



A great place
to live and learn

Brillantmont 
International School Lausanne

Updated September 2019



One spirit, one family, for a school that is more than 135 years old.

Message from the Board

“Your arrival at Brillantmont marks the beginning of a unique experience in your lives. During your stay you will forge friendships with boys and girls from diverse countries, continents and languages. This will enable you to open your mind to different cultures. During the years that you will spend here at Brillantmont, we will seize every opportunity to stimulate not only your academic knowledge but also the very cornerstones on which the school’s philosophy is based: a sense of natural curiosity, a sense of responsibility and respect and intercultural understanding.

Thus equipped, you will be able to integrate and play an active role in contemporary society. We aim to impart qualities essential to building a meaningful and successful future life.

When you leave us, you will be part of our larger community of several thousand former students who derive great pleasure from their school reunions across the globe, sharing moments of joy and reflecting on the marvellous memories of their life at Brillantmont. Welcome to Brillantmont.”

The Frei family, owners and 5th generation of the founding family



A haven of peace in the heart of the city

Brillantmont is unique. It has been owned by the same family since its foundation in 1882. It does not belong to chain of schools, but is independent. The founding vision – to encourage each student to realise their potential in a supportive environment – still guides the school today. Each one of the hundred students is welcomed into a friendly community, in which everyone feels at home and part of the Brillantmont family.

The school provides a far-reaching, rigorous education, attuned to the students' individual needs and offers programmes enabling them to enter leading universities across the world.

Brillantmont is in the centre of Lausanne in a leafy residential area, easily reached by metro and bus. It has breath-taking views of the Alps and is set in 13,000 m² of parkland overlooking Lake Léman (often called Lake Geneva). Once inside the beautiful, historic buildings, you will find technologically equipped, wireless classrooms which provide stimulating learning spaces. At the heart of the campus lies a multi-purpose hall, with a fully equipped gymnasium, music studio and arts performance stage.

“Brillantmont welcomes 100 boys and girls, aged 13-18 in a homely, caring, supportive and attentive environment, with over 135 years of experience.”



A unique quality of life in a safe environment

Switzerland is in the heart of Europe, at the crossroads of three great countries – France, Germany and Italy – to where the school makes cultural and linguistic visits.

Switzerland is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual country which welcomes overseas visitors with open arms. It is also a country with a sense of tradition, security and discretion. It combines breathtaking Alpine scenery with dynamic cities, which are at the forefront of the world economy.

Located on the shores of Lake Geneva, Lausanne is a French-speaking city of 150,000 inhabitants, just 40 minutes by train from Geneva international airport. It is home to world-famous higher education establishments – the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

(EPFL), the Hotel School of Lausanne (EHL) and the Institute for Management Development (IMD). Many well-known companies and organizations have their headquarters in the region.

Brilliantmont students are lucky to enjoy the best of two worlds. The city's attractions provide learning and leisure opportunities – sports, cinema, theatre, concerts, eating out and shopping, yet the beautiful Swiss countryside is close by. Major European cities are within easy reach by train or bus.



Lausanne – a safe, attractive, vibrant city:
a great place to live and learn.





“Brillantmont taught me to be strong, independent and plural. I learnt how to confront challenges and be persuasive and I thrived in the melting pot of different cultures.”

(Antonio, former student, now working for Deutsche Bank)

A unique learning experience

What makes Brillantmont so special is its size. Everyone knows each other and quickly feels a sense of community. The close attention of the staff helps all students, boarding and day, feel settled and at home.

We can identify concerns very quickly. Academically, the advantages are enormous as our size allows us to see each student as an individual. Nobody's strengths and talents are overlooked. We celebrate our students' achievements and our tailor-made approach to learning ensures that every student can realise their potential.

Socially, our size also has tremendous benefits. Happy and secure, Brillantmont students have the space to blossom. They become engaging young people, confident public speakers, with a sense of responsibility towards others.

The feeling of belonging continues long after the student has left. The school has an active alumni network across the world and our school reunions bring together students of all generations with a shared affection for Brillantmont. Friendships last for generations and the professional contacts that the alumni network provides are extremely important in today's connected world.



