



The American College of Sofia

School Profile 2023-2024

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Our School: The American College of Sofia (ACS) is **the oldest American educational institution outside the U.S.** Founded in 1860, the College was closed by the communist regime in 1942 and re-opened in 1992 after the end of that regime in Bulgaria. School Mission: ACS integrates the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Bulgaria and Europe. We seek to develop critical thinking, lifelong intellectual curiosity, leadership, and collaboration among multi-talented students of various social, cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds.

Our Grading Scale:

Excellent 6 100% - 91.5%	Very Good 5 91.4% - 80.5%	Good 4 80.4% - 70.5%	Passing 3 70.4% - 59.5%	Failing 2 59.4% - 0%
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Our Students: ACS is home to 953 students, Grades 8-12. Admission exam invitations are extended to candidates with 5.00 GPA and above (21% of candidates held a 6.00 GPA in 2023; the mid 50% held a GPA of 5.50-5.93). **Admission is then offered based on admission exam rank. The acceptance rate is 35% (the top 266 of 755 exam-takers). Yield is 69%.** Bulgarians make up 96% of our students (90% from Sofia, 10% from outside of Sofia) and international students make up 4%, from Columbia, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Israel, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, UK and the USA. Financial assistance is central to our mission, ensuring diversity within our student body and fostering an inclusive atmosphere at school. 30% of students receive financial aid including 6 per year who receive merit & need-based full scholarships. Tuition for Bulgarian students is 9,120€. Tuition for international students is 20,720€, which includes the IB Diploma Program.

A high GPA is important, but it is only one aspect of what we consider a meaningful educational experience. At ACS, we focus on developing not only excellent scholars, but also on cultivating the unique talents and curiosities of our students through a strong curricular and co-curricular experience.

Classes of 2020-2024 GPA in junior year only

5:50 - 6:00	76%
5:00 - 5:49	18%
4:50 - 4:99	5%
4:00 - 4:49	1%

Our Faculty: Faculty at ACS are distinguished professionals in their areas of expertise and come from a variety of cultural backgrounds: 14 hold doctoral degrees and 69 hold masters degrees. 40% of the faculty are international. ACS faculty provide a unique and enriching blend of pedagogies to support international and Bulgarian curricula.

Our Curriculum: ACS is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA), the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) and the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, which designated the College an Innovative School in 2017. Instruction at ACS is in English except for other languages and Bulgarian history. The rigorous *college-prep. curriculum* prepares all students for *research-university level of study*. In grades 9 & 10, all courses are required. In grades 11 & 12, Bulgarian students enter the Bulgarian Diploma Program (academic stream) and choose one of the following profiles: Humanities, Foreign Languages, Mathematics & Physics, Software & Hardware Sciences, Natural Sciences or Entrepreneurship. *In each profile, the multiple courses of advanced study are all required.* International students enter the IB Diploma Program and choose 3-4 higher level subjects, including English A Literature, which is required, and 2-3 standard level subjects. **(Please note: Bulgarian students cannot enroll in the IB Diploma at ACS.)** All students create a CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) portfolio yearly representing a minimum of 75 hours of extracurricular activities. Students who complete their ACS classes in one of the above programs and the CAS portfolio requirements also earn an American High School Diploma. Typically, 100% of students earn the American Diploma and the Bulgarian or IB Diploma. The ACS high school diplomas are accepted throughout the EU and around the world.

Member of CIS
(Council of International
Schools)

