



ÜSKÜDAR  
AMERICAN  
ACADEMY



# HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE

## 2023/2024

### Üsküdar American Academy

Vakıf Sk. No:1 Bağlarbaşı 34664 Üsküdar-İstanbul / Turkey

P +90 216 333 11 00 F +90 216 553 18 18 CEEB Code: 696180

#### Dr. Steve Desroches

Head of School

sdesroches@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Özgür Akas

School Principal

oakas@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Deniz Mehmetzade

Director of International

College Counseling

dmehmetzade@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Güniz Gücükoğlu

Co-Director International

College Counseling

ggucukoglu@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Elif Türel Güvengez

International College Counselor

eguvengez@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Büşra Sungur

International College Counselor

bsungur@my.uaa.k12.tr

#### Nehir Yalçın

College Counseling Assistant

nyalcin@my.uaa.k12.tr

## THE SCHOOL

Üsküdar American Academy, established in 1876, is one of Turkey's oldest, preeminent preparatory schools. At every level, the school's program is intensely academic with a commitment to bilingual education. Üsküdar American Academy is known for outstanding student achievement, a broad program of co-curricular activities, and a blend of Turkish and American cultural values.

**Accreditation:** Council of International Schools and the Turkish Ministry of Education.

**Memberships:** CIS, NACAC, IACAC, NHS, NEHS, IBO  
Üsküdar American Academy has been an authorized IBDP World School since 2016.

## THE STUDENTS

- 910 Students attend grades Prep-12
- 25% receive scholarships to attend
- 177 in the 2024 graduating class
- 100% of graduates attend four-year universities
- 65% of graduates are attending university abroad in the 2022-2023 school year

Students are admitted to Üsküdar American Academy on the basis of a highly competitive national high school entry examination taken by over 1 million students. UAA enrolls students who have scored within the top 1% of this exam. International standardized testing results attest to the academic caliber of the student body.

## FACULTY

- The faculty consists of 117 full-time teachers and 4 part-time teachers
- They have an average of 17 years of experience
- 71 hold master's degrees and 9 hold doctorates
- 94 are Turkish, 7 Americans, 4 Canadians, 6 British, 1 French, 1 German, 2 Spanish, 1 Belgian and 1 Colombian

## Covid-19 INFORMATION:

**2020-2021:** As per the Turkish Ministry of Education regulations, education continued 100% virtually. UAA faculty continued to teach new and rigorous material and evaluate students' progress through innovative virtual learning assessment tools.

**2021-2022:** All Turkish secondary education institutions went back to face-to-face education.



# THE CURRICULUM CLASS OF 2024

Our students follow a FIVE YEAR high school program. They receive the “Anadolu Lise Diploma”.

**Prep Year:** (Online due to pandemic) All students enter a preparatory year. When students of the Class of 2024 started their study at UAA, they took 21 hours per week of English, 2 hours each of math and science (both taught in English) , 4 hours of a second foreign language, 4 hours of Turkish, 2 hours of Physical Education, 2 hours of Art and Music, 2 hours of IT and 1 hour of Guidance.

**Grades 9 and 10:** (Grade 9 Online due to pandemic) Students in Grade 9 and students following solely the Ministry of Education Diploma Program in Grade 10 follow a common curriculum with two electives each year. The aim of these two years of study is to give them a broad background in all academic areas. It is mandatory for every student to take the three core sciences - biology, physics, and chemistry and a second foreign language of French, German or Spanish. IBDP students start the IB curriculum in Grade 10. During their Grade 10 year the IBDP students also take additional science and second foreign language courses outside of the diploma program. Please see the IB section for detailed information.

**Grades 11 and 12:** Students following solely the Ministry of Education Diploma Program in Grades 11 and 12 choose electives to supplement the Common Core requirements. Students choose from a selection of Honors, AP and Advanced courses. All Advanced courses as well as Honors American Literature, Honors World Literature, Honors World History and Honors Contemporary World History taught in Grades 11 and 12 are equivalent to the rigor of AP courses. IBDP students fulfill the Common Core requirements through their selected HL/SL classes and some further courses. Please see the IB section for course information.

All Science and Math courses are taught in English.