Developing passions and talents in a safe, supportive environment

A multicultural school in a multicultural country, our establishment has always adhered to a philosophy whose cornerstone is the exchange of ideas among students from all backgrounds and all cultures. Care is taken to ensure that our student body is culturally diverse and students come from around 30 different nationalities.

We seek to develop the personality and sense of responsibility that will allow each student to play a full part in society whilst keeping their own unique character intact.

We nurture collaboration and leadership skills through challenge, building courageous, confident and critical thinkers.

All our teaching is in English, however, we strive to make the most of our geographical location by encouraging students to learn French in class and in the local community. We also encourage them to learn other languages: we offer Spanish, Italian, German and other languages on request such as Chinese, Russian and Japanese.

An English-speaking education that awakens curiosity and develops critical faculties, which at the same time is immersed in French culture.

Average class sizes of 9 students ensure close teacher contact: a variety of media are used to promote learning in and beyond the classroom.





Rigorous, progressive teaching

We want our students to be challenged, so teaching at Brillantmont is adapted to every student. Each one is guided in his/her choice of programme and subjects according to his/her ability and academic achievements to date. At the Admissions stage, discussions between the school, the student and his or her family determine how the student can get the very most from the courses proposed and objectives are fixed.

Our qualified, experienced teachers are demanding and encourage each student to achieve his/her full potential. Our small class sizes ensure that maximum attention is given to each student. Technology lies at the heart of the learning process, thanks to our wireless campus and our teachers embrace various medium, since they know that people learn in different ways.

We want parents to be involved in their child's education, therefore communication and collaboration with the school is very important. A password allows parents and students to access a private intranet area on our website to see their grades, homework, absences and term reports. Students can also access a learning space in which teachers provide additional study materials which enhance, extend and reinforce the classroom experience. It encourages interactive, shared learning both in and out of class. A Brillantmont app is used for internal communications regarding daily matters by staff and students.



“BM helped to give me an international experience and a true understanding of different cultures and languages. I now have friends all over the world with whom I still keep in touch and that network can only help when looking to expand on my career. BM also helped with my work ethic. Small classes made it easy to discuss topics with teachers and classmates, plus the boarding life really helped prepare me for life after school; I learnt how to do things on my own but with people there to support me whenever I needed help.” **Fraser**, BA (Hons) Business Management at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Now working with Siemens.



