



INSTITUT
MONTANA – My Place to Grow®
ZUGERBERG



Swiss International Day & Boarding School

Since 1926

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Letter from the Director

I grew up at this school, as did my brother and later my son. It was our home away from home. Here on the Zugerberg we grew healthily: breathing clean air, studying under the guidance of great teachers while learning to use our minds for more than passing exams. We made friendships that would last for life.

Institut Montana is more than a school, it's a place to grow. The idea of growth has strong roots in educational thinking. It explains how healthy personal growth and learning go hand in hand and will happen naturally if the right conditions are in place. As a school, it is our responsibility to create the beneficial conditions that mean that our students grow strong – intellectually, physically and emotionally.

Our founding values were internationalism, individualism and integration. Not only will you learn about global citizenship, you will live it every day. You will be seen not just as one of many students but as a valued individual. You will be integrated into a vibrant and caring community, where mutual respect guides our behaviour.

We are also a forward-looking community of learners. The world is changing rapidly and the skillset needed to succeed is changing too. We are teaching our students the creativity and the clear-thinking they will need to face the future and, importantly, the ability and enthusiasm to keep learning.

Above all, we believe that happiness drives mental health and mental health is crucial to succeeding in your studies and being ready to go on to make the best of your life.

Our school really is your place to grow.

Alexander Biner
 Director & President of the Board of Directors
 Montana Alumnus, 1970-1978

Accredited by



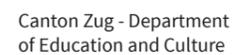
We are accredited by the Council of International Schools, the premiere worldwide accreditation organisation for the highest standards in international education. Our school is regularly audited.



As an official Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) centre, our International School students take the Cambridge IGCSE certificates before entering the IB Diploma programme.



We have been an accredited IB World School (with the International Baccalaureate Organisation) since 1987. Our IB Diploma is regularly audited.



Our Bilingual Elementary School, Bilingual Secondary School and Swiss High School are recognised by the Canton of Zug. The Canton develops the framework for the curriculum. Our Swiss Matura was recognised in 1936 by the Swiss Federal Government.

Our History

“An atmosphere of unconditional tolerance, in an international community.”

Günther Müller, Jewish student from Germany, reflecting on the war years at Institut Montana



THE EMBLEM OF
INSTITUT MONTANA

IS THE SYMBOL FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG MEN
FROM ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD
TOWARD MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
AND CO-OPERATION



The founder of Institut Montana, Dr Max Husmann, was ambitious. He dreamed of a school which would teach young people how to build a peaceful world. His school would enjoy the beauty and the fresh air of a natural environment, it would be a sanctuary and an inspiration. It would encourage students to grow into clear thinking individuals; it would use the best of modern technology and teaching methods; it would be a caring community where young people learnt to appreciate the mix of cultures that enrich human society. With intelligence, ethics and compassion, these students would help towards the harmony that might, one day, achieve world peace.

Our emblem, with its olive branch and the planet earth, represents this Spirit of Montana. Since 1926, it has been sustained by the joy of learning, the celebration of tolerance and integrity, and the warmth of lasting friendships that reach out across the globe.

Institut Montana was built on [three pillars](#). They remain relevant for today and for tomorrow.

Individualism:

If young people are treated as valued individuals, if their differences are honoured, their unique talents and strengths are brought to light, they will grow confident and mentally strong. These are the well-rounded individuals the world needs.

Internationalism:

If young people learn to understand and respect cultures other than their own, the blind prejudice of nationalism and racism could be eradicated. They could rebuild our world on tolerance and peace. These are the global citizens the world needs.

Integration:

If young people grow healthily in a supportive, multi-cultural community, then mutual respect and harmony become attainable. These are the thoughtful, compassionate human beings the world needs.

History Timeline

1926

Dr Husmann buys the Grand Hotel Schoenfels high on the Zugerberg. His dream of a boarding school in a natural environment, where students would live in a culturally integrated community, comes true.



