-Costa Verde Acting Director, on the first day of school. *"Many people have worked very hard to make this school a reality, and from today on we get to show them all what we can do with it."*

SIS-Costa Verde follows an international calendar (August-June) and, like all SABIS® Network schools, enrolls students year-round. If you live in the area and have a child aged 3 to 11, visit [siscostaverde.sabis.net](http://siscostaverde.sabis.net) to learn more about enrolling your child for this academic year. The school will be adding additional grade levels in each subsequent year of its operation until it reaches a full PK3-Grade 12 offering.

Follow the latest school news and developments on Facebook at [facebook.com/SISCostaVerde](https://facebook.com/SISCostaVerde).

## SABIS® Network Schools Welcome Students "Back to School"

The first day of school is a day filled with excitement for students and parents alike. Perfectly aware of this fact, SABIS® schools around the world planned ahead to make sure that the first day lived up to everyone's expectations! Let's take a tour around the network to see what excitement the first day of school held.



*Family poses for first day of school photo at ISC-Dubai*

At the International School of Choueifat – Dubai (ISC-Dubai) in the U.A.E., prefects in the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) focused their efforts on making Kindergarten students feel welcome on their first day away from home. They decorated the school with Smurf-themed balloons, bubbles, and props. Kindergarteners took pictures with their parents in the photo booth and were then guided by "Smurfs" to their classrooms to meet their teachers and classmates.

The SABIS® International School – Adma (SIS-Adma) in Lebanon also focused its attention on helping the youngest students among them enjoy their first experience at school. The school set up a photo booth complete with banner and props for the children and their parents to mark this momentous day. SLO® prefects then accompanied each and every child to their class to meet their teachers and classmates.

The joyous atmosphere was not only limited to Kindergarten. At the International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main (ISF) in Germany, Grade 1 students were greeted with a traditional welcome ceremony on the first day of school. Seventy-five (75) first graders, along with their parents, younger siblings, and grandparents, gathered in the school theater for a special ceremony that included musical performances and a special poem by ISF second graders. Many first graders brought the

traditional German “Schultüte,” a paper cone filled with sweets and toys, to ease them into their first day of school. After being called to the stage to meet their teachers, each of four Grade 1 classes paraded off to their classrooms to start their day.



*First graders at ISF with their families enjoying the first day program in the school theater*

At the International School of Choueifat – Cairo (ISC-Cairo) in Egypt, first through sixth graders were welcomed back to school with huge smiley face stickers held at the entrance of the school by prefects from the SLO® Outreach Department. In Baku, Azerbaijan, SABIS® SUN students were welcomed back with a cheerful and festive atmosphere. Senior students stood at the gate and welcomed students and parents to their school.



*New students at ISC-Cairo greeted with big smiles on their first day of school*

***“On my first day of the school [at ISC-Cairo] I was greeted by prefects holding a big smile, and I felt very welcomed. It didn’t feel like I was a new student.”***

– Selin Akbay, Grade 9

In the U.S., private and charter schools alike got equally creative! On their first day of school, The International School of Minnesota (ISM) lower school students were invited to participate in fun singing and coloring sessions, which they gladly took part in. Upper school students wrote out their goals on sticky notes and hung them in the classroom as a reminder throughout the year.

At Holyoke Community Charter School (HCCS), a SABIS® public charter school in the U.S., the first day of school was spectacular! One hundred and fifty (150) fathers walked their kids to school as part of *The Million Father March*, a nationwide initiative aimed at underlining the importance of fathers actively participating in the educational and social development of their children.

With such a great start, the 2017-18 academic year is bound to be a success, but don’t just take our word for it, follow us on Facebook!

For schools in the U.S. and Europe, follow [facebook.com/sabisEducationalSystems/](https://facebook.com/sabisEducationalSystems/). For schools in the MENA region and Asia, follow [facebook.com/sabiseducationalservices/](https://facebook.com/sabiseducationalservices/).

## **IAAC Starts Academic Year on Brand New Campus**

When the International Academy of Atlantic City (IAAC) opened in 2015 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S., the school operated on a temporary campus and looked forward to the day when its permanent facility would be ready. That day arrived on September 7, 2017, and approximately 340 students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 were there to see it happen.

The school’s new home, which is located at 6718 Blackshore Pike, Egg Harbor Township, provides the room to grow into the K-12 academy it intends to become. The new location features updated facilities for the students and staff as well as a new, fully-equipped, computer room.

***“Everything is new, nice classrooms. I’m so excited. They now have a computer room.”***

– Monica Ahuyon, IAAC parent

IAAC held a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 5, 2017, to officially inaugurate the school’s new campus. The ceremony featured a special welcome from the President of the IAAC Board of Trustees, Dr. Peter Caporilli, and Chief School Administrator, Dr. Natakie Chestnut. Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a tour of the school and a reception.



