



# Welcome to Hochalpines Institut Ftan



MEMBER OF  
EIM GROUP







# 230 years of history, a clear vision for the future

Welcome to Hochalpinen Institut Ftan (HIF). As Director of this historic institution, I feel privileged to lead such a vibrant community committed to instilling confidence and independence in every student who walks through our doors.

Today’s youth face complex societal pressures and growing economic uncertainty. Meeting these challenges requires more than academic excellence – it demands a global perspective and a nuanced understanding of diverse cultures. That’s why we empower our students with a strong moral compass and equip them to navigate the world through experiential learning rooted in sensitivity, insight, and real-world application.

Our professional Sports Academy and coaches provide seasonal sports like skiing, snowboarding, sailing, and rock climbing. Through these experiences, our students develop vital life skills such as resilience, teamwork and a healthy approach to competition. Cultural visits to European cities complement these adventures by exposing them to new lifestyles and perspectives.

At HIF, learning extends beyond the classroom. Our unique educational model integrates real-world skills, offering certifications in first aid, environmental leadership, water safety, and forestry management. Students also benefit from unique partnerships and learning opportunities with organisations like The Villars Institute, WWF, UNICEF and CERN.

This blend of unique rigorous academics and transdisciplinary learning ensures our students are not only well-prepared for a rapidly changing world but also inspired to thrive and make a meaningful impact far beyond their school years.



**Jared Nolan**  
Head of Campus /  
Director



Ftan, Swiss Alps

<b>1793</b> School founded as Institute à Porta by teacher and pastor Andrea Rosius à Porta.	<b>1829</b> Porta’s sons take over the running of the school, which now has over 550 students	<b>1913</b> Hochalpinen Töchterinstitut Fetan girl’s school, opened on the current HIF site	<b>1976</b> The school welcomes boys as day students
<b>1993</b> The school is renamed Hochalpinen Institut Ftan and becomes co-educational for both day students and boarders	<b>1993</b> The Sports Academy is inaugurated, one of the first dedicated winter sports academies in Switzerland	<b>2021</b> HIF becomes part of Dulwich College International and the EiM family of schools	





## Our Vision

The Hochalpinen Institut Ftan provides inspirational learning opportunities and student experiences beyond the ordinary. Through our interconnected and progressive curriculum, we equip our students with the wisdom, spirit, knowledge, and skills required to become healthy, responsible, and enabled global citizens, impassioned to make a positive contribution to society and the planet.

## Our Mission

Hochalpinen Institut Ftan (HIF) offers more than education – young people aged 12-18 embark on a purpose-driven and academically rigorous transformational journey. Through excellent academic instruction, unbeatable outdoor experiences and top-quality sports provision, our students grow into capable and engaged global citizens, ready to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

## Why study in Switzerland?

- Switzerland is one of the safest countries in the world, with an exceptionally high quality of life
- The Swiss Alps provide unrivalled opportunities for winter sports, hiking and outdoor activities
- Swiss universities consistently rank among the top educational institutions in the world
- Switzerland is a world leader in research and development
- Switzerland has one of the highest employment rates in the world