Accreditation



Partnerships



Diploma Requirements

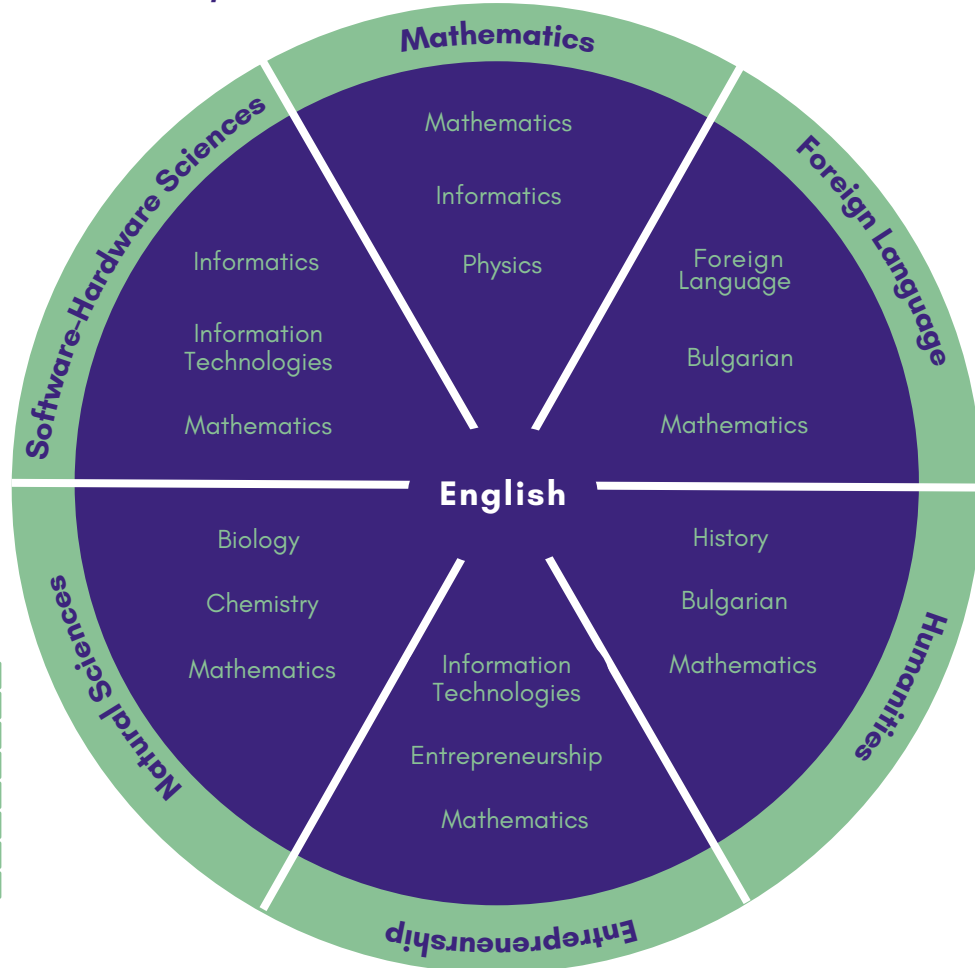
In Grades 9 & 10, Bulgarian and international students follow almost the same ACS curriculum. In Grades 11 & 12, the Bulgarian students follow the Bulgarian Diploma Program. Only international students can follow the IB Diploma Program. Students earn an American High School Diploma by passing their ACS classes in one of the above programs, and completing their Creativity, Activity & Service (CAS) Portfolios. Typically, 100% of students earn the American Diploma and the Bulgarian or IB Diploma.

Grades 9-10		Grades 11-12	
Bulgarian Students	Bulgarian	Bulgarian Diploma Program	Bulgarian
	English		English
	Mathematics		Foreign Languages
	Foreign Language		Civics
	Physical Education		Mathematics
	Chemistry		Physical Education
	Biology		Profile Subjects →
	Physics		
	History		
	Philosophy		
International Students	Geography	IB Diploma Program	English A Lit. HL (required)
	Music		Language Acquisition: Ab initio, SL, HL
	Art		Economics, History; SL, HL
	IT		Biology, Chemistry; SL, HL
			Maths AI, AA; SL, HL
			Theory of Knowledge
			Extended Essay

CAS Activities and Projects

Bulgarian Diploma Profile Subjects for Grades 11 & 12

All profile courses are at an advanced honors level.



Bulgarian students cannot enroll in the IB Diploma at ACS.

Standardized Test Scores

National Exams 2023 Scores Comparison

National Exams (matura) taken by more than 50% of the students in the ACS class of 2023.

Bulgarian	ACS	76.4%
	Sofia	57.81 %
	Bulgaria	50.14 %
English	ACS	85.43 %
	Sofia	69.15 %
	Bulgaria	67.06 %

SAT Scores 2022 - 2023

Scores for SATs taken by 102 students in the class of 2024, August 2022-October 2023

Calculation	EBRW	Mathematics	Total
Highest:	790	800	1590
Mean:	686	723	1409

Extracurricular Highlights

154

Student Clubs

54

Elective Courses

5

Grade Levels

5

Student-Led Annual Events

5

Performing Arts Groups

5

Athletic Teams

1

Floyd H. Black Cup



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College & University Acceptances

On average, 92% of ACS seniors apply to non-Bulgarian colleges and universities each year. ACS students from the classes of 2021, 2022 and 2023 were accepted at the following colleges and universities, often times having been awarded significant scholarship or financial aid from US institutions.

THE UNITED STATES

Adelphi University
Amherst College
Averett University
Bates College
Baylor University
Bentley University
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
California College of the Arts
Calif. State Univ. - Los Angeles
Case Western Reserve University
Chapman University
Clark University
Colby College
Colgate University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Depaul University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Drexel University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.
Emerson College
Emory University
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Florida Inst. of Tech.
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College
George Washington University
Georgia Tech.
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Haverford College
Hofstra University
Illinois Inst. of Tech.
Illinois State University
Indiana University - Bloomington
Lehigh University
Loyola University Chicago
Mercyhurst University
Michigan State University
Muhlenberg University
New York Inst. of Tech.
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rogers State University
Rollins College
Salve Regina University
San Diego State University
Seron Hall University
St. John's University
Stevens Inst. of Tech.
Syracuse University
Temple University
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tulane University
Union College
University of California - Berkeley,
Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles,
Merced, Riverside, San Diego,
Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Evansville
University of Hawaii