*The IAAC community gathers for ribbon cutting ceremony*

“Facility challenges often reveal unique opportunities,” said Dr. Natakie Chestnut, IAAC Chief School Administrator. “Our Board of Trustees created a vision and followed through on their promise of ensuring that our scholars had a great school building they could thrive in. This extraordinary new school provides the opportunity for our students to excel academically and grow into societal leaders.”

IAAC is a member of the global SABIS® Network and serves students in the Atlantic City and Pleasantville, New Jersey area. The school implements the proven SABIS® Educational System™ and seeks to help all students fulfill their full potential. To learn more about IAAC, visit [iaac.sabis.net](http://iaac.sabis.net).

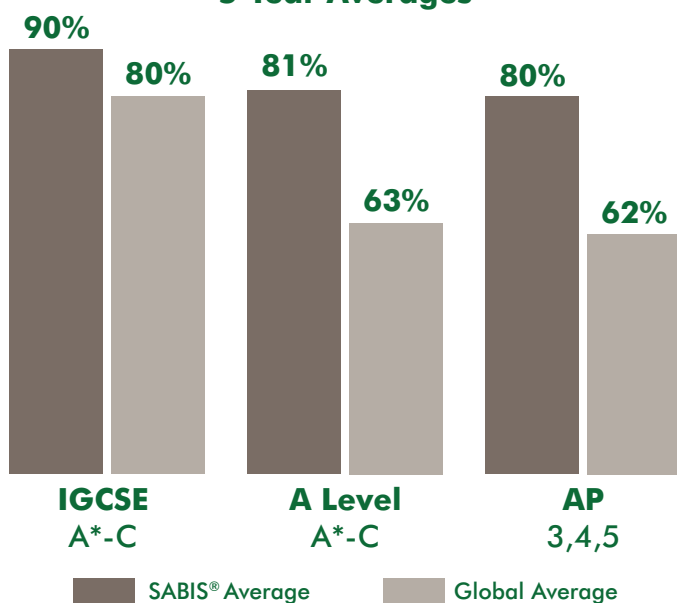
## 2017 SABIS® External Exam Results

In today's rapidly changing world, successful individuals are the ones who have, among other things, a solid academic foundation and the requisite skills to distinguish themselves in globally competitive environments. One of these skills is test taking, and it is particularly beneficial when it comes to the high-stakes, international external examinations typically used in the college/university admissions process. Year after year, students throughout the SABIS® Network show that they have the knowledge and test-taking skills required to excel on external examinations.

In the spring of 2017, 3,150 students in 24 SABIS® Network schools took International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) exams in 24 subjects, Advanced (A) Levels in 9 subjects, and Advanced Placement (AP®) exams in 31 subjects. Eighty-nine (89) percent of SABIS® students who took IGCSEs received the highest grades of A\*-C in comparison to a global average of 80% in the same subjects. Seventy-four (74) percent of students who took A Levels exams scored A\*-C in comparison to 61% globally, and 77% of SABIS® students who took AP® exams earned a 3, 4, or 5, the highest scores possible in comparison to 58% globally. It is worth noting that all SABIS® schools implement a non-selective admissions policy, making these results all the more impressive.

These results are in line with 5-year performance averages for SABIS® students. The 5-year average of A\*-C on IGCSE exams is 90% for SABIS® students and 80% globally. For A Levels, the 5-year average of A\*-C is 81% for SABIS® versus 63% globally, and for AP® exams, the 5-year average of 3, 4, or 5 is 80% for SABIS® and 62% globally.

### Network-Wide External Exam 5-Year Averages



Equipped with a solid foundation of knowledge, impressive test-taking skills, and outstanding results on external exams, SABIS® students matriculate to many of the world's top colleges and universities and go on to achieve success in a wide range of globally competitive environments.

For more information about SABIS®, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

## What's New this Academic Year?

As an organization that sets high standards and expectations, SABIS® is committed to developing high-quality materials that help schools, teachers, and students in the network achieve high standards. The newest materials include, but are not limited to, the SABIS® Book Series, E-books, and test questions. Let's take a closer look at each one.

The SABIS® Book Series, which currently consists of over 2,100 traditionally-formatted and E-titles, has been expanded to include new books in Spanish and Portuguese to meet the needs of schools, both currently in operation or planned, in Central and South America. The series also includes new ACE books, which are specifically tailored to help prepare students for external examinations taken around the world; titles for the Pre-school program in response to a number of Pre-schools opening in the network; Arabic readers based on famous and historic figures; and the Accelerated English series, which is becoming exceedingly important in driving educational standards in countries where students are not native English speakers.