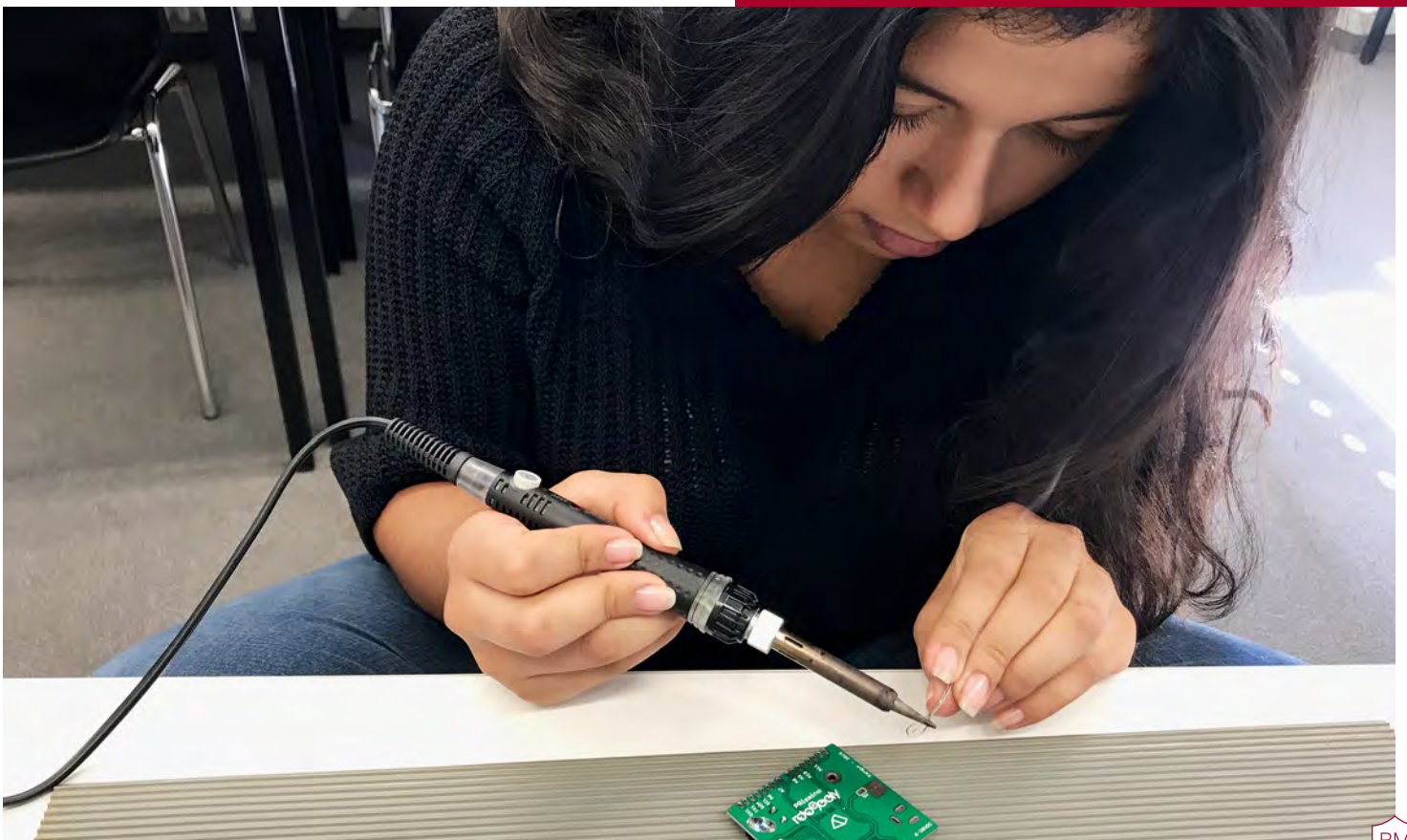
8th and 9th Grade

Brillantmont welcomes students from 8th Grade, which is the final year of Middle School. Usually students are aged 13-14, though exceptionally a student may be aged 12. There is a family feel and a supportive, caring environment to help students feel integrated, happy and settled. Their well-being is of great importance and we do all we can to help them flourish and become confident, responsible individuals.

The academic programme incorporates a broad range of subjects, including Coding and Robotics and provision is made for students who need to develop their English skills, thanks to the EAL (English as an Additional Language) programme. Students have the possibility to take Cambridge Checkpoint PSAT 8 and PSAT 9 examinations.

9th Grade is the first year of High School and students continue to build on their study skills. The broad, comprehensive curriculum is designed to instil a love of learning. After class, 8th and 9th Grade students participate in extra-curricular activities, many of which develop leadership skills.

“From the day our daughter joined Brillantmont, she felt at home and has flourished in the nurturing environment.” (Mr and Mrs Hall, parents)





Brillantmont, a campus
in the centre of Lausanne.









High School

10th – 12th Grade

The High School welcomes students from 9th – 12th Grade.

Students in 10th – 12th Grade follow a selection of courses which cover a solid range of subjects. The timetable is personalised in 10th, 11th and 12th Grades to develop their strengths. In 11th and 12th Grade the courses extend and build on students' subject knowledge, allowing them to focus on subjects in which they are particularly interested and which they may wish to pursue further at university.

Throughout the High School, students have the opportunity to prepare for the following external, internationally recognised examinations.

- IGCSE (Cambridge International Examinations)
- A Level (Cambridge International Examinations)
- PSAT, SAT test, SAT subject test
- Advanced Placement
- European language examinations

ICT is an integral component of all courses. Sports and PSHE classes are compulsory for all students. All teaching is in English. In addition to their academic programmes, all students follow extra-curricular activities, many of which develop leadership skills.