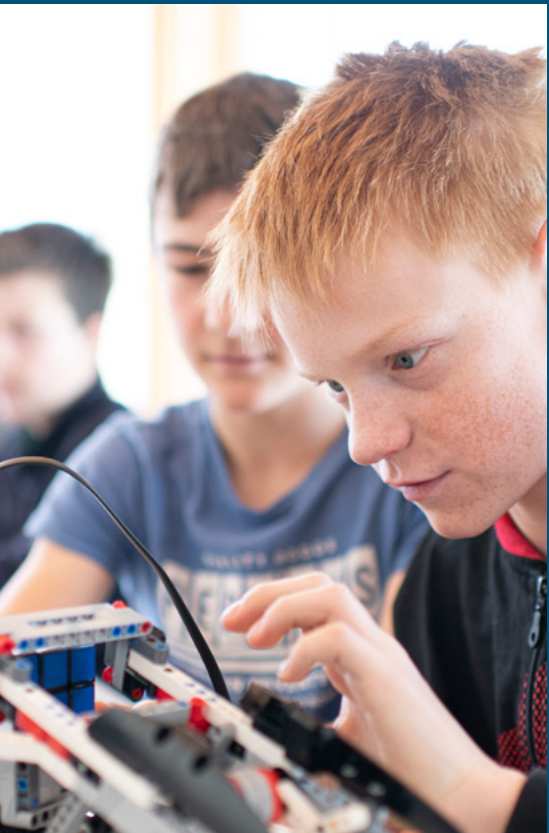


# Why HIF?

At HIF, students gain more than a qualification. They graduate with the mindset, skills, and global fluency to shape their future and contribute meaningfully to the world beyond.

Rooted in over **200 years of educational tradition** and embedded in the rich culture of the Lower Engadine, HIF blends regional heritage with a global future.

Our international community **connects students to a global ecosystem** of schools and learning opportunities. Partnerships with organisations like CERN, WWF and the Villars Institute expand learning into real-world contexts and networks.



## SWISS ALPINE LOCATION

Set in the breathtaking Swiss Alps, our environment is both our classroom and our playground, offering students daily access to nature, adventure, and self-discovery.



## WELLBEING FOCUS

At HIF, wellbeing is woven into daily life. Strong student-teacher relationships, time in nature, and a safe, stable Swiss environment enable students to develop self-awareness, confidence and emotional strength. Our diverse boarding community brings lifelong friendships, intercultural belonging and a profound sense of belonging.



## PERSONALISED PATHWAYS

Academic pathways at HIF are flexible and personalised. Whether pursuing the Swiss Matura or the International Advanced Diploma with A Levels, students benefit from small classes, individual support, and room to grow. Our teaching fosters independence, critical thinking, and a strong sense of agency in every learner.



## SPORTS ACADEMY

Through our elite Sports Academy, students train with expert coaches in disciplines such as skiing, snowboarding, sailing, and more. Whether aspiring to Olympic-level competition or simply passionate about sport, they learn resilience, discipline, and the joy of performance.



## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Beyond academic excellence, we equip students with the skills to succeed in life: systems thinking, financial literacy, environmental leadership and more – all gained through experiential learning and real credentials.





# Worldwise Future Skills

We have established relationships and partnerships with world-renowned institutions such as CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research), the Villars Institute, the World Economic Forum and the United Nations to design learning opportunities for our diploma students to prepare them to succeed in a rapidly changing future. They will also have the opportunity to prepare a dedicated skills wallet to enhance their portfolio to gain access to universities.

# Diverse academic pathways

With a culture of intellectual curiosity and a commitment to rigorous learning, HIF equips students with the knowledge and skills to excel in an ever-evolving world.

Our choice of academic pathways empowers students to forge their own futures. Whether opting for the bilingual Swiss Matura or the HIF International Diploma that combines A-levels with additional Worldwise Future skills and outdoor learning, our approach allows each student to achieve their potential.

SWISS MATURA	INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED DIPLOMA
Years 8 - 13	Years 9 - 13
World-renowned multilingual Swiss secondary school diploma	A unique mix of A-Levels combined with hands-on learning

SPORTS ACADEMY  
Option for all students



# International Advanced Diploma Programme (IAD)

The launch of our new HIF IAD Programme in September 2025 will introduce the world-renowned British international curriculum for Years 9-13 (ages 13-18) alongside a range of accredited experiential learning opportunities.

Lessons are taught in English, with opportunities to learn German, French, Spanish or Mandarin as a second language. In Years 9-11 (ages 13-16), English, Maths, Science, Language and Wellbeing form the core of the curriculum alongside Humanities, Physical Education, Creative Arts and Electives like Woodwork or Treasures of the Engadin (a social and cultural exploration of the valley).