SABIS® expects to see a significant move from traditional print books to E-books over the next few years. In fact, in the 2017-18 academic year, 33 schools within the SABIS® Network, including 32,000 students in levels E through N, are already using E-books. This growth has been accompanied by developments and updates in both the E-book software and the content to enhance the learning experience. Additionally, and perhaps the most exciting development of all, is the integration of Augmented Reality (AR) in E-books. To learn more about AR, read this issue's article entitled "Augmented Reality Poised to Impact Student Learning."

Testing, which is a central component of the SABIS® Educational System™ as schools monitor student progress and identify gaps, has also been updated. Over 75,000 new test questions have been added to the SABIS® exam question databank, bringing the total number of questions to over 1 million! Schools using SABIS Integrated Testing and Learning® (ITL®) will also benefit from new software updates that allow the integration of new types of questions that external exams are beginning to use. These include drag and drop, image labelling, and text editing questions, among others.

With the introduction of new and updated high-quality material in schools around the world, SABIS® is ensuring that schools, teachers, and students are all given the support they need to learn. Using traditional books and interactive E-books that enhance the learning experience and having a broad range of test questions, SABIS® students develop a solid foundation of knowledge that helps them meet high standards and achieve success.

## SABIS® Holds PPP Summer Academy

In line with its commitment to raise education standards around the world, SABIS® holds an annual PPP Summer Academy for teachers from SABIS® public-private partnership (PPP) schools in Kurdistan. This year, 24 teachers from Fakhir Mergasori International School, Sarwaran International School, Sardam International School, Kalar International School, Suleimaniah International School, Soran International School, and Zakho International School traveled to Lebanon to attend the training from July 3 to 22, 2017.

Over the 3-week training, lower and upper school teachers of English, math, and science participated in extensive training in the delivery of the SABIS® curriculum as well as on the use of the SABIS Point System® for the effective delivery of academic material. This year's training also focused on teaching the new SAT and its requirements to teachers in Fakhir Mergasori International School, Sarwaran International School, and Sardam International School. In addition to subject content, the training also focused on the development of attendees' English language skills.

During their stay in Lebanon, participants had the opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of their host country. The program culminated with an award ceremony in which participants were recognized for their participation in the summer academy.



*Summer Academy participants, holding their certificates, pose for a group photo with SABIS® staff*

The PPP Summer Academy is one of the many services that SABIS® offers to teachers in PPP schools in Kurdistan. Throughout the academic year, PPP schools and staff receive ongoing support from SABIS® and benefit from SABIS® proprietary academic and IT tools and material. Ultimately, the goal is to contribute to teacher capacity building in Kurdistan as a means to help shape the future of the region.

If you would like to learn more about how SABIS® is raising education standards around the world, visit our website [sabis.net](http://sabis.net) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

## IT

### Augmented Reality Poised to Impact Student Learning

As a leader in the education industry, SABIS® is committed to ongoing research and development of new technologies that can enhance the learning experience and prepare students for future success. Past technologies that have become part of the educational experience for SABIS® students include Interactive White Boards, E-Books, and the SABIS® Digital Platform. Today, SABIS® is exploring a new technology that is poised to join those from the past in impacting student engagement and learning. It is Augmented Reality (AR).

AR is a technology that allows users to perceive the world around them with virtual images superimposed to create a composite view. This technology is already being used in gaming, sports, health, business, and architecture. A simple example of AR is the yellow line that appears on television screens during a game of

American football, which makes it easier for TV viewers to follow play on the field.

SABIS® views AR as an exciting development with important applications in education. Through AR technology, students can learn, perceive, and create like never before. Teaching abstract concepts like gravity, force fields, and even human anatomy will become much more interactive and give students access to a whole new dimension.



*Augmented Reality in action*

SABIS® plans to introduce AR through an application in the SABIS® E-books. The application works with carefully inserted triggers that can be added to posters, books, cards, etc. and are invisible to the naked eye. When the camera application meets these triggers, it activates a video or other digital material that will complement the student's learning process. With a new perspective on the material and access to this additional dimension, students will be able to interact with and, therefore, more effectively retain the material they are learning in the classroom. For example, students studying about the digestive tract will be able to point their camera at a trigger and watch a video that demonstrates the actual movement of food through the body.

Augmented Reality is an exciting technological development that has broad application in the world of education. With a plan to integrate AR into its E-books, SABIS® continues to show its commitment to research and development and pass the benefits onto teachers and students in SABIS® schools around the world. Keep reading our newsletter for updates on this exciting new project!

