



Pechersk School International Kyiv

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Welcome to Pechersk School International, Kyiv!

At PSI we are proud of our vibrant and diverse international community. We educate over 430 students between the ages of 3 and 18 from more than 40 different countries. Students joining PSI are quickly made to feel part of the school, with a sense of being safe and cared for in a challenging and motivating learning environment. This strong commitment is the reason why our school motto is **“A Place Where We Belong”**.

The learning experience at PSI is shaped by a spirit of community, whereby students, teachers and parents work together to achieve our goals of creating independent learners and global citizens. PSI is an established successful IB World School offering the three International Baccalaureate® (IB) programmes.

We hope your children will become active, inquiring learners and that our well-qualified and committed faculty, our small class sizes and our teaching resources and facilities will help them in pursuit of their individual journey towards excellence.

Students are encouraged to explore their various abilities and interests to the full. Our after school activities programme gives students access to a wide range of clubs and sports including overseas sports competitions, drama, music, student leadership roles and community service activities.

The real warmth of the school – the atmosphere of friendship combined with endeavour – lies within the students, parents and staff. This can be appreciated best by visiting our school. We look forward to welcoming you.



HISTORY

In 1995, a group of parents seeking a genuinely international schooling experience for their children worked together to found PSI as a private, non-profit school. As an English medium school serving international and host national families in Kyiv, PSI has grown steadily each year, attracting students from the diplomatic, government and business community.

Since 2000 PSI has been **authorised** to teach all three International Baccalaureate® (IB) programmes. In 2003 the school moved to its present site. Continued growth in enrolment has seen the addition of a gymnasium, specialist labs and technology studio, an Astroturf field and additional classroom blocks.

PARENTS IN THE PSI COMMUNITY

We work closely with parents as **partners** in their children's education and welcome their involvement. Volunteer parent support comes in many forms at PSI, from serving as homeroom parents to participating on the Board of Governors to assisting with PTA activities.

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association) provides many services for the PSI community. These include the following activities:

- Parent Welcome Committee to assist new families joining the PSI community
- Welcome Cheese and Wine Party for new parents
- Operating the campus sales of school supplies and PSI sports clothing
- Many social events - Back to School Picnic for PSI families, International Evening, Trivia Quiz Night Dinner, Summer Barbeque, Staff Appreciation Party
- Raising and allocating funds for school and community initiatives

The PTA is an important organisation in the school and all parents and teachers are encouraged to become involved as participating members to maintain its successful tradition.

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

PSI is the only school in Ukraine which holds dual international accreditation. Since 2003 our school has received accredited member status from two premier accreditation organizations, the Council of International Schools (CIS) in Europe and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in the United States.

This means that our school's philosophy, governance, curriculum, resources and staffing meet **rigorous standards** set by these international school organisations. In doing so, our school sets improvement goals to meet ever higher levels of performance and opens its doors periodically to regular self-review by the school community and evaluation by experienced outside evaluators. Further details on the accreditation process may be found at the websites of the Council of International Schools (www.cois.org) and NEASC (www.neasc.org).

MEMBERSHIPS

PSI is also a member of European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the Central and Eastern European Schools Association (CEESA). These affiliations allow our students the opportunity to participate in international sporting, cultural and academic events within the European schools network. PSI is also supported by the U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Schools and is authorised by the Ministry of Education in Ukraine.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

PSI is governed by a 12-member Board of Governors that meets each month. The Board concentrates on overall **strategy** and policy direction of the school as a whole. It oversees school finance, establishes policies and programmes for the school and delegates day-to-day administration to the Director and Principals. The members of the Board are elected by parents at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Board members serve for a three year term and any parents or guardians may stand as a Board member by nominating themselves or being nominated prior to the AGM. The Ambassador of the U.S. Embassy appoints a U.S. Embassy Official, usually a PSI parent, as a representative on the Board.





TEACHING STAFF

Our teachers are certified, experienced and devoted **professionals**. The majority of teachers possess advanced graduate degrees in education and specialist fields from a range of international universities in North America, Europe and Australasia. PSI recruits its overseas teachers from recognised international school recruitment organisations that rigorously screen the background and experience of teaching candidates. Many teachers have spent a significant part of their careers working in international schools. Our Ukrainian teachers are trained graduates from Ukrainian and American universities.

Each year the school provides considerable investment in professional training for all staff to update their skills and to promote the best international school practices that help each child develop his or her potential.

PSI CAMPUS - IN THE HEART OF KYIV

PSI is conveniently located in a residential suburb easily accessible from the centre of Kyiv by private, school-provided or public transport. The Golosievski metro station (Green Line) is only a 5-minute walk from the school.