In Years 12 and 13 (ages 17-18), students choose 3-4 A-levels with an independent research project (Extended Project Qualification). Graduating students will leave with an accredited 'Future Skills' profile alongside globally accepted A-Level qualifications. This unique combination of the qualifications they need to be accepted into top global universities, alongside real-world skills, will prepare them for a rapidly changing future.

## YEARS 9-11

- **Subjects:** English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Physical Education, Creative Arts and Electives like Woodwork or Treasures of the Engadin (a social and cultural exploration of the valley)
- **Languages:** Opportunities to study German, French, Spanish, Mandarin
- Wellbeing as an integrated part of the curriculum

## YEARS 12-13

- **3-4 A-levels to select**
- **Extended Project Qualification**
- **Future Skills Profile** organisations like The Villars Institute, WWF, UNICEF and CERN



The IAD is designed to allow students to develop their passions and experience learning that takes advantage of our unique location. Our teaching staff embrace the spectacular environment we are surrounded by, exploring their subjects outside the four walls of the classroom. Students on the programme face physical and mental challenges outdoors that build resilience and enhance their confidence, all while fostering a strong sense of teamwork and a love of adventure.

## The International Advanced Diploma cultivates:

- Critical thinking skills
- Digital and technical skills
- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Emotional intelligence and collaboration
- Adaptability and lifelong learning

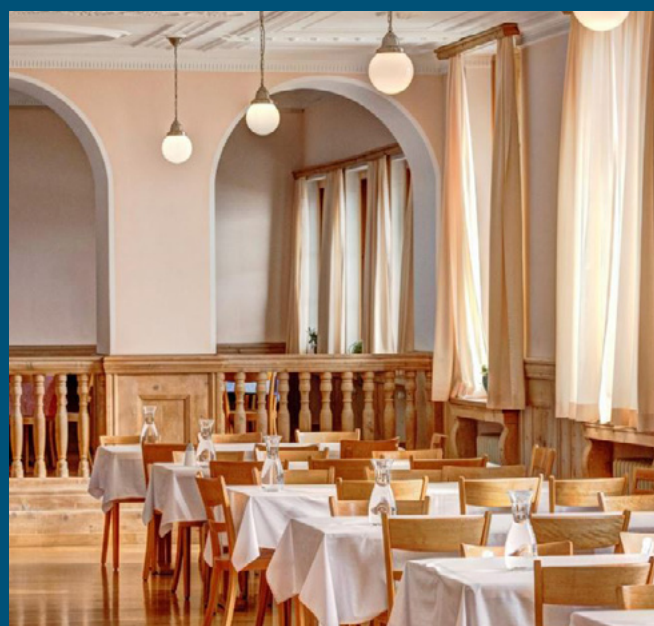


# Boarding

The vibrant HIF campus community thrives on its diversity, open-mindedness and a shared sense of belonging. For many months of the year, HIF becomes home to most of its students who live together as one community in our boarding houses.

Boarders share comfortable single, twin or triple rooms with views of the southern alpine peaks. Shared spaces, including lounge areas and study rooms, create a dynamic family atmosphere, watched over by our dedicated and caring boarding staff. Boarders eat together in our dining hall, enjoying a varied menu of fresh, seasonal dishes prepared on-site.

To make the transition to boarding life as smooth as possible, we work closely with families, including pre-arrival meetings, an extensive induction programme, consistent support for students, and regular meetings with parents to check in on well-being and student progress.



## An environment of care & responsibility

The boarding team keeps a constant watchful eye on the campus and places special emphasis on courtesy, respect and good manners among its young residents. Boarding staff see it as their responsibility to help our students learn life lessons and take responsibility for their actions.

All team members are trained in first aid and can provide round-the-clock medical care in case of an emergency. In addition, the nearest hospital is only a 10-minute drive away. The team is available 24/7 on-site to ensure the highest standards of safety and care.



# Wellbeing

We firmly believe the best foundation for student wellbeing and social-emotional literacy lies in greater control and understanding of the learning process, which leads to greater autonomy and independence of the students.