3 May 1926

Institut Montana open its doors to six students.



1937

Over 200 students attend the school. Facilities expand: science laboratories and workshops, sports fields and a huge swimming pool. Shady terraces are outside classrooms in the summer, where staff and students enjoy fresh mountain air during lessons.

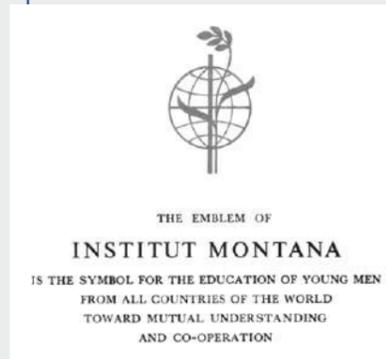


1946

Dr Husmann sets up the Foundation that bears his name to preserve the founding values of the school. Documents were signed on the birth date of Johann Pestalozzi, one of the fathers of holistic education, born in Zurich on 12 January 1746.

1947

Graphic artist and founder of the Swiss Association of Graphics, Hans Tomamichel, creates our eloquent emblem. Tomamichel is famous for the immortal “Knorrli”, Nestlé’s Fip Fop children’s club images and for creations for Caritas in Zurich.



19 February 1965

Dr Husmann dies in Rome. His ashes are brought back to Switzerland and laid in Zug on 26 February 1965.

1966

It is the 40th anniversary of the school and “Montana Club Zugerberg” is founded. Its goal is to be a permanent organisation of former students who wish to maintain a closer relationship amongst themselves as well as with the school.

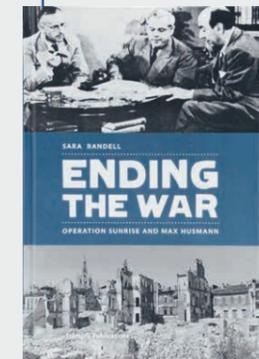


2016

It is Institut Montana’s 90-year jubilee. The “Montana Club Zugerberg” takes the opportunity of its 50th anniversary to establish the Institut Montana Zugerberg Foundation further to strengthen relations between the school and its alumni for the future.

2018

The book “Ending the War – Operation Sunrise and Max Husmann” by Sara Randell is published by Stämpfli.



1915

Max Husmann sets up his first private school to prepare students to apply to the prestigious ETH university. He has just been awarded his doctorate from the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Zurich. As an under-graduate he studied mathematics at the ETH.

February/May 1945

Dr Husmann helps organise and mediate Operation Sunrise, the secret negotiations that bring about the surrender of the German army in Italy. Soon after, World War II ends.



1945

There are officially 40 students at Institut Montana. The Felsenegg building is lent to the Red Cross to care for orphans recently liberated from the Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

1933–1936

Institut Montana is recognised as an official school abroad by the Italian government. The Swiss Matura programme is accredited by the Canton of Zug. Italian, Swiss, Dutch, Austrian and English sections are founded.

1939–1945

World War II: student numbers fall dramatically. The Felsenegg building is requisitioned for housing soldiers; refugees, including families with young children, are given accommodation in the Juventus building.

1959

Innovatively, Institut Montana uses a survey to explore how students feel about their school life

1987

Institut Montana becomes an IB World School, part of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO).

My Place to Grow

“... the art of life lies in living harmoniously together.”

Dr Max Husmann

We believe it is our responsibility to provide the conditions at school that encourage you to grow strong – intellectually, physically and emotionally. Then, you can learn to live harmoniously with yourself as with others.



Institut Montana Today

A friendly community of over 40 nationalities in a location of outstanding natural beauty. Inspiring and caring teachers and mentors. Here is your place to grow.



Becoming the Best Version of You

You will choose an academic path that takes you wherever you want to go. It might be top universities or inspiring colleges in Switzerland or anywhere in the world. You might want to pursue that exciting idea for a business or commit yourself to an NGO achieving worthwhile results in the tough places across the globe. We believe that education is more than academic results and you will have a wealth of opportunity to join extracurricular activities that will enrich your learning and equip you to follow your dreams.