## SLO®

### SLTC 2017: A Life-Changing Experience for 96 SLO® Prefects

Every summer the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) holds an annual Student Life Training Conference (SLTC) that brings together selected prefects from SABIS® schools around the world. This year, 96 prefects from 34 SABIS® schools were chosen to attend the 9-day conference held in Athens, Greece.

From July 10-19, 2017, the students, along with 32 Student Life Coordinators, participated in a program designed to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to improve the SLO® and their schools and make a positive impact in the lives of students and their communities. They took part in workshops and brainstorming sessions on how they could improve their SLO®. They also learned about the importance of cooperation, communication, leadership, and accountability through presentations and team-building activities.

## Making a Difference

### SABIS® Teams with UNICEF to Educate Refugee Children

In keeping with its commitment to change the world through education, SABIS® signed an agreement with the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on June 14, 2017, to implement an innovative strategy using E-learning to enable better access to quality education for Syrian refugee children living in Kurdistan. While local authorities in Kurdistan had welcomed refugees, the government’s capacity to respond to rising needs was stretched. Additionally, providing education to refugees in the more remote areas posed a serious challenge.

In response to the refugee crisis in Kurdistan, UNICEF launched the “Interactive Learning Outreach Initiative,” which is designed to help educate over 50,000 refugee children currently in Iraq with little or no access to formal education. Committed to making a difference in the communities where it operates, SABIS® partnered with UNICEF to bring its expertise in the field of education to the table.



*Prefects & SLTs pose for a group photo at the 2017 Student Life Training Conference*

Of course, no SLTC would be complete without special time dedicated to community projects in the host city. This year participants were divided into three groups: The first group visited *The Smile of a Child*, a local NGO that addresses the growing needs of homeless and orphaned children on the streets of Athens, and brought gifts and toys. The second group visited a children’s cancer center where they met the young patients and gave them motivational posters made especially for them. The third group went to a nursing home where they met with senior citizens of Athens and even entertained them with some singing!



*SLTC participants make handmade cards for children with cancer*

To round off the agenda, students also enjoyed trips to historical and touristic sites including the Botanical Gardens and the Acropolis, in addition to going on a ferry cruise and a treasure hunt.

Feedback was extremely positive and participants were eager to go back to their schools and share what they had learned. “Thanks to the team-building activities and sessions, I was able to increase my confidence and public-speaking skills. Additionally, I have some amazing and innovative ideas that I hope I can include in SLO® this upcoming academic year,” said one participant.

***“My battery is fully recharged and I am ready to tackle the upcoming academic year. I look forward to throwing in some new ideas which I picked up at the SLTC for our SLO® leadership team!”***

– SLTC participant

If you would like to read more about the Student Life Training Conference and see more photos taken during the camp, visit [sltc.sabis.net](http://sltc.sabis.net).



*Syrian refugee children attend the Duhok E-Learning Center*

The first of three E-learning centers opened on September 26, 2017. Located in Duhok, Kurdistan, the UNICEF/SABIS® Refugee E-Learning Center – Duhok accommodates 100 primary, school-aged Syrian refugees in classes three times per week, during which time facilitators/moderators hired from within the refugee community assist students by reviewing their work and planning for the next modules and assignments. Using learning devices (tablets) loaded with SABIS® proprietary curriculum materials and accompanied by fully interactive SABIS® E-books and regular assessments, students complete courses in English, Arabic, and math and receive certificates of completion indicating their mastery of the content.

Two additional E-Learning centers that can each accommodate 100 refugee students will be opening in Suleimaniah and Erbil in October 2017.

As an industry-leading organization, SABIS® is committed to the practice of social responsibility, a message that it models and promotes in all of the network’s member schools. SABIS® is proud to partner with UNICEF on this initiative to help educate Syrian refugee children in Kurdistan. Providing opportunities for these children to access primary education will ensure that they are prepared to make positive contributions to society both now and in the future.

If you would like to learn more about SABIS® and SABIS® school community service initiatives, visit [sabis.net](http://sabis.net).

# SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA)

## My City: An ISC-Erbil Alumni Association Initiative

Around the world, SABIS® schools are recognized for setting students on the path to becoming responsible, caring, conscientious global citizens – a journey that continues after graduation and throughout life. The SABIS® Alumni Global Association (SAGA) is proving to be an exceptional platform for SABIS® graduates to continue making a difference in their communities, long after graduation. *My City*, an ISC-Erbil Alumni Association initiative, is just one example.

*My City* is an initiative of members of the ISC-Erbil Alumni Association as a way to give back to their community. The idea behind *My City* is to implement projects that aim to improve communities, create awareness about important issues, and help the less fortunate. With the support of their school and the greater Erbil community, *My City* members aspire to take on larger projects that will make their city better.

