



Chemistry Teacher

The Science Department at Uskudar American Academy consists of 12 faculty and is expanding in the medium term. We are supported by a qualified laboratory assistant. In September 2012 we will need an additional Chemistry specialist to join the three chemists we have now. We teach in English and it is important that any candidate is sensitive to the language challenges of the subject. We have recently added a second chemistry laboratory and continue to look to improve our laboratory program. Our labs are well equipped, all our classrooms have SmartBoards and teachers have a laptop with wireless internet access.

In your first year you would most likely be involved with the teaching of the Grade 9 and Grade 10 Chemistry courses. We are in a transition period with our curriculum structure at the moment as we implement the new national curriculum. In grade 9 we teach two periods a week and in grade 10 three. We are looking at ways to improve the structure of this by using split lessons or a more modular approach with physics. In a split lesson only half of the class are present and the lesson is taught twice by the teacher. This was introduced in order to facilitate small group laboratory work where students can get the attention they need to develop their skills and understanding. Your ideas and input into these changes will be valued.

The Grade 9/10 program is the introductory chemistry course and it is taken by all students. At the end of the Grade 10 year students decide if they want to continue to study sciences or not and around two thirds of our students do so. The Grade 11 and 12 courses are designated as Advanced 1 and Advanced 2. By the end of Grade 12 our aim is that the students will have reached an AP level although there are some differences in the Turkish curriculum's content and emphasis. Our textbooks and other teaching materials are largely sourced from North America. For example in Chemistry the textbook currently used is the Pearson textbook *Introductory Chemistry* by Steve Russo and Mike Silver and its associated website www.masteringchemistry.com. At UAA we value laboratory work and have worked hard in recent years to integrate and develop practical lessons. Our departmental goals also reflect this and are posted on the school website (<http://tinyurl.com/398nfen>). However we are currently revisiting these.

The Introductory Chemistry course introduces the basic concepts of chemistry. Topics include the Development of Chemistry, A Study of Matter, Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Chemical Bonds (intermolecular and intramolecular forces) and Chemistry in Our Daily Lives. While our Turkish students study chemistry their English language skills are continuing to develop; the students will need varying amounts of language support.

As we continue to expand over the coming years we are also looking to develop our elective class program. Next year we plan to add elective courses directly related to the AP Chemistry exam. As the school grows we hope to be able to offer an increased range of specialist courses,