University of Illinois
University of Miami
University of Nevada
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Puget Sound
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Scranton
University of South Dakota
University of South Florida
University of Southern California
University of Tampa
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Vassar College
Webster University
Wellesley College
Williams College
Yale University

US UNIVERSITIES ABROAD

American College of Greece
AU Bulgaria
AU Cairo
AU Rome
AU Paris
Bard College Berlin
Carnegie Mellon University Qatar
Duke Kunshan University
Franklin University Switzerland
John Cabot University
Northeastern University London
NYU Abu Dhabi
NYU Shanghai
St. Louis University Madrid
Webster University Vienna
Yale-NUS

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Arts University Bournemouth
Birkbeck University
Birmingham City University
Bournemouth University
Brunel University
Cardiff University
City, University of London
Courtauld Inst. of Art
Coventry University
Durham University
Edinburgh Napier University
Imperial College
Keele University
King's College London
Kingston University
Lancaster University
Leeds Arts University
Leeds Beckett University
Leeds Trinity University
Liverpool Inst. for Performing Arts
London Metropolitan University
London School of Economics
London South Bank University
Loughborough University
Middlesex University
Newcastle University
New College of the Humanities
Nottingham Trent University
Oxford Brookes University
Queen Mary University
Robert Gordon University
Royal Holloway
St. Mary's University
Swansea University
University College London
University of Aberdeen
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Central Lancashire
University of Dundee

University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Glasgow
University of Greenwich
University of Hertfordshire
University of Kent
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Portsmouth
University of Reading
University of Roehampton
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St. Andrews
University of Strathclyde
University of Sunderland
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of the Arts, London
University of the West of England
University of Warwick
University of West London
University of Westminster
University of York

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam University College
Amsterdam University Appl. Sci.
Avans University Applied Sciences
Breda University of Applied Sciences
Erasmus University College
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Fontys University of Applied Sciences
Han University of Applied Sciences
Hanz University of Applied Sciences
HZ University of Applied Sciences
Leiden University
Leiden University College
Maastricht University
Radboud University
Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
Saxion University of Applied Sciences
Stenden University of Applied Sciences
Tilburg University
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
Technical University of Delft
Technical University of Eindhoven
Tilburg University
University College of Groningen
University College of Maastricht
University College of Roosevelt
University College of Utrecht
University of Amsterdam
University of Applied Sciences, Leiden
University of Groningen
University of Maastricht
University of Twente
Utrecht University
Utrecht University of Applied Sciences
Vrije University
Wageningen University

CANADA

McMaster University
Queen's University
University of British Columbia
University of Alberta
University of Calgary
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
University of Western Ontario
York University

EUROPE

AUSTRIA
BFI Vienna
Central European University
Modul University
Sigmund Freud University Vienna
Vienna University of Econ. & Bus.

BELGIUM

Howest University College
Katholieke University Leuven
Leuven University College

BULGARIA

Medical University of Sofia
National Academy of Arts
New Bulgarian University
University of Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy
U. of National & World Economy
University of Structural Eng. & Architecture
Technical University of Sofia
University of Sofia

CYPRUS

Nicosia University
CZECH REPUBLIC
ARCHIP
Charles University

FRANCE

EDHEC Business School
Paris College of Art
Esmod France
ESCP Europe
Institut Paul Bocuse

GERMANY

Cologne Business School
Constructor University
Frankfurt Sch. of Finance & Mgmt.
Ludwig Maximilian U. of Munich
Technical University of Munich
U. of Applied Sciences Berlin

HUNGARY

International Business School

IRELAND

Dublin Institute of Technology
Griffith College Dublin

ITALY

Humanitas University
Istituto Europeo Di Design
IULM U. of Language & Comm.
La Sapienza University
LUISS Guido Carli
Nuova Accademia Di Belle Arti
Polimoda
Politecnico Di Milano
Politecnico Di Torino
Universita Bocconi
Universita Cattolica Del Sacro Cuore
Universita Degli Studi Di Milano
Universita Degli Studi Di Torino

MONACO

International University of Monaco

SPAIN

Esade Business School
ie University
Inst. Europea Di Design Barcelona
Toulouse Business School
University of Barcelona
Universidad Europeo de Madrid
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Universitat Intl. de Catalunya

SWITZERLAND

Cesar Ritz Colleges
EHL Hospitality Business School
Glon Inst. of Higher Education
Les Roches Schools of Hotel Mgmt.
ETH - Swiss Federal Inst. of Technology

University of Geneva
University Zurich

SWEDEN

Lund University
Royal Inst. of Technology

AUSTRALIA

Griffith University
Monash University
University of Queensland

ASIA

Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Hong Kong Univ. of Science & Tech.
Padova College
University of Hong Kong



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