



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about the TASIS Summer Programs

Q. Will my child be met at the airport when he or she arrives?

A. Students who arrive on their own by plane the day the program begins will be met by a TASIS representative outside the customs clearance gate, provided they sent us flight details in advance and are arriving between 8:00–17:00 at the Lugano-Agno or Milan-Malpensa airports.

Q. What about departure?

A. On July 18 (1st Session) and August 10 (2nd Session), students traveling alone will be taken to the same airports or station on time for check-in and will be helped with these procedures. All students must vacate the campus by 12:00. (Please note that Final Night festivities and performances take place the night before the end of each session, on July 17 and August 9.)

Q. How do we know if our child arrived?

A. Students can call home from the main office once they arrive on campus. During their all-student meetings the first evening of the program, TSP students will be encouraged to call home.

Q. Can my child arrive late to the program?

A. Unfortunately, no. Students who arrive late tend to have more trouble adjusting to the program. We have an extensive orientation program where students select activities and sports, meet their peers, review program rules, tour the premises, and learn about the neighborhood. Students must arrive on the opening day of the program.

Q. Do students hand in their money and passports on their arrival?

A. Yes. Passports are kept in the school safe and will be given to the students only when they travel. Money will be kept in the student's account with the School and can be withdrawn through the School Banker. CDE children will receive money from their allowance every time they go on excursions.

Q. How much pocket money do they need?

A. We recommend an average amount of CHF 40–50 per week for children up to 10 years old and CHF 80–100 for the older students.

Q. How are children roomed? Can friends room together?

A. Children are roomed with students in their own age group and are housed in separate boys and girls dormitories, with a maximum of four students per bedroom. As TASIS welcomes students from around the world, we do not allow siblings or friends to room together. Part of the TASIS experience is to mix with students from different cultures, which is an enjoyable part of the learning experience.

Q. Do you let children who speak the same language as a mother tongue room together?

A. No, we separate children who speak the same languages. This is to encourage them to use the languages they are studying or to communicate in English.



Q. If my child is studying a language, can he or she be moved to a different level if the class is too easy or too difficult?

A. We give placement tests upon arrival, but some shifting of students may happen during the first week.

Q. How can I remain in contact with my child?

A. Parents can send messages by email at any time. During the first week of the program, children up to 13 years old are not allowed to make or receive phone calls since these may stir up feelings of homesickness and hinder the student from making friends, developing self-confidence, and achieving a full commitment to the program. Frequent phone calls or visits are discouraged for all students. Once children know their schedules, they can arrange a time to reach you by phone.

Q. Do you cater for special diets?

A. The food at TASIS is varied, and all meat, wheat, and lactose dishes are labeled. Every meal features a meat-free dish for vegetarians and a salad bar with fresh vegetables. Students with particular food intolerances or allergies must provide a medical certificate and their needs will be accommodated to the best of our ability.

Q. What if my child gets sick?

A. The Health Center includes three nurses who provide round-the-clock care. The excellent Civico Hospital is 15 minutes from campus and provides emergency care. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns about your child receiving any particular over-the-counter medications.

Boarding students who are **not residents of Switzerland** are covered by the TASIS Health and Accident Insurance Plan. Swiss residents must provide a copy of their own Health and Accident Insurance.

Day students must provide their own health and accident insurance or, if non-Swiss residents, apply for the TASIS Health and Accident Insurance Plan. The coverage is unlimited, has no deductibles, and is applicable only to illnesses developed during the duration of the session attended. Please note that dental and eye care are not covered.

Q. Does TASIS have a laundry service for students?

A. Yes. Please mark your child's clothing with the number that is assigned to him or her once accepted into the program. Use an indelible laundry marker. At the end of each session, unclaimed items left behind by the students will be given to charity.

Q. Due to previous engagements, my child has to leave earlier than the end date. Who will take him or her to the airport?

A. We will arrange for a taxi with a firm we use regularly. This will be at an extra cost.

Q. Can you provide accommodation if my child arrives early or stays late?

A. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide accommodation before the starting date of the program or after 12:00 on the final date of the program.



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

The majority of students attending the TASIS Summer Programs live on campus, and life in a boarding school is very different from that at a day school. Not only does the School act *in loco parentis* (i.e., as a parent and guardian), but the smooth running of a small community also requires certain rules and guidelines. In order for the community to function smoothly, effectively, and happily, each member must understand and abide by certain structures and expectations. Arriving at class or dormitory on time, treating fellow students and teachers politely and respectfully, and using appropriate language are all examples of the kind of informal expectations during the programs. Smoking, drinking, and stealing are serious offenses, and infractions involving any of these will inevitably entail serious consequences. For the most part, students attending TASIS summer programs come here to learn, to enjoy themselves, to make new friends, and to have new experiences.

Fortunately, there are rarely any serious infractions of major rules. The School's expectations are based on the need for mutual trust and respect. In the interest of maintaining a high standard for the quality of life in our community, we strictly enforce all specific rules and regulations.

Students and parents should be aware that any infringement of the following rules may lead to immediate suspension or dismissal of the student(s) concerned. The Director of each program is responsible for all disciplinary decisions. Parents are reminded that there is no reduction or refund for suspension, withdrawal, or dismissal. Major program expectations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Integrity:** Students are expected to act responsibly. Stealing, lying, cheating, vandalism, and malicious mischief are serious offenses. In any such cases, disciplinary action will occur and payment for damages will be charged.
- **Respect:** Students are expected to be polite to each other and to their teachers and counselors. Anti-social behavior, insolence, disobedience, or any form of hazing, bullying, harassment (racial, ethnic, religious, physical, etc.) will be treated seriously and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
- **Appearance:** Students are expected to wear neat, clean, and appropriate clothes. Distasteful, immodest, ostentatious appearance (hairstyle, cosmetics, jewelry, etc.), tattoos, and body piercing are not permitted. Collared shirts (polo-type), appropriate t-shirts, or blouses (girls) are required in class and as town wear for TSP students. Cutoffs, bare midriffs, ripped jeans, and ripped shorts are not allowed. T-shirts or other apparel with sexually suggestive sayings or other inappropriate material are not permitted. In addition, clothing is not permitted to display large brand names of any type, although symbols are permissible.
- **Alcohol:** Possession or consumption by students of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine, is strictly forbidden. Students violating this expectation are subject to serious disciplinary action. Program Directors reserve the right to test for alcohol.
- **Smoking:** Smoking, using smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snuff, etc.), and vaping are strictly forbidden, regardless of age. Because of fire safety concerns, smoking in a dormitory is an especially serious offense and will result in a student's dismissal.
- **Mixed Company:** Boys are not permitted in areas designated for girls only, and vice versa.
- **Drugs:** TASIS is strongly intolerant of substance abuse. The use or possession of any illegal drug or drug-related paraphernalia will lead to immediate dismissal. Students are required to register all prescription drugs and medicines with the nurse immediately upon arrival. Program Directors reserve the right to test for drugs.

TASIS reserves the right to dismiss at any time a student who, in the School's opinion, is an unsatisfactory member of the School community. If in the School's judgment a student's conduct on or away from campus indicates that he or she is consistently out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives, and programs of TASIS, parents will be required to withdraw the student, even though there may be no infraction of a specific rule. In case of dismissal of a student, his or her return home will be arranged at the family's expense. A more comprehensive list of rules specific to each program will be sent upon enrollment, along with clothing lists, travel, medical, and permission forms.