PSI is based in a dedicated set of school facilities with 40 classrooms, including two computer suites, a library, full-size gymnasium, science labs and cafeteria. Considerable **investment** has been made in learning technology with over 200 computers in the school all connected to wireless internet. Our students use newly-equipped pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and primary playgrounds, in addition to an all-weather football field for recess and physical education classes.

PSI PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Our Vision Statement for students at PSI is to promote the best learning opportunities relevant for the learning needs of today and the living challenges of tomorrow.

*We strive to develop successful **global citizens** committed to taking positive action on behalf of their school, their community and their world.*

Our vision is to create a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment. Students will fulfil their potential through inquiry, reflection and learning applied to the real world.

(Adopted at the PSI Board of Governors meeting, January 2011)

THE PSI MISSION STATEMENT

Pechersk School International is a diverse and welcoming learning community, **a place where we belong**. Teachers and parents work together in their shared commitment to enable students to apply their learning in real world contexts and contribute to the wider community.

PSI is an IB World School offering a challenging and integrated set of programmes that encourage achievement and a set of values based on the IB Learner Profile. Our teachers inspire students to become inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective learners.

PSI also prepares students for global citizenship by emphasising intercultural understanding, participation in global issues and lifelong learning.





PSI STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PSI learning objectives are measurable targets we wish to see our students attain. We encourage our students to:

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and **understanding** across a broad and balanced range of disciplines
- Develop beliefs and attitudes by being open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities, and evaluating a range of points of view.
- Formulate and clearly express opinions supported by evidence and a consideration of theoretical and practical issues from multiple perspectives.
- Achieve competency in English and a second or mother tongue language
- Improve the lives of people in the local, national and global community by participating as compassionate and caring leaders committed to internationalism and service learning
- Achieve predicted success in external IB examinations

As a member school of the IB global learning community we share a common commitment to the goals of the International Baccalaureate which complements those of Pechersk School International.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE® MISSION STATEMENT

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop **inquiring**, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

ADMISSION AND PLACEMENT

All application forms and information about how to apply are available electronically on the PSI website (www.psi.kiev.ua). You are always **welcome** to make an appointment with the Admissions Office to take a tour of the campus and to discuss the application process.

Children of all nationalities may seek admission to the school. Prospective applicants will be considered unless there is reason to believe that admission is not in the best interest of the applicant or the school. Students with mild special educational needs will be accommodated with the expectation that the student will be mainstreamed.

Initial student class placement will be determined by the Principal upon the recommendation of the PSI Admissions Office. The primary factor to place students will be the age of the student. Previous reports, grades completed and testing may also be requested to assist the Principals in making an informed decision. The maximum class size is 20 students.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION.

Families wishing to apply must submit the following documents before registration is completed and an admissions decision can be made.

1. Registration Form
2. Health Record Form
3. Transcripts or report cards from the last school for the previous two academic years
4. One passport-sized photo of the student and a copy of the student's passport page containing personal information.
5. Completed PSI Parent and Language profile
6. Student Reference Form to be completed by the former school

Applications should be made as early as possible due to waiting lists in some grades. After the complete application package is received the Enrolment Agreement for the school year is issued and an invoice for the application and school fees is sent to families in May. PSI allows admission to students during the course of the school year if space is available.





CURRICULUM

PSI offers an academic curriculum using the authorised programmes of the International Baccalaureate (IB). These are regarded as prestigious, challenging and **relevant** to students' learning needs for the 21st century and the circumstances of internationally mobile families from all countries. Our curriculum and programme of activities are annually reviewed for quality and appropriateness to ensure that we meet the evolving needs of our growing community.

THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMME – EC3 and EC4

For children of pre-kindergarten age (3 and 4 year old by 1st September) the PYP curriculum emphasises developmentally appropriate practices, including play. Children have the opportunity to develop their **creativity**, interests, social skills and basic learning competencies that will prepare them for successful entry into Kindergarten. There is a focus on speaking and developing English language, as well as on early maths concepts and skills for emergent readers.

The Early Childhood Programme is taught through carefully-designed conceptual units in a programme of inquiry. The content of each unit is built around active daily **routines** which include centre/task time, story time, music, singing, physical education and a cooking activity.

The school day begins at 8:30am each day. The programme for 3 year olds (EC3) ends at 12:00pm with an option for children to stay until 2:00pm. The programme for 4 year olds ends at 2:00pm. A teacher and two TAs, along with a Physical Education specialist, work with a group of 15 to 18 students.

KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 5

From Kindergarten onwards the Primary Years Programme (PYP) continues to provide students with a strong **academic** foundation through units of inquiry which teach language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Information technology and library skills are part of the curriculum at all grade levels. Subject specialists also teach art, music and physical education classes.