A School You Can Call Home



With only around 300 hundred students, everyone knows each other and there is always someone to look out for you. It is a supportive environment where studying can be fun and where non study time is full of opportunity. As you grow, you will be encouraged to develop self-responsibility, a skill that will be important for your future, in an environment that provides security and safety.

We have outstanding staff from all over the world. Teachers who are passionate about their subjects, caring house-parents, counsellors and mentors who support you through life's challenges, people who keep our school clean and maintained and who prepare our nutritious food, everyone belongs and is part of the Montana Family. You are surrounded by companions from all over the world who are sharing your journey. Some will be friends for life.

An Academic Journey that Prepares for your Future

We welcome students from the ages of 6 to 19. Our programmes are united by a belief in an international education where you learn languages and a multi-cultural view of the world.

Children in the Bilingual Elementary School follow lessons in English and German, preparing them to choose their next step. It might be to consolidate their languages and work on basic skills at our Bilingual Secondary School, before moving to their chosen high school, or to follow their ambitions to go on to vocational training and apprenticeships. The International Section allows a flexible path towards IGCSE qualifications and the International Baccalaureate. The Swiss High School prepares you for the Swiss Matura. We offer guidance and support on the way towards fulfilling your ambitions.



We Believe in You and your Talents

A hallmark of our school is understanding that every student is different. We treat you as an individual and help you find your talents. Starting from the admissions process, we look carefully into where you have reached, what are your skills and what motivates you.

This assessment continues as you travel through the school. You will have a class advisor who works with you on your personal and academic progress, acting as your channel for communication with other teachers and arranging extra support where needed. Your teachers know you well. They understand where you might struggle and guide you along the way; they spot where you excel and encourage you to strive for excellence. Above all, we care.



Our Global Alumni Community

No matter how many years you spend at Institut Montana, you will be part of our alumni community. You belong to a global family of vibrant, passionate individuals, who share values along with laughter and memories. You will have access to our private community web portal where former students and staff reconnect with one another, join special events on every continent and extend professional networks.

With over 7000 members, some of our notable alumni include: **John F. Kerry**, 2004 US Presidential Nominee and 2013-2017 Secretary of State; **Nicolas Hayek Jr.**, CEO of Swatch Group; **Pierre Mirabaud**, former President of the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA); **Willem P.C. Stemmer**, Dutch scientist and inventor of biotechnologies, including pioneering contributions to directed evolution that won him the Charles Stark Draper Prize in 2011; **Marc Forster**, filmmaker known for directing feature movies such as James Bond: Quantum of Solace, Finding Neverland and many more.

Your Home away from Home



Space for Growing

Our two main school buildings have a lot of history. They were originally elegant hotels for visitors to the Zugerberg who came to enjoy its health-giving location. They have been renovated to provide spacious and comfortable facilities for a modern school; they meet the highest safety standards while retaining their historic charm. The Grand Hotel Schoenfels, known as “Grosses Haus”, is the epicentre of school life. Here you find the dining hall where we gather for family style lunches, the ‘Blue Room’ for students to meet, play or relax, classrooms and offices. Felsenegg houses the girls’ bedrooms, as well as classrooms, offices, our library and media centre, art room, study hall and fitness area. Across the campus, you find fascinating contrasts, like the Elementary School buildings with classrooms full of natural light, and our iconic Chalet Suisse, built in Interlaken to represent Switzerland for the 1906 Milan World Fair.

Geza Scholtz, class of 2001

“Studying at Institut Montana gives you something special. It’s this whole process of learning and living together that develops into something that is just great to have in your life.”