In the spring of 2017, the ISC-Erbil Alumni Association established a founding committee for the *My City* project and created a list of small, proposed projects designed to enhance social and environmental aspects of the city. Members then presented their proposal to the governor of Erbil. The proposal was approved with great enthusiasm, and the team was assigned a government representative to help them implement the *My City* project.



*The My City founding committee with H.E. Governor Hadi Nawzad*

In the short time it has been active, the *My City* team has successfully organized two initiatives: an *Iftar*<sup>1</sup> for underprivileged people and a food delivery service that delivered hot meals to low-income neighborhoods within the city of Erbil.



*An ISC-Erbil graduate delivering food to the less fortunate in the community*

Looking ahead, the *My City* committee is already planning more projects it hopes to successfully complete. The largest of these projects is the *My City Clean and Green* campaign, an awareness campaign designed to shed light on the importance of maintaining a clean city and preserving nature in the city. The team is already working on educational material to distribute and is planning to plant trees in the front yards of many houses.

Drawing on all they have learned at ISC-Erbil and the strong support of the ISC-Erbil staff, this proactive group of alumni is working to build a better future for themselves and the generations after them, a result of their love for their city and the desire to make a difference.

The new SAGA website design is out!

**VISIT SAGA.SABIS.NET TODAY.**

Education for a changing world.<sup>®</sup>  
Americas | Europe | Africa | Middle East & Asia

sabis.net

<sup>1</sup> Iftar is a meal served at sundown during the Holy Month of Ramadan

## HR

### Internship Program Prepares University Students for the Workplace

Every year, the SABIS® offices in Lebanon offer internship opportunities to university students who are looking for work experience to build their CVs. The successful internship program, which has been running for seven years, allows soon-to-be graduates the opportunity to refine their skills and gain the experience they need when applying for jobs in a competitive job market.

This summer, for a period of two months, a total of 27 interns gained valuable work experience at SABIS® in a number of areas including software development, academic development, and creative design. Interns in the IT Software Development Department assisted the team in testing and enhancing the E-book mobile application and the Management Console Website. In the Academic Development Division, interns assisted the team in developing Interactive White Board (IWB) material, Interactive Learning System® (ILS®) lessons, and researching E-book projects. In the Creative Design Department, interns worked on designing social media posts, developing concepts for numerous websites, software development applications, and other tasks related to design and web development. Last

but not least, a number of interns worked on the On-Demand Tutoring (ODT) project by preparing and recording academic tutorial videos that students can access to study at their own pace.



*Interns pose for a photo with some of the staff at SABIS® in Lebanon*

Feedback from the interns who participated in the internship program was extremely positive:

*"I want to thank SABIS® [...] I have gained valuable insight into the industry over the past two months and I had the chance to observe numerous aspects of the development team. The staff was extremely welcoming and helpful and offered me great career advice." – Jean Khoury*

*"Interning at SABIS® gave me a glimpse of the corporate environment: work under the pressure of deadlines, employee hierarchy, and colleague dynamics. My take-aways from the experience were the values of patience and discipline." – Stephanie Farah*

*"Being a part of the team at SABIS® was one of the best experiences of my life – even if it was just an internship. SABIS® taught me several things that are beneficial for my career. Working with the English Department was very educational. I learned how to work under pressure, work professionally, and be creative." – Sandy Karam*

As an organization that is constantly evolving, SABIS® offers a platform for soon-to-be-graduates to gain the foundation they need to enter the workforce with confidence after graduation. Through the internship program, SABIS® is also able to identify and source potential candidates for open positions in the future.

If you are interested in applying for an internship at SABIS® in Lebanon, visit [careers.sabis.net](http://careers.sabis.net) during the months of April and May to view available internship positions.

## SPDI

### SABIS® Rolls Out New Teacher Training Videos on the VLE

SABIS® is committed to the delivery of a consistent, high-quality education to the over 70,000 students enrolled in schools throughout its global network. Central to this commitment is the use of proven teaching methods in every SABIS® classroom. To ensure that teachers understand the SABIS Point System® of instruction and how to maximize it, the SABIS® Professional Development Institute (SPDI) recently launched a series of teacher training videos.


The new teacher training videos, which were developed by SPDI in close collaboration with the SABIS® Academic Development Division and SABIS® Creative Design Department, are currently available on the SPDI Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), an online learning platform that is accessible 24/7 to all teachers in SABIS® Network schools. By logging onto the VLE, teachers can access a world of knowledge that can help them and their students excel.