## For the Class of 2024 the weekly hours per course for Common Core classes and electives are:

### GRADE 9

#### Common Core:

English - 5  
Algebra II and Geometry - 6  
Turkish Language and Literature - 5  
Second Foreign Language - 4  
Biology - 2  
Chemistry - 2  
Physics - 2  
History - 2  
Geography - 2  
Physical Education - 2  
Religion and Ethics - 2  
Health and Traffic Education - 1  
Guidance - 1

#### ▶ Electives:

##### Arts Elective (pick one):

Visual Arts-2  
Music-2  
Music Production - 2  
Computer Science and Design - 2  
Coding and Game Design - 2  
English Drama - 2  
Dance - 2

##### English Elective (pick one)

Creative Writing - 2  
Journalism - 2  
Language Strategies for Success - 2  
Reader's Theater-2  
Public Speaking - 2  
Writers Workshop-2  
Young Adult Literature - 2

### GRADE 10

#### Common Core:

English Language and Literature - 5  
Precalculus and Trigonometry - 6  
Turkish Language and Literature - 5  
Second Foreign Language - 4  
Physics - 3  
Chemistry - 3  
Biology - 2  
History - 2  
Geography - 2  
Philosophy - 2  
Religion and Ethics - 22  
Physical Education - 2  
Guidance-1

#### ▶ Electives (pick one):

English Drama - 1  
Music - 1  
Music Production - 1  
Visual Arts - 1  
Folk Dancing - 1

### GRADE 11

#### Common Core:

Calculus and Geometry (or AP Calculus AB & Geometry) - 7  
English Language and Literature - 5  
Turkish Language and Literature - 5  
History - 2  
Philosophy - 2  
Physical Education - 2  
Religion and Ethics - 2  
Guidance - 1

#### ▶ Electives (pick three):

Advanced Physics I - 4  
Advanced Chemistry I - 4  
Advanced Biology I - 4  
AP Physics C: Mechanics - 4  
AP Chemistry - 4  
AP Statistics - 4  
Fundamentals of Science - 4  
Computer Science - 4  
Honors World History - 4  
Honors American Literature - 4  
Turkish Literature - 4  
Geography - 4  
Geopolitics - 4  
Economics - 4  
Psychology - 4  
French IV - 4  
German IV - 4  
Spanish IV - 4

#### ▶ Electives (pick one):

English Drama - 2  
Advanced Coding and Game Design - 2  
Technical Drawing - 2  
Art and Digital Design - 2  
Visual Arts - 2  
Art History - 2  
Music - 2  
Music and Technology- 2

### GRADE 12

#### Common Core:

Discrete Mathematics with Analytical Geometry - 6  
English Language and Literature - 5  
Turkish Language and Literature - 5  
History - 2  
Religion and Ethics - 2  
Physical Education - 2  
Guidance - 1

#### ▶ Electives (pick three):

Advanced Biology II - 4  
Advanced Chemistry II - 4  
Advanced Physics II - 4  
AP Calculus BC - 4  
AP Physics C: E&M - 4  
AP Statistics - 4  
Honors Contemporary World History - 4  
Advanced Creative Writing  
Film Production and Cinema Studies - 4  
Computer Science and Bioinformatics - 4  
Modern Physics - 4  
Neuroscience - 4  
Psychology - 4  
Geography - 4  
Economics - 4  
Social Science - 4  
French V - 4  
German V - 4  
Spanish V - 4  
Maths for Turkish University - 4  
Social Sciences for Turkish University - 4  
Turkish for University - 4  
Science for Turkish University - 4

#### ▶ Electives (pick one):

English Drama - 2  
Sculpture and Ceramics - 2  
Visual Arts - 2  
Art History - 2  
Music - 2  
Music and Technology - 2  
3-D Modelling - 1  
Design and Innovation Management - 2

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Üsküdar American Academy believes in the educational value and leadership opportunities gained when students are involved in co-curricular activities as well as community service. Students can choose between more than 85 offerings. Some of our main clubs and activities include:

American Football  
Artificial Intelligence Club  
Astrophysics and Astrobiology Club  
Bioinformatics Club  
Biomechanics Club  
Bridge Club  
Codefest  
Computer Programming Club  
Cryptography Club  
Culture and Poetry Club