Space for Learning

Learning comes more easily in a positive environment. Our classrooms suit the small size of our teaching groups, they are well-equipped and can be adapted to different teaching styles. There are science laboratories, workshops, a study hall with cubicles for independent study, the magnificent Aula for concerts and theatre, and an art room, a hub of creativity. It is all meticulously maintained and spotlessly clean. Teaching areas are spread across four buildings except for our youngest children who have their own space. You might find that your journey from one class to the next involves a brisk walk along a tree shaded avenue, a healthy way to keep your mind fresh and ready to keep learning.

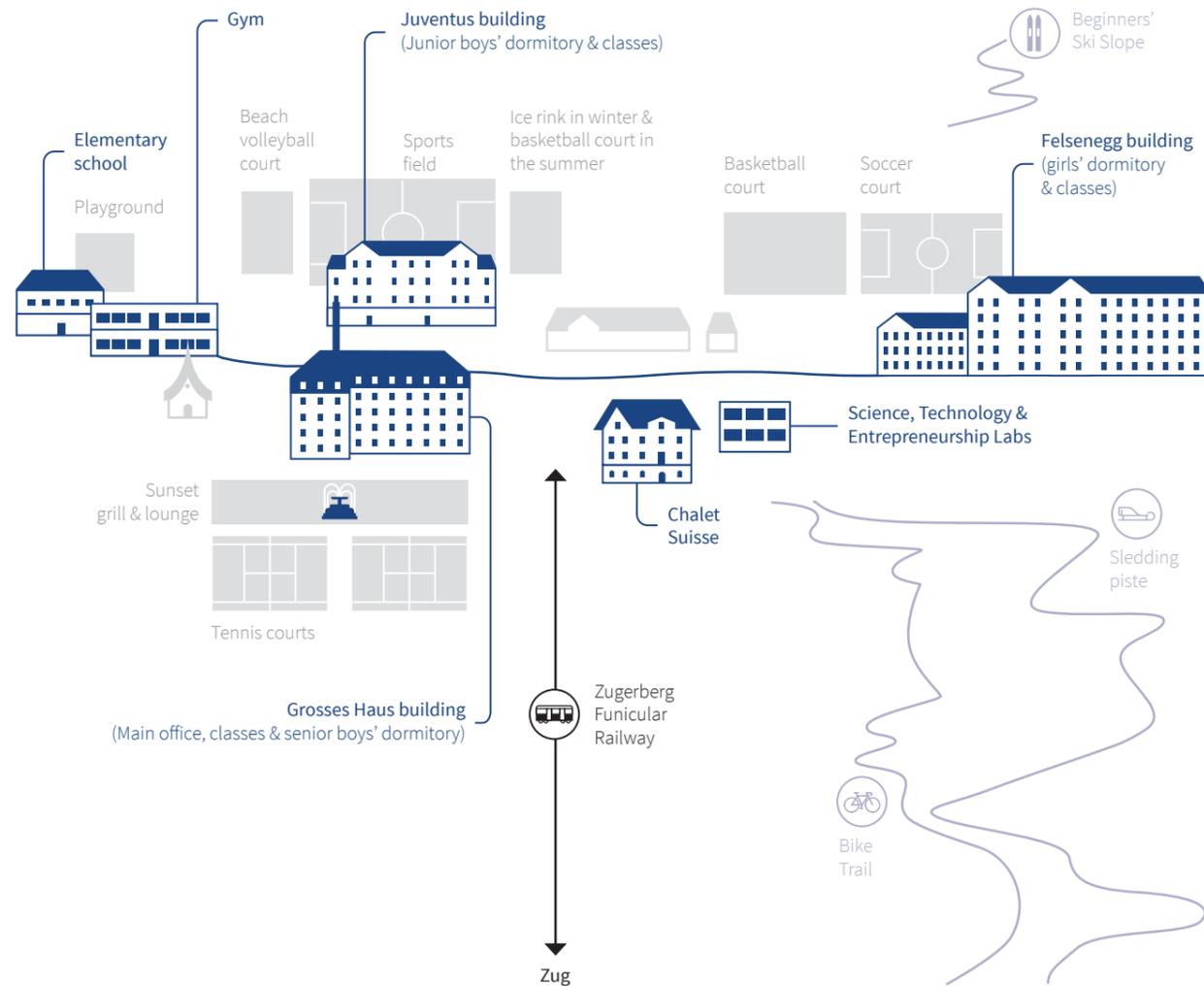


Space for Living

We have three boarding houses, with separate accommodation for girls and boys. Most rooms are shared by two students, some are single but all have plenty of space for you to spread out and feel comfortable. Each morning, you wake up to views of the fields, trees and mountains around us and the lake of Zug beneath. You will be welcomed into your house family by our wonderful house parents. There is always someone to care for you and to make sure that life runs smoothly. Our boarders come from all over the world, a real sharing of cultures and experiences that enriches your life now and into the future. Safe and secure as you arrive, you will grow up during your school years, gradually learning to take more responsibility for yourself.



Our Campus



Our 60-acre campus is on the Zugerberg, at about 1000 metres, where forests and pastures rise steeply above the city of Zug. We have panoramic views across the lake to snow-capped mountains beyond. We enjoy fresh water from our own spring and the air is crystal clean. It's an inspiring place to study and a revitalising place to be healthy. The tracks that lead from our doors are there to explore with hiking boots or bikes; two kilometres of challenging mountain bike trail descend back to town.

In winter, you might travel across the same landscape, now white with snow, on sledges or cross-country skis. We have skates for our ice-rink where you might work off your studies with some hard-hitting hockey. Then, on a clear afternoon, the end of another day is marked by the sky turning rosy pink as the sun dips below distant mountains on the horizon, shining its last rays across the still water of the lake.