Currently releasing the first phase of videos, SPDI has published a series of teacher training videos that explain how to teach the SABIS® phonics series in Kindergarten through Grade 1. The videos, which were filmed in SABIS® schools in the Levant<sup>2</sup> region, show SABIS® teachers teaching the concept to their students, implementing the SABIS Point System®, and simultaneously applying classroom management techniques. By the end of the video session, teachers will have become familiar with the material, developed a deeper understanding of the subject-affiliated SABIS® material, understood the sequence of teaching, and observed effective implementation of various classroom management skills.


By making these videos available on the VLE, SPDI is ensuring that all teachers in SABIS® Network schools have access to ongoing training, enabling them to fully understand the goals and objectives of the SABIS® Educational System™ and giving them the chance to develop their knowledge and skills as professionals. Helping individuals in the network understand the SABIS® Educational System™ is one of the many ways SABIS® realizes its goal of providing an outstanding education to all students.

If you are teacher in a SABIS® Network school and would like to access the SABIS® Virtual Learning Environment, visit [spdi-vle.sabis.net](http://spdi-vle.sabis.net).

<sup>2</sup> The Levant is an approximate historical geographical term referring to a large area in the Eastern Mediterranean. Countries in the Levant are generally considered to include Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey.



**ASHWICKE HALL SCHOOL**  
Bath, UK




Academic Year 2017-18

**FULL-YEAR ABROAD PROGRAM**  
For Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 (Levels I, J, K, L, M, & N)

**STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**  
Open to students in SABIS® Network schools only  
For Grades 7, 8, & 9 (Levels I, J, & K)  
Terms 1, 2, 3 (one or two terms)

Apply online at: [ashwickehall.sabis.net](http://ashwickehall.sabis.net)





## Feature School

### SABIS® International School – Yas Island



*An artist's aerial perspective of SIS-Yas Island*

SABIS® International School - Yas Island (SIS-Yas Island), located on the man-made Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., opened its doors at the start of the 2015-16 academic year. SIS-Yas Island is the 14<sup>th</sup> SABIS® school in the U.A.E. and the third in the emirate of Abu Dhabi alone. The decision to open the school was made in response to growing demand from parents and a long waiting list of students eager to enroll in ISC-Abu Dhabi and ISC-Khalifa City (two SABIS® schools in Abu Dhabi that opened in 1978 and 2006, respectively).

In its first year, SIS-Yas Island welcomed 123 students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Today, in its third year of operation, SIS-Yas Island welcomes 504 students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. The school plans to continue to expand, adding additional grades each year until it reaches a full K-12 offering.

#### A State-of-the-Art Campus

SIS-Yas Island is a purpose-built school situated on a 65,000 square meter campus. It offers state-of-art facilities including spacious classrooms, science and computer laboratories, and a library, as well as a theater that can accommodate over 660 guests and a cafeteria that serves hot and cold nutritious meals. The school also boasts extensive sports facilities including a semi-Olympic-sized swimming pool, an indoor basketball/tennis/multipurpose court, and an Olympic-sized soccer field surrounded by a running track.

SIS-Yas Island facilities also cater to the specific needs of its younger students. The Kindergarten Department is an independent unit with its own cafeteria, indoor swimming pool, multipurpose indoor court, indoor and outdoor play areas, and a special car track.

*“As a KG teacher, it is always an extremely rewarding and satisfying experience welcoming children to school for their early years of education. I am proud to teach in a school where student learning and integrity is always the highest priority.”*

– Sinead Boyle, SIS-Yas Island KG teacher



*A view of an SIS-Yas Island KG classroom*

#### An Excellent Start

As a new school, SIS-Yas Island enjoyed an excellent start. As a member of the SABIS® Network, the school implements the SABIS® Educational System™, a comprehensive and challenging academic program. The SABIS® curriculum, coupled with SABIS® proprietary books in traditional and E-format, teacher support material, and effective school management systems, ensured that school operations ran smoothly and that students benefitted immediately from a tried and tested educational system.

*“For any parent the decision of which school to put their first child in, wanting the very best for them, is a daunting decision. [...] we are very happy with our choice as we see the progress our child has made in just the short time she has been there.”*

– Angela Tchilinguirian, SIS-Yas Island parent

SIS-Yas Island is one of a handful of SABIS® schools that offers a trilingual education, teaching in English, French, and Arabic. Studies have shown that learning a world language is not only beneficial for language acquisition, but that it heightens cognitive development, literacy skills, and cultural appreciation from a young age. The importance of languages has also been shown to be a key asset in the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and in preparing students for success. This skill is especially valuable in more diverse parts of the world, such as the U.A.E., where families from around the world converge to live and work.

*“SIS-Yas Island is a wonderful place to learn with joy and fun!”*

– Karoline and Philip Danzinger, SIS-Yas Island parents



*A group of students on campus*

## A Culture of Achievement

When SIS-Yas Island first opened, it accepted students from non-SABIS® schools in the area as well as international students who had recently moved with their families to the U.A.E. The main challenge this posed was in integrating students with various degrees of language fluency. In fact, some students did not even recognize letters in English when they first started.

