

Frequently Asked Questions- Revised January 2008

Enrollment and Application Process

1. *I want to enroll my child at ISY. How do I begin?* The first step is to submit an application with all the required supporting documents and the \$100.00 application fee. There is no deadline for students in grades PK – 8 however the best time to apply is several months before you expect your child to enter our school. Every year several classes are full and we can no longer consider even the strongest candidates. If you want your child in our school; **submit an application as soon as you know you are moving to Myanmar.**
2. *My child comes from a different school year? How will my child be placed at ISY?* The ISY calendar begins in August and ends in May or early June. Students coming to ISY from systems with a different school year calendar may be placed in the grade the child has already completed in his/her prior school. This means that in some cases students will repeat part of an academic year.
3. *My child comes from an education system different than ISY. How will my child be placed at ISY?* Many of the national education programs in other countries often correspond to the American grade level system. An explanation of the number of hours per class per year is needed to determine transfer credit. Also needed is an explanation of the sending school's grading system. Any concerns by parents are examined individually, but the main criteria for student placement will be according to the ISY cut-off age policy for all grade levels unless academic history and/or testing indicate concerns regarding student achievement or ability.
4. *Does ISY have programs for children with special needs?* We can accommodate students with mild learning disabilities through our counseling and resource program. The resource teacher works with the classroom teacher to provide appropriate learning strategies. The present facility is not accessible for individuals with physical handicaps.
5. *What are the age requirements for entrance?*
 - To be considered for entrance into Pre-Kindergarten, applicants are required to be between the ages of four and six. They must be at least four years of age as of October 31 in the current academic year, but cannot have reached their sixth birthday by that date.
 - To be considered for entrance into Kindergarten, applicants are required to be between the ages of five and seven. They must be at least five years of age as of October 31 in the current academic year, but cannot have reached their seventh birthday by that date.
 - No applicants will be considered if their twentieth birthday occurs before October 31 of the graduating year.
6. *Does submitting an application guarantee a seat for my child?* No. An application never guarantees a seat. However, an application gives a child a better chance for a seat. Once an application is submitted, we will try to keep a seat open for those students holding non-Myanmar passports. Sometimes this is not possible. Acceptance is also pending the results of testing and a review of student records. **If you want a seat at ISY, submit an application as soon as you know you are coming to live in Myanmar.**
7. *Can Myanmar citizens apply at ISY?* Yes, they are most welcome to apply.
8. *Why is there a quota for Myanmar students?* ISY's primary purpose is to serve the families of expatriates residing in Myanmar. ISY is also a relatively small school. Because of these two factors, our Board of Management has limited the number of seats available to Myanmar citizens. This means that most Myanmar applicants are in our Wait Pool.
9. *How do I make an appointment to enquire about admissions?* Contact the School Office and you will be directed to the appropriate division Secretary who can make arrangements for an appointment.
10. *Can I look around the campus and the classrooms before I bring my family to Yangon?* Yes. Contact the Admissions Office and a tour can be arranged.
11. *What school records are required and how do I get them to ISY?* Student records are essential in the enrollment process. These records must be official copies of academic records from each school attended during the past three years. When the records are not in English, ISY will need a copy of the original documents in addition to a notarized translation. We also ask for an explanation of the grading system and, when possible, the student's rank in class. A student will not be considered for

admission until official school records are submitted. For high school applicants, it is recommended that completed application forms and photocopies of all school records/transcripts be mailed to ISY well in advance of arrival so that efficient scheduling of classes is possible. If you do not have copies of your child's records, most schools will send copies either via the mail or a fax. Please organize your child's records before your arrival so that a prompt decision about your child's acceptance can be made.

Admissions Testing

12. *What kind of testing does my child have to go through to get into ISY?* We generally test skills in mathematics, reading and writing. These tests are given during the Admissions Interview. If the applicant is still learning English, one or more ESL tests will be given. The tests help ISY figure out what skills your child has and whether or not they will fit in with the students that are already attending. Working on English skills for non-native speakers of English would be useful and making sure that your child has a solid background in all subjects are ways to help your child do well on the entrance screening tests.
13. *My child has limited or no English. How will he/she be able to take the exam in order to get into ISY?* Low or limited English skill students are referred to the English as Second Language (ESL) coordinator who will then arrange ESL testing and a recommendation for admission will be given to the Admissions Officer. Our student handbook states that "ESL students will be placed in grades appropriate to their ages and consistent with their educational backgrounds, rather than based on individual English proficiency."

Wait Pool Issues

14. *Is there a waiting list policy?* When a seat becomes available, those applications for the available seat are reviewed. If your child is the only applicant for that seat, then you will be contacted and asked to bring in your child's most recent records. After reviewing your child's updated records and test results, ISY will determine whether or not he or she still meets our requirements. If there is more than one applicant for the available seat, an applicant from the pool will be chosen based on records, test scores, whether or not he or she has siblings at ISY and when the application was submitted. Update contact numbers and submit current records annually so we know that you are still interested.
15. *How does the wait pool work for Myanmar applicants?* In general, should a seat become available for a Myanmar student, families will be notified of a screening test for all applicants qualified to fill that seat. If Myanmar students wish to attend ISY, it is strongly recommended that they submit an application and they update the contact information and school records annually. Honestly, seats are rarely available because our Myanmar student quota is usually at capacity.

Educational and School Environment

16. *What kind of education will my child receive at ISY?* The International School Yangon's academic programs are modeled on the curricula and practices of outstanding public and private schools in the United States and, particularly in the high school, are primarily designed to prepare students for admission to university. When appropriate, these programs specifically recognize the international nature of the student body and are designed to encourage the students' appreciation of other cultures and nations. The medium of instruction is English and ISY awards an American diploma.
17. *Does ISY offer weekend courses and other English courses?* No. We are not a language school.
18. *Will my child's education at ISY be acceptable to schools in my own country?* ISY's transcript is accepted by other American and international schools. Families returning to their native countries prior to graduation need to explore the ease of transferring to their country's schools. Also, if your child wishes to attend a non-American university, you must carefully investigate whether an American diploma is acceptable for admission.
19. *What extra-curricular programs are offered?* – ISY offers an extensive program of activities after school which includes sports, drama, art, dance, community service and special interest groups. Some activities require a fee.
20. *What should students bring the first day?* – Bring a water bottle, a snack, lunch, a pencil or pen and

paper or a notebook. Teachers will tell students about any other special things you needed for school.

21. *What services does the school provide?*

- Canteen - There is a canteen which sells a limited hot lunch daily and some snacks.
Transportation – Parents will have to arrange transportation for their children.
- Clinic – We have a school doctor on campus.
- Textbooks and other stationeries – The school provides the textbooks for all the students.
Notebooks and other stationeries can be purchased at the school store.
- Uniforms – ISY does not have a uniform. Students and their parents should read the Dress Code section of the handbook for details on acceptable dress.

22. *How can the parents get involved in the school activities?* There is an ISY Parent Teacher Association, which sponsors a number of fund raising and social activities. Money earned from fund raising activities is used to enhance educational programs and extra-curricular activities for all students. Parents are encouraged to join the PTA.

23. *Who governs the school?* ISY is governed by the parents and guardians of its students.

Financial Concerns

24. *How do I pay the fees for my child?* You can deposit into one of the school's bank accounts overseas. The school has three bank accounts in the United States and one bank account in Bangkok. Further questions regarding financial concerns can be directed to the Business Manager.

Basic Statistics

- Number of students – 400
- Average class size – around 16 students
- Number of teachers – around 50
- Nationality of the teachers – About 75 % American, 20 % Myanmar, 5 % other nationalities
- School Hours – 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.