Debate Club  
English/Turkish Drama  
Environment Club  
Ethics and Philosophy Club  
Ethical Hacking Club  
Entrepreneurship Club  
European Youth Parliament  
Finance Club  
Genetics and Evolution Club  
Girls in Tech

Health and Medicine Club  
Hiking  
History Club  
Intelligent Minds  
Maker Club  
Memoranda (Yearbook)  
Model United Nations (English/  
Turkish/French/Spanish)  
Musical  
National English Honor Society

National Honor Society  
Permaculture Club  
Photography  
Quantum Physics Club  
Readers' Circle Club  
Sailing Club  
Science Club  
Short Film Shooting Club  
Social Entrepreneurship Club  
Student Government

## CALP (Community Action Learning Program)

Involvement in Community Action is valued at UAA. CALP, launched with this in mind, aims to ensure that students' social responsibility projects are regular and continuous. The program also intends to encourage and support the creation of new projects. Each student is expected to complete 60 hours of community service during their time at UAA.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT, HONORS AND ADVANCED COURSES

The following AP, Honors and Advanced courses were offered to the Class of 2024:

**Grade 11: AP Calculus AB, AP Physics C: Mechanics, AP Chemistry, AP Statistics,** Advanced Biology I, Advanced Chemistry I, Advanced Physics I, Honors American Literature, Honors World History

**Grade 12: AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Physics C: E&M,** Advanced Chemistry II, Advanced Biology II, Advanced Physics II, Honors World Literature, Honors Contemporary World History

**All advanced courses offered at UAA are demanding and similar to the rigor of Advanced Placement courses.**

Students, accustomed to academic rigor and self-discipline, often study for AP exams on their own for courses not offered at UAA. **In May 2023, 138 UAA students took a total of 323 AP exams.**

Grade	10	11	12	TOTAL*
# of students who took AP tests	62	53	19	134
Total number of AP exams taken	133	150	37	320
# of students who scored $\geq 3$	10	26	2	38
# of students who scored $\geq 4$	41	40	13	94
# of students who scored 5	64	72	19	155

\*We also had some 9th Grade students take AP exams which are not shown in this table.

## The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at UAA

Students in the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) earn two Diplomas - one from the IB in January (in the first semester of Grade 12) and the National High School Diploma on graduation in June. IBDP students decide to pursue the IBDP during the 2nd Semester of 9th Grade and they start the IB curriculum in Grade 10.

The IBDP runs from January of Grade 10 to November of Grade 12. At the end of Grade 10, students make a final choice between Higher and Standard levels for those subjects offered at both levels. These levels are not reflected on their school transcripts but they are indicated on their IB transcripts. During their Grade 10 year the IBDP students also take additional science and second foreign language courses outside of the diploma program.

IBDP students must meet some additional requirements from the Ministry of Education (M.E.B.) in order to graduate with the National High School Diploma. IBDP students continue with these National Diploma requirements during Grade 12, as reflected on their UAA transcripts.

### Subjects Offered to the Class of 2024

Students study 6 subjects, one from each group. The IB requires 3 or 4 subjects to be studied at Higher Level (HL), the rest at Standard Level (SL). Levels are selected at the start of Grade 11.

IB Group	Subjects offered
1 - Studies in Language and Literature	Turkish A: Literature (HL or SL)
2 - Studies in Language and Literature / Language Acquisition	English A: Language and Literature (HL or SL), English B (HL)
3 - Individuals and Societies	Turkey in the Twentieth Century (SL)
4 - Sciences	Physics (HL or SL), Biology (HL or SL)
5 - Mathematics	Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches (HL or SL)
6 - Electives	Chemistry (HL), Computer Science (HL), Economics (HL), Visual Arts (HL), Business Management (HL)

IBDP students must also complete the "DP core" consisting of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), the extended essay, and CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service).



## GRADING

Üsküdar American Academy follows the passing and promotion system of the Turkish Ministry of Education.

The passing grade is 50. A student's Grade Point Average is calculated on the basis of the grade and the number of periods each class meets per week.

**Grades are not weighted. AP, Honors, IB and Advanced courses are not given special weight. In this context, earning High Honors and Honors is commendable.**

## RANKING

Üsküdar American Academy does not rank. The program is demanding and it is difficult for students to achieve high marks.