Through the SABIS® Accelerated English Program, the school was able to bring English language learners to the required academic level in less than one year. (The SABIS® Accelerated Program is an intensive program that is designed to help students who are below the academic requirements reach the same standards as their classmates and join regular classes within a short period of time). SIS-Yas Island School Director, Mr. Wissam Malaeb, recalls an especially touching moment when a young Grade 4 student came down the corridor toward him exclaiming, "Sir, I can read now!" only a few weeks after he joined the school.

The Accelerated Program is not the only way that SIS-Yas Island raises academic standards. From a very young age, the school ensures that all students take their education seriously and play an active role in helping their peers excel academically, thus creating a strong culture of achievement. Students who master particular subjects are regularly selected or volunteer as Shadow Teachers®, a role in which they assist teachers by taking the lead in presenting material in class. It is never too early for SIS-Yas Island students to become Shadow Teachers®. In fact, Kindergarten students at the school help out in math and English classes. Students who master particular subjects are also encouraged to become peer tutors and help their fellow classmates during SLO® periods, breaks, and lunchtime.



*Peer tutoring in action at SIS-Yas Island*

## An Environmentally-Friendly Culture

In addition to creating a culture of achievement, SIS-Yas Island is also committed to creating an environmentally-friendly culture, instilling in students a love of and respect for the environment.

The school itself was recently awarded a GOLD LEED GREEN certificate issued by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by Green Business Certification Inc. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world, providing a framework to creating healthy, highly efficient, and cost-saving green buildings. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement. If you would like to read more about LEED, visit [new.usgbc.org/leed](http://new.usgbc.org/leed).

On a student level, SIS-Yas Island rolled out a successful paper recycling campaign designed to teach students that every little bit counts and that it only takes small changes in daily life to make an impact on the environment. During the 2016-17

academic year, recycling boxes were placed in all classrooms, offices, and common areas. Students and staff were asked to dispose of all paper materials in the recycling boxes. At the end of every day, prefects passed by and collected the paper to be picked up by a recycling company. By the end of the year, the school had recycled three tons of paper!

*“There is no task of greater importance than to give our children the very best preparation for the demands of an ominous future [...]. A SABIS® education draws out the best of qualities in young people. While this is not an instant process, the values they learn provide a lifelong platform from which to grow.”*

– Manea A. Al Shamesi, SIS-Yas Island parent

## An Active SABIS Student Life Organization®

All students across the global SABIS® school Network are strongly encouraged to join the SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®) at their school and play an active role in their school community. Despite their young age – SIS-Yas Island students currently range from 3+ to 13 years of age – they have embraced Student Life and eagerly volunteer for a wide variety of roles within SLO®.

*“The idea of giving students responsibilities is outstanding. Giving them tasks to accomplish teaches them how to be independent and gives them the opportunity to acquire life skills.”*

– SIS-Yas Island parent

In addition to giving students the chance to experience an active and engaging life at school through SLO®, SIS-Yas Island also offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Sports activities include Taekwondo, football (soccer), swimming, basketball, tennis, gymnastics, and ballet. The school also offers music (piano and choir), arts and crafts, and a number of clubs that students can join ranging from drama, to puppets, chess, mental math, and reading clubs.



*A budding ballerina practices her pliés with her teacher*

## Year-Round Activities and Events

Visitors to the SIS-Yas Island campus are likely to find something special going on nearly every day of the year. The school regularly organizes fun days, sports days, spelling bees, science fairs, cooking festivals, music festivals, and ballet and gymnastics shows.

These events create a very special atmosphere, ensuring that students are always involved in and discovering new hobbies and talents.

The school also holds a large event for U.A.E. National Day at which students and parents can explore and celebrate the U.A.E. heritage. Cultural Day is also a much anticipated event that helps the school raise awareness about the importance of cultural diversity and living in harmony. Over 800 family members and friends participated in last year's event.

The "Let's Read" campaign, which ran from March through May 2016, was also a huge success. Staff, parents, and students were encouraged to read after school in a special reading room set up for the 2-month period. Around 850 books were ready throughout the campaign!

The state-of-the-art, environment-friendly campus, combined with high academic standards, a trilingual education system, an active student life, and year-round events make SIS-Yas Island a very special school! If you would like to find out more about SIS-Yas Island, visit [sisyasisland.sabis.net](http://sisyasisland.sabis.net) or call the school (+971 2 565 0065) to book a tour.

