



# Buenos Aires International Christian Academy

Buenos Aires, Argentina

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## OUR SCHOOL'S PROFILE

### ACCREDITED BY:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)  
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)  
Argentine Ministry of Education

### SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:

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**CEEB Code: 900500**

### SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

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Buenos Aires International Christian Academy, commonly known as BAICA, is a college-preparatory, nondenominational Christian, international school located in San Fernando, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Today the school serves the children of diplomatic communities, mission organizations, and business/professional families and provides a dual curriculum program incorporating both the American and Argentine curriculum.

BAICA's enrollment averages 200 students: 115 in grades Pre K-6, and 85 in grades 7-12. Our student body is approximately 14% North American, 73 % South American, 7% Asian, 4% African and 2% other nationalities. The school represents 17 different nationalities.

English is the primary language of the instruction. It also is very important that our students become fluently bilingual and are able to strongly dominate the languages to which they are being exposed regularly. This is the reasoning for our rigorous Spanish courses. We seek to create an environment that is inclusive, challenging, and supportive.

BAICA assists and prepares students for the college entrance procedures. We provide opportunities for students to take the PSAT exams and AP exams, and prepare all of our students for the SAT /ACT exams. All of our seniors receive personal assistance in the process of choosing, applying and preparing for the transition into a University. This is part of our personal attention and responsibility to all of our students.

The school hours begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:00pm. The school calendar follows two semesters regiment: first semester being from August to December, and the second semester beginning in February and ending in June.

As a bi-lingual international school, BAICA students will have both core and elective classes taught in either English or Spanish. Therefore, all students must have proficiency (social and academic) in both languages. The ESL (English as a Second Language) Program exists to support students as they develop the English language proficiency needed to be successful in English-based classes. BAICA's ESL Program consists of two types of services: Pull-out ESL and Content Support.

### CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION

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#### Kindergarten:

At our Kindergarten, children from 18 months of age receive an education according to their developmental stages and their needs. From the linguistic standpoint, the emphasis is placed on the mother tongue. English is taught by native teachers that are qualified for each level, giving children since such an early age the possibility to acquire the language naturally, flowing through play,



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dynamics and didactics. Even when for some children at our Kindergarten, English might not be their mother tongue, the speaking the language turns out to be usual and pleasant. Children here also have classes of Art, Music, and PE. All of the teachers for the special classes are also fully qualified to teach them. The environment where the school day takes place is warm, safe, fun, clean and friendly. In order to offer flexibility to each family, for PK2, PK3 and PK4 classes, parents can choose to send their children either half day until 12 pm, an extended period until 2 pm or a full day schedule until 4 pm.

## Elementary:

The warm and inclusive nature of our school culture is something we are particularly proud of and work hard to maintain. At the same time we place great emphasis on rigorous academic enquiry, making extensive use of information technology in the classroom. We also seek to culturally integrate students, to encourage respect for others and to deepen the Christian values that will be part of each of our student's identity. We focus on solidarity as a tool for a good fellowship. One of our priorities is to have small groups, to work closely with them and bring out the best in each student. We have several activities where there are opportunities to participate as the Reading week, Math competitions, shows of Art and other artistic disciplines as choir, musical instruments, and also P.E.

## Middle and High School:

The school seeks to be true to its identity as an international school, therefore it focuses on guiding our students in having a global and integrated approach to academics. This is done by merging two systems (Argentine and American), and challenging our students to expand their language skills, historical and geographical perspective, political differences, and the influences of faith as it interacts with culture. Our students graduate with two degrees, the Argentine diploma of Baccalaureate in Humanities and Social Studies and the international one, the High School Diploma.

## Argentine High School Diploma

All of our students, in agreement with the Argentine law, have to be registered under the Argentine curriculum as they enter BAICA. At the end of their high school career, students receive dual degree, one being the Argentine Secondary diploma. Argentine courses include Construcción de la ciudadanía, Cultura y comunicación (Culture and communication), Culturas y estéticas contemporáneas (contemporary cultures), Derechos humanos y ciudadanía (Human rights), Argentine Geography I & II, Arg. & Latin American History I & II, Spanish Literature I, II, Spanish Language, and Research Project.

## Advanced Placement Programs (AP)

BAICA offers advanced placement courses through NorthStar (our online academy) to qualified student in order to enhance and expand their educational experience. NorthStar offers fifteen different AP courses that students can choose based on their interest and capacity. AP courses are university level courses offered to High school students and recognized by 3000 institutions of higher education around the world.

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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All students are required to complete a minimum of **26** credits in order to graduate from BAICA. Exceptions are made to students in their senior year as they prepare to enter national universities, which begin during the second semester period (March). Since in December, seniors have already fulfilled the requirements for the Argentine diploma, we do facilitate the process for our national students to begin their University Career by allowing them the opportunity to graduate with only their Argentine diploma.