Our campus is secluded yet we are near to the City of Zug and easy to reach. Zurich International Airport is only one hour away, shortening the distance even if home is on the other side of the globe, and bringing European capitals like London, Paris or Rome near enough for a weekend break. Zurich, Zug and Lucerne, cities rich with culture and history, are close by for you to explore.



The Pursuit of Excellence

We believe that every student is full of potential. To bring that potential to light and let it shine we focus on the individual. Learning is personalised, classes are small, teachers care. We want you to enjoy your studies and develop your strengths to equip you with the attributes that put excellence within your grasp.



Academic Pathways

Bilingual Elementary School

The curriculum at our BE is based on that of the Canton of Zug and is delivered in English and German. It teaches the basic skills of language, numeracy and ICT literacy at the same time as fascinating young minds in the world around them, nurturing creativity and inspiring them to keep learning.

Bilingual Secondary School

The programme at our BSS will keep your choices open as your personal ambitions develop. The course is a newly formulated Swiss skill-based curriculum that focuses on competence while opening opportunities for future studies or career paths. It is delivered in English and German.

Swiss High School

Our Swiss high school is for students who want to work towards the Swiss Matura, a qualification that grants direct access to top Swiss universities such as the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH). As well as the usual track taught in German, we offer a bilingual option for which some subjects are taught in English.

International School

At our international school the early grades follow the Cambridge Lower Secondary (pre IGCSE) and IGCSE programmes, a strong foundation for a truly international education. The final two years follow the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). The IB DP gains access to prestigious universities around the world.