## Alumna in the Spotlight

**Rachael Gotterson, International Academy of Flint, Class of 2017**



*Rachael Gotterson*

Rachael Gotterson joined the International Academy of Flint (IAF), a SABIS® public charter school located in Flint, Michigan, in the U.S. in 2009 as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader after being homeschooled up until then. Initially, Rachael struggled socially, finding the transition to a formal education setting challenging. On top of having to adjust to challenges at school, Rachael's parents went through a divorce, and her mother, with whom she was living, fell on hard times, so Rachael moved in with her older sister (a teacher at IAF), who was named as her guardian. Later, Rachael experienced a serious, protracted health issue that required her to be hospitalized and miss school. She also tragically lost a sibling to suicide.

Through all her struggles, Rachael remained strong. She was an active member of SABIS Student Life Organization® (SLO®),

which she attributes with helping her carry on when her world seemed to be crashing down around her. She participated in a variety of community service projects such as food drives at the school, McKinley park clean-up, and the "Big Sisters, Big Brothers" program. In 2016, she was selected to travel to Athens, Greece, for the Student Life Training Conference or the Student Life Training Conference, and in her senior year, she served. In her senior year, she served as the Head Prefect at IAF and was the face of SLO® at the school. She tutored students and was part of the robotics team, which she also captained. Additionally, she played a pivotal role in the school's bullying prevention initiative, drawing on her own experiences as a younger student.

When thinking back on the impact SLO® had on Rachael's life, she says that it was a "huge help." *"I was going through some really rough struggles in my life [...]. Not only did SLO® make me a happier person, but it made me capable of taking all the struggles life had thrown at me and turning them into something positive. I was able to help others as well, and I learned that I wanted to inspire people in whatever I did in life."*

She is already an inspiration! Rachael graduated from IAF in 2017 and is now attending Kettering University, where she is pursuing a major in computer programming. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors!

If you would like to learn more about The International Academy of Flint in Michigan, visit [iaf.sabis.net](http://iaf.sabis.net). If you are a graduate of a SABIS® Network school and would like to find fellow graduates near you, log on to [saga.sabis.net](http://saga.sabis.net) today!

*"Living is an important part of life."*

– Rachael Gotterson



*SABIS® is a global education network that has an active presence in 20 countries on five continents. Schools in the SABIS® Network operate in both the public and private sectors and educate over 70,000 students.*

*Based on a proven, proprietary system, SABIS® Network schools provide students with a top-quality education that prepares them to meet the challenges of a changing world.*

## *Members of the SABIS® Network*

**AMERICAS PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School – Costa Verde, Panama | The International School of Minnesota – Eden Prairie, Minnesota, U.S.A. | **CHARTER SCHOOLS:** SABIS® International School – Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. | Holyoke Community Charter School – Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | Collegiate Charter School of Lowell – Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | SABIS® International Charter School – Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. | International Academy of Flint – Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. | Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy – Lansing, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Saginaw – Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. | International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School – Pleasantville, New Jersey, U.S.A. | International Academy of Trenton Charter School – New Jersey, U.S.A. | Mt. Auburn International Academy – Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. | **EUROPE PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** ISF International School Frankfurt Rhein-Main – Frankfurt, Germany | Ashwicke Hall School – Bath, U.K. | **LICENSED SCHOOLS:** International School on the Rhine – Neuss, Germany | Cambridge School of Bucharest – Bucharest, Romania | **AFRICA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat – Cairo, Egypt | The International School of Choueifat – City of 6 October, Egypt | **ASIA PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** SABIS® SUN International School – Baku, Azerbaijan | The International School of Choueifat – Lahore, Pakistan | **MIDDLE EAST REGION PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** The International School of Choueifat – Manama, Bahrain | The International School of Choueifat – Amman, Jordan | The International School of Choueifat – Dream City, Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat – Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq | The International School of Choueifat – Sulaimani, Kurdistan, Iraq | SABIS® International School – Adma, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Choueifat, Lebanon | Leila C. Saad SABIS® School El-Metn, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Koura, Lebanon | The International School of Choueifat – Muscat, Oman | The International School of Choueifat – Doha, Qatar | Jeddah Private International School – Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International Schools – Al-Sulaimaniah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Abdulaziz International Schools – Al-Wadi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | The International School of Choueifat – Damascus, Syria | The International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Abu Dhabi Khalifa City, U.A.E. | SABIS® International School – Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Ajman, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Al Ain, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Dubai Investments Park, Dubai, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Ras Al Khaimah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Sharjah, U.A.E. | The International School of Choueifat – Umm Al Quwain, U.A.E. | **PPP SCHOOLS:** 7 Schools – Kurdistan, Iraq | Military High School – Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Ruwais Private School – Ruwais, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School – Madinat Zayed, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. | Military High School – Al Dhaid, Sharjah, U.A.E.

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