## TESTING and GRADE DISTRIBUTION CLASS OF 2024

Only students considering attending universities abroad typically take the SAT, ACT, AP tests and the TOEFL. IELTS is mandatory in Grade 11 for all students. The average IELTS score for the UAA Class of 2024 is 7.64.

### ACT Profile

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
English	28-34	31
Math	31-35	34
Reading	24-33	29
Science Reasoning	28-34	32
Composite	28-34	32

### SAT Profile

SAT/SAT Subject	Middle 50%	Mean
SAT Reading & Writing	630-720	670
SAT Mathematics	720-800	750
Total	1350-1490	1420

\*SAT/ACT results given above reflect the average results in the last 3 years.



# INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION 2019-2023

100% of Uskudar American Academy graduates go on to four-year colleges and universities. Graduates from the classes of 2019-2023 have matriculated to the following institutions.

## United States

Babson College (2)  
Boston University (6)  
Brown University (4)  
California Institute of the Arts  
Carnegie Mellon University (2)  
Claremont McKenna College  
Columbia University (5)  
Cornell University (4)  
Dartmouth College (4)  
Davidson College  
Drexel University (2)  
Duke University (2)  
George Mason University  
The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology (2)  
Hamilton College  
Harvard University (3)  
Johns Hopkins University (3)  
Lafayette College  
Lawrence University  
Michigan State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
New York University (10)  
Northwestern University (5)  
Pratt Institute (6)  
Princeton University (3)  
Purdue University (5)  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
School of Visual Arts  
Sciences Po - Columbia University  
St John's College  
St John's University  
Stanford University (4)  
The University of British Columbia (2)  
Tufts University (3)  
Tulane University  
University of California, Berkeley (10)  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Los Angeles (6)  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara (3)  
University of Chicago (2)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (5)  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Miami  
University of Michigan (3)  
University of Pennsylvania (2)  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California (4)  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin, Madison (3)  
Vanderbilt University  
Wesleyan University  
Yale University (2)

## Canada

Carleton University  
Dalhousie University  
McGill University (9)  
Toronto Metropolitan University  
University of Toronto (22)

## United Kingdom

Brunel University  
City University of London (5)  
Durham University (9)  
Imperial College London (10)  
King's College London (13)  
London School of Economics and Political Science (5)  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
Newcastle University  
Queen Mary, University of London (5)  
University of London - Royal Academy of Music  
University College London (40)  
University of Bath (10)  
University of Birmingham (3)  
University of Bristol (6)  
University of Edinburgh (7)  
University of Exeter  
University of Leeds  
University of Manchester (22)  
University of Nottingham (4)  
University of Oxford (12)  
University of Salford  
University of Sheffield (2)  
University of Southampton  
University of Sussex  
University of Warwick (11)

## Europe & Other

Aachen University of Applied Sciences  
Amsterdam University College (4)  
Beaux-Arts de Paris  
Bocconi University (12)  
Catalyst Institute for Creative Arts and Technology  
City University of Hong Kong(3)  
Constructor University  
Delft University (16)  
Eindhoven University of Technology (12)  
Erasmus University Rotterdam (12)  
IE University - Segovia  
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  
KU Leuven University (4)  
Leiden University (3)  
Luiss University  
Maastricht University  
Munich University of Applied Sciences  
Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti  
Paris I - Sorbonne University  
Politecnico di Milano  
Politecnico di Torino (4)  
Radboud University  
University of Rome - La Sapienza (3)  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore  
Simmelweis University  
Sorbonne University  
Technical University Munchen  
Tilburg University (3)  
Università Degli Studi di Padova  
University of Twente  
University of Bologna  
University of Amsterdam (15)  
University of Groningen (3)  
University of Limerick  
University of Milan  
University of Sydney  
University of Turin  
University of Twente (2)  
Utrecht University  
Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (5)  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (3)



ÜSKÜDAR  
AMERICAN  
ACADEMY

Üsküdar American Academy  
Vakıf Sok. No:1 Bağlarbaşı 34664 Üsküdar, İstanbul  
T: +90 0216 333 11 00 F: +90 0216 553 18 18  
www.uaa.k12.tr