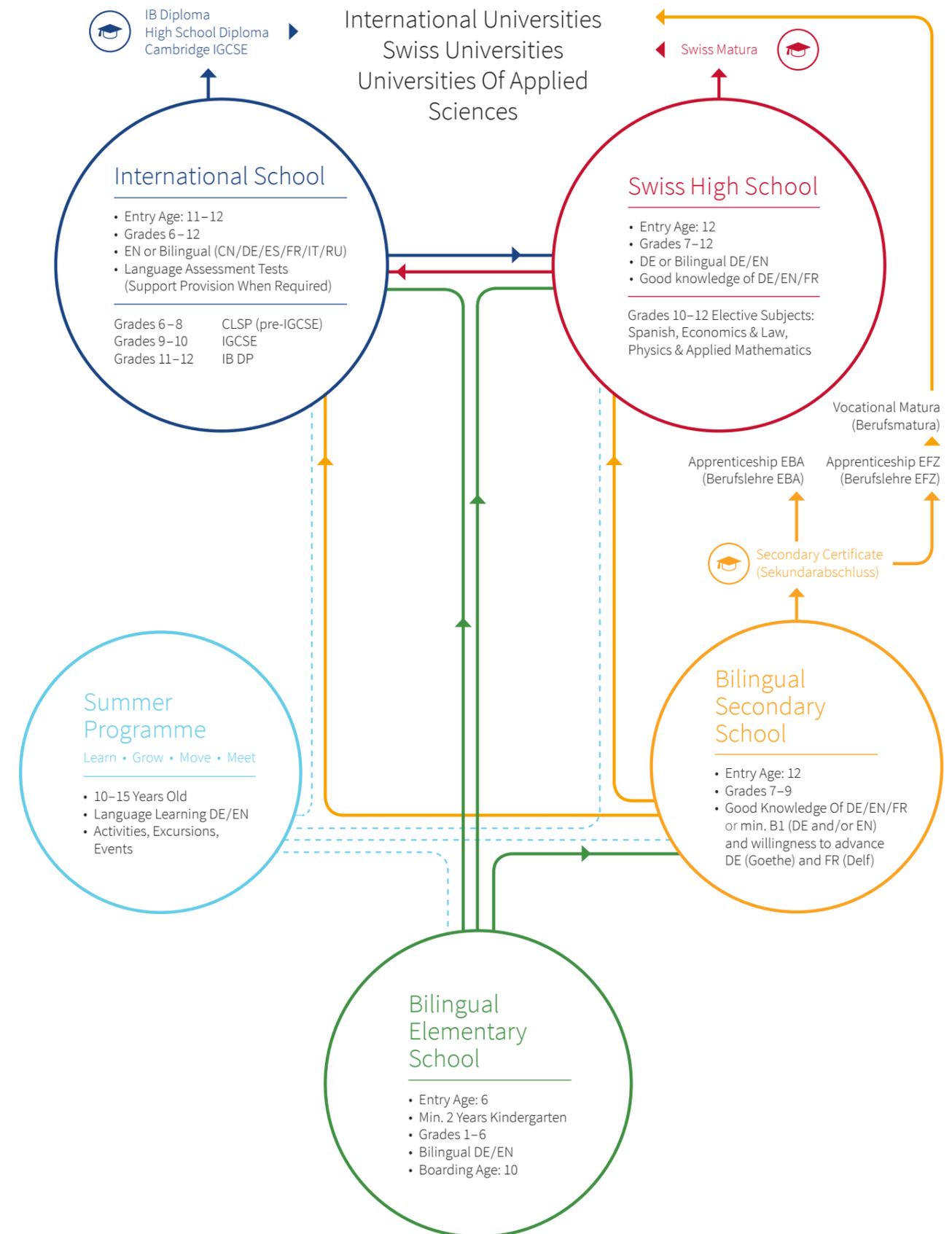
Summer Sessions

Our summer school is about combining learning with fun. Intensive classes in English or German will dramatically improve your grasp of a foreign language and our afternoon workshops are about experiential learning. You learn about business, leadership and bringing new ideas to life; you learn science and technology with projects like building model rockets to launch to the sky or heat shields on a budget. Creativity and arts might be film making and directing your own movie with the support of a real-life director. Your summer weeks on the Zugerberg will open up exciting opportunities for your future and help you make new, lifelong friends.