The language of instruction is English. Non-English speaking children receive intensive language support through daily classes and support by our English teaching staff and homeroom teachers experienced in this area. Students with a good level of competency in English from Grade 2 onwards may take classes in Russian or Ukrainian language each day.

THE MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP) – GRADES 6 TO 10

Students enter the Secondary School and the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Grade 6. They take a broad and balanced range of subjects that focus on language, communication and intercultural understanding. Students study English, a Second Language, Mathematics, Sciences, Humanities, Physical Education, Design Technology and The Arts (Music, Art and Drama). Mother tongue and second language choices include French, Russian and Ukrainian. Students understand the connections between subjects through project-based conceptual learning and **interdisciplinary** themes of health and social education, approaches to learning, human creativity and the environment.

The MYP provides students with the academic rigour required in preparation for the IB Diploma Programme in Grades 11 and 12. In addition, students who successfully complete the last two years of the programme (Grades 9 – 10) earn an IB-MYP Certificate.





THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME – GRADES 11 AND 12

Students in Grades 11 and 12 follow a two-year college preparatory programme designed for students who seek to enter **higher education** in American or European universities. Based on their performance, interests and needs, students may work toward the full IB Diploma Programme, a selection of IB Certificates and/or the PSI High School Graduation Certificate. Students select an individually tailored learning programme that includes

English or Mother Tongue language, a Second Language (Spanish, French or Russian), a Humanities subject, a Science subject, Mathematics, an Arts subject or an Elective subject. Students also participate in a Theory of Knowledge class, undertake a range of extra-curricular activities including community service and complete a 4,000 word research essay.

PSI students have been accepted into the following universities since 2008.

Canada	United Kingdom	United States
McGill University	Cambridge University	Berkley College
McMaster University	Durham University	Boston College Trent University
University of British Columbia	Goldsmiths College, London	Boston University
University of Guelph	Imperial College, London	Carnegie Mellon University
University of Toronto	Keele University	Duke University
	King's College, London	Emporia State University
	Glasgow University	Fordham University
	University of York	George Mason University
	University of Edinburgh	John Hopkins University
	University of London SOAS	Texas Christian University
	City University, London	University of Kansas
	Warwick University	University of Vermont
Europe	Ukraine	Other Countries
Central European University, Budapest	Shevchenko University	Roberts College, Istanbul
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam	Wisconsin International University	University of Pretoria
Haute Ecole de Commerce		
University of Maastricht		

Further details on the PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme are available in a range of school publications available through the Admissions Office or by visiting the IB website (www.ibo.org).





GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A rigorous college preparatory curriculum is offered to all students in grades 9 through 12. Students are offered the opportunity to take externally assessed **International Baccalaureate (IB) Certificates** or **IB Diploma** in addition to the High School Diploma. All courses are offered for one year and earn students 1.0 credit toward graduation. Over four academic years between Grade 9 and 12, students must complete the following:

Required Subjects	Credits
English/First Language	4
Mathematics	3
Humanities	3
Science	3
Foreign Language/2nd Language	2
Arts	1
Technology	1
Physical Education	1
Electives	7
Total	25 credits

Students must also complete 2 years of Community and Service in Grades 9 and 10 and 2 years of Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) in Grades 11 and 12.

Students transferring from other schools to PSI between Grade 9 and Grade 12 are required to submit previous academic school records. The PSI Administration determines the number of credits earned. On the recommendation of the Secondary Principal, the Director may waive some requirements on admission to PSI.



TECHNOLOGY

To succeed in their education and in careers for the 21st century, students will need to learn using rapidly evolving technology and its applications. With a fully **networked** campus and over 200 computers, students have ready access to the Internet and network resources. There are two desktop computer labs, several wireless laptop trolleys for classroom use in Primary and Secondary and 7 research work stations in the Library. Classrooms are also equipped with digital projectors and imaging systems, notably SMARTBOARDS, which are used to support the integration of technology into the learning process. Students quickly become competent in the use of **multimedia** devices such as I-pods, flip cameras, digital cameras and I-Pads to investigate, record and create. The school has specialists in technology who support students and faculty in applying the school's technology resources.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All students in the school participate in and contribute towards the community service programme at PSI. Demonstrating care and **positive action** in supporting the needs of vulnerable groups such as street children, orphans and the elderly is a central focus of both the academic and extra curricular programmes. Students can actively learn

new skills by working with the local and global community in order to improve people's lives. As a result, they understand the importance of learning beyond the classroom and developing a sense of responsible **citizenship**. In the MYP and Diploma Programme it is a compulsory requirement of the IB and a PSI graduation requirement.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

English is the primary medium of instruction and all teachers support the learning of English through modelling and reinforcement.