Wellbeing starts with our location. The spectacular Alpine scenery that surrounds us provides incomparable opportunities for outdoor learning, exploration and sports. From the mountains to the classroom, we teach our students to recognise when they are feeling well and when they might feel like they are struggling, and how to manage the situation.

As a school with a large boarding contingent, we are intentional in our approach to community building, ensuring that every student feels connected to their peers and the local surroundings. Carefully considered policies around mobile phone usage ensure that students have the opportunity to connect, play and converse in their free time, without screens.

Our international boarding community is a melting pot of languages and cultures in which lifelong bonds and networks of real friendship are created. This is international education in its purest form, where the local meets the global and both learn from each other, take part in each other's lives and are enriched by experience.



## EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

- Resilience
- Healthy Coping Strategies
- Mindfulness
- Purpose & Meaning
- Hope
- Emotional Literacy



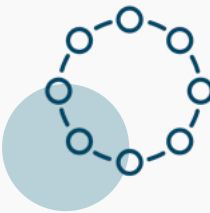
## ACADEMIC WELLBEING

- Engagement/ Motivation
- Collaboration
- Healthy Challenge
- Cognitive Development
- Recognition
- Accomplishment
- Meaning & Purpose



## PHYSICAL WELLBEING

- Sleep
- Nutrition
- Exercise/Movement
- Risk-Taking
- Behaviour
- Boundaries



## SOCIAL WELLBEING

- Safety
- Belonging
- Inclusivity
- Culture Creation
- Connectedness
- Contribution
- Respectful Relationships



## MENTAL HEALTH

- Stress Management
- Relationship
- Conflict
- Self-Esteem
- Strengths
- Awareness





# Sports Academy

Sport is at the heart of campus life at HIF, with an unrivalled range of disciplines to choose from. In winter, the campus offers direct access to the alpine ski resort of Scuol Motta Naluns (2,146 metres elevation), featuring thrilling descents, as well as a dynamic cross-country ski trail that begins right next to the school. In summer, the surrounding mountains transform into a playground for climbing, mountain biking, and trail running.

Combining academic instruction with daily sports training, the Academy is committed to developing well-rounded individuals who strive for excellence both academically and athletically. In addition to the extensive sports programme that is part of the regular curriculum, the HIF Sports Academy welcomes student-athletes aiming to train at the highest levels of competition. This unique and proven model has already taken more than 20 HIF athletes to the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) and the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF). Over two dozen former HIF skiers, biathletes, cross-country skiers, and snowboarders have gone on to compete at the Winter Olympics.

## Sports on offer at HIF:

- Ice Hockey
- Alpine skiing
- Cross-country skiing
- Biathlon
- Snowboarding
- Ice Skating
- Orienteering
- Mountain biking
- Trail running
- Climbing
- Kayaking
- White water rafting
- Sailing
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Golf
- Football
- Volleyball
- Swimming
- Basketball



“At HIF, I laid the foundation for all subsequent successes in my career.”

Nevin Galmarini,  
Olympic Champion in Alpine Snowboarding and HIF Alumni

8:1

Athlete:  
Coach Ratio

28

Participants  
in the Winter  
Olympics

6

Olympic  
Medals

24

Participations  
in the Youth  
Olympic  
Games (YOG)

8

YOG  
medals



# How to apply for a place at HIF

We are delighted that you are considering HIF for your child. We invite you to attend one of our online information sessions or book a discovery call with our admissions team to find out more about the school and ask any questions you may have about HIF, studying in Switzerland or the admission process.



Book an  
Discovery Call



## Admission Process

01

### EXPLORE OUR SCHOOL

- Attend one of our online information sessions or book a discovery call
- Schedule a campus tour or experiential boarding visit
- Speak with the admission team

02

### SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

- Complete the application form and provide the necessary documents (details will be sent to you)

03

### FOLLOW UP

- Student and parent interview
- Academic assessment (if applicable)

04

### ADMISSION DECISION

- Receive notification of acceptance
- Secure your place by submitting the enrollment form and registration fee



# Where Exploration meets Education



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