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Canton Zug - Department of Education and Culture



Learning at Institut Montana



Bilingual Elementary School

From age 6, our children learn in English and German in small groups. This environment promotes cognitive advantages that will last a lifetime, as young minds open to a wider range of understandings. Children become interested in different cultures and expand their future educational, professional and social opportunities. Our high ratio of teachers to children, and their care for each one of their students, builds security and confidence, vital elements as study skills are acquired and motivation to keep learning develops. It is a happy learning environment, set apart from the main school with its own outdoors area and playground. Here children are safe and free to play and express themselves as they learn and grow.

Bilingual Secondary School

You can join our Bilingual Secondary School in grade 7 with good grades in German or English and readiness to start studying French. The curriculum encourages independent work, experiential learning and competence development. The syllabus can be tailored towards your personal aspirations. You might continue to our Swiss high school and the federal Swiss Matura; aim towards an international education at our international high school; or work for a secondary school degree to attend a vocational, commercial or upper-secondary specialised school after grade 9. Whichever the path you choose, individual attention to your learning will help you progress, and the bilingual environment at our BSS is a great stepping stone to any future career.



Swiss High School

Our Swiss high school is for grades 7 to 12 and is for students who are aiming towards the Swiss Matura. There are two tracks – monolingual or bilingual. The bilingual track offers extra courses in English as well as the possibility to earn an IB English Certificate to support your university applications. The Swiss Matura is a demanding, broadly based curriculum, with possibilities for specialisation in certain disciplines and incorporates skill acquisition and personal development modules. It is taught in an international community, where you will grow into a global citizen with a prestigious Swiss education.

International School

Our international school welcomes students in grades 6 to 12. The early grades follow the Cambridge Lower Secondary (pre-IGCSE) and the IGCSE curriculum, which lay a strong foundation for a truly contemporary international education. It develops creative thinking, enquiry and problem-solving skills, the perfect foundation for advanced studies. The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) followed in grades 11 and 12 teaches you to become an enquiring, knowledgeable and caring lifelong learner in an internationally minded world. You will learn to reflect analytically and critically as well as to acquire the skills for independent research. You learn to become a compassionate citizen through involvement in community service projects that might even take you to faraway places of the globe. As a successful graduate, you will be awarded the International Baccalaureate Diploma which is recognised for entry to the world's leading universities.



Beyond the Curriculum

We believe that school is about much more than passing exams. There is a wealth of knowledge, there are skills to learn, challenges to overcome, experiences to enjoy, that come together to shape you into the adult you will become.



Be Creative!

You might study art as part of your curriculum, but you can also pursue it for fun, just for the sake of it, in wonderful art rooms with guidance from teachers who will inspire your creative energy.

Dramontana hones performance skills that you will use throughout your life, whether your stage is a theatre, a board room, or an NGO.

Our active choir is led by a teacher whose musical acumen is legendary and singing your heart out in a group, they say, will nourish your soul.



Be Active!

Our amazing location abounds with outdoor activities, whether it be running, biking or skiing across our pre-alpine landscape (conditions permitting). The summer might see you swimming in or rowing on the lake and winter weekends on Swiss ski slopes.

Organised sports such as football and tennis are available to everyone.

We have welcomed students whose main ambitions revolve around sports and created tailor-made programmes to fit their schedule. Past examples include a student who was playing for the Zurich Grasshoppers Football Team, a professional Russian gymnast and a professional rower for our team in Zug.



Be Inspired!

At the Montana Model United Nations you will confront the world's big problems, you will research their deepest, darkest implications, and you will stand up and make a case for a solution.

Be an entrepreneur, learn the essential scaffolding that will get a great idea to the marketplace, the economics, the organisation, the logistics – as well as how to assess the potential of that great idea.

Explore the exciting world of Science and Technology beyond the exam-based curriculum – open up new worlds, literally.



Be Compassionate!

Young people are expressing their views about making the world a better place, and they are being heard. You can add yours, and, in the context of our school, learn how to use that voice convincingly and wisely.