The school maintains an English-only policy in all classrooms (other than Language B classes) and expects students, teachers, and support staff to use only English during instruction.

Specially-trained English language teachers provide EAL support for new students through individual and small group classes so that they quickly become independent and confident listeners, speakers, readers and writers. In Secondary grades, students whose mother tongue is not English take the internationally-normed Online Placement Instrument (OPI) during admission to determine placement in the EAL programme and at what level.



ADDITIONAL MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE CLASSES

Additional languages are also offered in the After School Activities programme. Literacy in the student's mother tongue is recognised as an important part of the development of students' self-esteem and **cultural identity** and is a key component for the successful learning of a second language. The school supports and encourages opportunities for mother tongue development in the community and in the home. Parents and students have access to school resources in order to support mother tongue development at home. In the Primary School, Mother Tongue instruction is part of the After School Programme and the school supports these classes by providing teachers and teaching materials for a range of languages including **German, Polish, Hindi, Dutch and French**. The secondary school assists students in identifying on-line resources for individualised study and supports the IB Diploma Programme Language A1 Self-Study. At both primary and secondary levels, the school financially supports a Ukrainian Mother Tongue programme taught at weekends.

FALL TRIPS

Every September, MYP and DP students take part in off-campus residential trips. These grade level trips allow students to develop a team spirit, engage in cultural experiences, complete community service projects and gain **real-world experiences** that connect to their classroom learning. In Grades 6-8 students join trips that explore the history, culture and environment at locations in Ukraine with recent trips having been organized to the Crimea, Odessa and the Carpathian Mountains. Older students usually travel abroad on curriculum-based trips. Previous locations include Poland, UK, Finland and Russia.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

PSI offers an extensive range of after school activities for students across all age groups. Each year our school calendar is full of opportunities for secondary students to develop and showcase their talents, represent PSI in sporting competitions or academic and cultural events with other CEESA schools. These bring the community closer together to strengthen friendships and attachment to our school. Primary students also have soccer and basketball competitions, music and drama presentations and weekly assemblies. Primary School activities run from 3:00-4:00pm and Secondary School activities run from 3:00-5:00pm on school days. Examples of activities are football, karate, basketball, dance, film, mother tongue language classes, yearbook club, homework help, Knowledge Bowl, Amnesty International, Model United Nations, pottery, drama, school band and choral group.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

There are opportunities for Primary and Secondary students to become representatives of Student Councils in their sections of the school. Student leaders are responsible for discussing issues and organising events that will improve student life and support charitable work in the community. PSI encourages students to develop and strengthen their **leadership** skills by working as responsible representatives making changes for the good in a democratic role. Members of the Student Council are elected for a one-year term for the following school year in June. Examples of initiatives include student-led assemblies, spirit weeks, discos, Senior Prom and representation on school management committees.

HEALTH CARE

Medical care is available during school hours and first aid support at school sponsored sporting events. The Doctor's office is equipped to provide assistance with basic first aid, assistance with emergency care, distribution of medicines with parental permission and student health advice. All classrooms at PSI are provided with air conditioners for summer weather and are well-insulated and heated for winter extremes. The school places a high priority on **cleanliness** with thorough daily cleaning routines.





SAFETY AND SECURITY

PSI seeks to provide the safest school environment for our students, parents and staff. Security guards are on-site monitoring the campus twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A comprehensive emergency plan is in place and visitors are issued with temporary security passes.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

PSI contracts private transport owners to provide bus transportation for students at the beginning and end of the school day. Students use the bus service during the

school day for local educational visits, transportation to local sporting facilities for PE classes and to compete against other local school teams.

CAFETERIA

A private catering company is contracted by PSI and monitored by the PTA in order to provide nutritious, child-orientated international meals. The use of the cafeteria is optional and parents are welcome to provide students with a homemade **healthy** lunch. Students may also purchase snacks from the cafeteria outside of the regular meal hours.

PSI SCHOOL SONG

We had a dream, a vision
Of the way things ought to be.
Somewhere the world can
Bring together you and me.
We come from many places –
From near and far away;
Our languages are many
But we all know how to say:

CHORUS:

We are proud to be a part
Of something special and brand new.
We want to share the world with you
And learn new points of view.
We're growing (we're growing)
And want to sing out strong;
We have a place
Where all of us belong.

We've come so far
Along the way we caught a shooting star
The wonder all around has brightened up the dark;
We've shared the tears and laughter
Through sunshine and the rain
Reflecting in each other the pride that grows each day



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