Join work on forest conservation in Eastern Switzerland, talk to the Red Cross at Humanity Week and find projects you could support, get involved in the Student Council Environment Committee. Show that you care and do something about it.

These are just a few of the opportunities that will enrich your life at our school.



Institut Montana Forever

From scientists to politicians, artists to adventurers, our alumni are a lively group of passionate people who share educational values. They stay connected for life.



John F. Kerry
Class of 1955
2004 Presidential Nominee of the Democratic Party in the U.S.
2013–2017 Secretary of State of the U.S.



Nicolas Hayek Jr.
Class of 1974
CEO of Swatch Group



Marc Forster
Class of 1990
Filmmaker and screenwriter, most famous for directing *Monster's Ball*, *Finding Neverland* and *James Bond - Quantum of Solace*, whose films have garnered a total of 10 Academy Award nominations.



Mansour Al Zamil
Class of 1979
Businessman and historian

“I learned that respect will take you far. I learned that communicating your thoughts with others and respecting theirs took you even further ... I learned that rising above differences only made me see clearer. I learned how to bring up my own children using the same values. Today, I own an establishment in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia which focuses on preserving the history of the old town. I believe my love for history from a young age had a lot to do with my teachers.”



Gaudenz Biveroni
Class of 2001
Entrepreneur

“Thanks to the social and people skills acquired at Institut Montana, I believe I was better prepared for relationship building which, in my perception, is key in any career.”



Fariba Buchheim
Class of 2013
Film Director & Producer

“My parents were searching for a boarding school ... they (and I) decided Institut Montana would be the best fit – the student population, the amazing view, the overall welcoming feeling... whenever a new student arrived, everyone would be curious to get to know them and to learn from them.”



Antonio Tricoli
Class of 1999
Scientist & Professor in Nanotechnology

“I came from a small southern Italian town and I was suddenly exposed to a world of diversity. This contributed to open my eyes to a wide range of international possibilities eventually leading me to pursue a scientific path to bring new knowledge worldwide.”

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Start Your Journey with Us

Our Admissions Process

We have a thorough admissions process. Each candidate is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the individual attention that we will continue to provide for every student throughout their school career. The review enables us to have a clear understanding of your ambitions and the help we can provide so that you achieve them.

We will discuss with you and your parents which of our programmes would suit you best and where you might need extra assistance to meet your goals or so that your special talents will shine.

We operate a rolling admissions process, so we can receive applications throughout the year, although we recommend admis-

sion at the beginning of a semester. There is no application deadline and, when we are full, we will put your application on our waiting list.

We recommend sending in your application as soon as possible so that we can start the review process.

Enquiry

Let's start your journey by getting to know one another. Please send the documents below to: admissions@montana-zug.ch

- ▶ The student's full name and age
- ▶ A copy of the student's passport
- ▶ Language skills or certificates
- ▶ School reports from the last two years

Campus Visit or Video Interview

The best way to get to know our school and our community is a trial period. We can arrange for you to spend a day or more at our school (free of charge). You will be accompanied by a current student who will sit with you in class, join you during mealtime and help you meet other students and teachers. If you are unable to visit the school, we will arrange a video interview so that we can learn about each other in a face-to-face conversation.

Assessments & Evaluation

We assess your academic level so that we can understand which of our programmes will suit you best. We use cognitive ability tests and language placement tests. After receiving your school reports, conducting an interview and reviewing your assessment tests, a committee discusses your application and contacts your parents to inform them about the decision.

Offer Letter & Acceptance

When we offer you a place, we send a letter with confirmation of your academic programme, language choice(s) and any additional support we recommend. If you decide to continue the admissions process, you then submit your final documents. We help with Visa applications where necessary. Once all this administration is complete, we will be communicating with you and your family about preparation for your arrival at our school.

See you in Switzerland!

We look forward to hearing from you. We can discuss the admissions process or any other details with you at: admissions@montana-zug.ch

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Canton Zug - Department
of Education and Culture