Post High School 13th Grade

For students who have successfully completed their High School and want to take a 13th Grade (Gap Year) before continuing their studies, Brillantmont offers an exciting, tailor-made programme, developing leadership skills, consolidating knowledge and discovering Switzerland. Please refer to the detailed information leaflet for further details.

Winter Course / Summer Course

For details of our Winter Course (January/February) and Summer Course (July/August), please refer to our website.

Short stay programmes

Most Brillantmont students attend for at least one full year and many come for their complete High School years. However, it is possible to study for one or two terms (September to December; January to April).

After Brillantmont
our students enter
universities all
over the world.

Switzerland

Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne
Université de Genève
Glion
University of Lausanne
University of St.Gallen

Italy

Bocconi University, Milan

Netherlands

University of Amsterdam

Spain

University San Pablo, Madrid

United Kingdom

Bath University
Edinburgh University
Exeter University
Imperial College London
Kings College London
Goldsmiths University
Liverpool University
London School of Economics
Newcastle University
University College London
University of the Arts in London
York University

Canada

University of British Columbia

USA

Boston University
New York University
Rhode Island School of Design
The New School, Parsons in New York
University of Colorado

Japan

Sophia University, Tokyo
Waseda University, Tokyo
Keio University, Tokyo



“The small size of Brillantmont means we really feel part of a family and it also gives us lots of opportunities.”

(Nicolas, day student)

At home in the Brillantmont family

There is a warm atmosphere on the campus, and particular care is taken to ensure that everyone is comfortable, settled and happy and that boarding and day students are well-integrated. Brillantmont is an inclusive school, in which the well-being and safety of every student is of utmost importance.

Meal times are very convivial, as students and staff eat a warm meal, served together in the dining room, with a choice of a balanced meat-based or vegetarian menu. The majority of day students eat lunch at Brillantmont.

As a school, we are concerned not only with our students' intellectual development but also their personal development. Our role is to help them to develop life and social skills and become confident, well-balanced, responsible individuals. PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) classes are followed by all students and explore issues relating to health and well-being and enable students to share personal issues in a climate of trust and confidence.

A nursing service is available on campus 24h/24h, with a sick room available. The school doctor is close by and the excellent University Hospital is within five minutes' reach.





Leadership and Service Learning

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders and we provide numerous opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills.

Every student belongs to one of five "houses" – Anker, Piccard, Rousseau, Chaplin, Einstein. These meet weekly to discuss various topics, to organise team-building and inter-house events, the purpose of which is to create a sense of belonging and community. Students are elected to the roles of Student Leaders and receive training in leadership and management skills, to help them get the most out of their roles and be effective and inspiring leaders.

Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations, in which hundreds of young people from across the world debate and exchange, defending their chosen country's policies. It develops students' research, public speaking and presentation skills. Brilliantmont participates in MUN conferences locally, in Singapore and The Hague and regularly joins events such as TEDx.

Students have several opportunities for service learning. Weekly staff/student involvement in the local Soup Kitchen enables them to directly help others in need. Fundraising campaigns for various causes take place throughout the year and the school has a long-standing commitment to Habitat for Humanity.

A group of students help build a house in a country in which access to housing is difficult, developing skills of teamwork and collaboration. In recent years they have joined projects in Nepal, Portugal, Botswana, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Sports teams provide opportunities for leadership, as the captains motivate and encourage their team members.

The house system reinforces a nurturing and family environment, as well as developing mentor and leadership skills among the older students.



A home from home in which to flourish

Boarding students live in the different campus buildings according to their gender. Usually, they share twin rooms, with someone from a different nationality, however some single and triple rooms are available. The rooms are large and spacious and many overlook the lake and the Alps.

The Head of Boarding leads a dedicated team of boarding staff who live alongside the students, on the same floors. They care for the students and support them in their intellectual and personal development. They continuously monitor the well-being of the boarders in a family atmosphere in which all are free to express themselves, developing self-confidence and the esteem of others. The rules for each age group within the school allow students to acquire a sense of discipline and independence. At all ages, courtesy, respect for others and punctuality remain the keywords of the boarding school.

“Be yourself at Brillantmont”





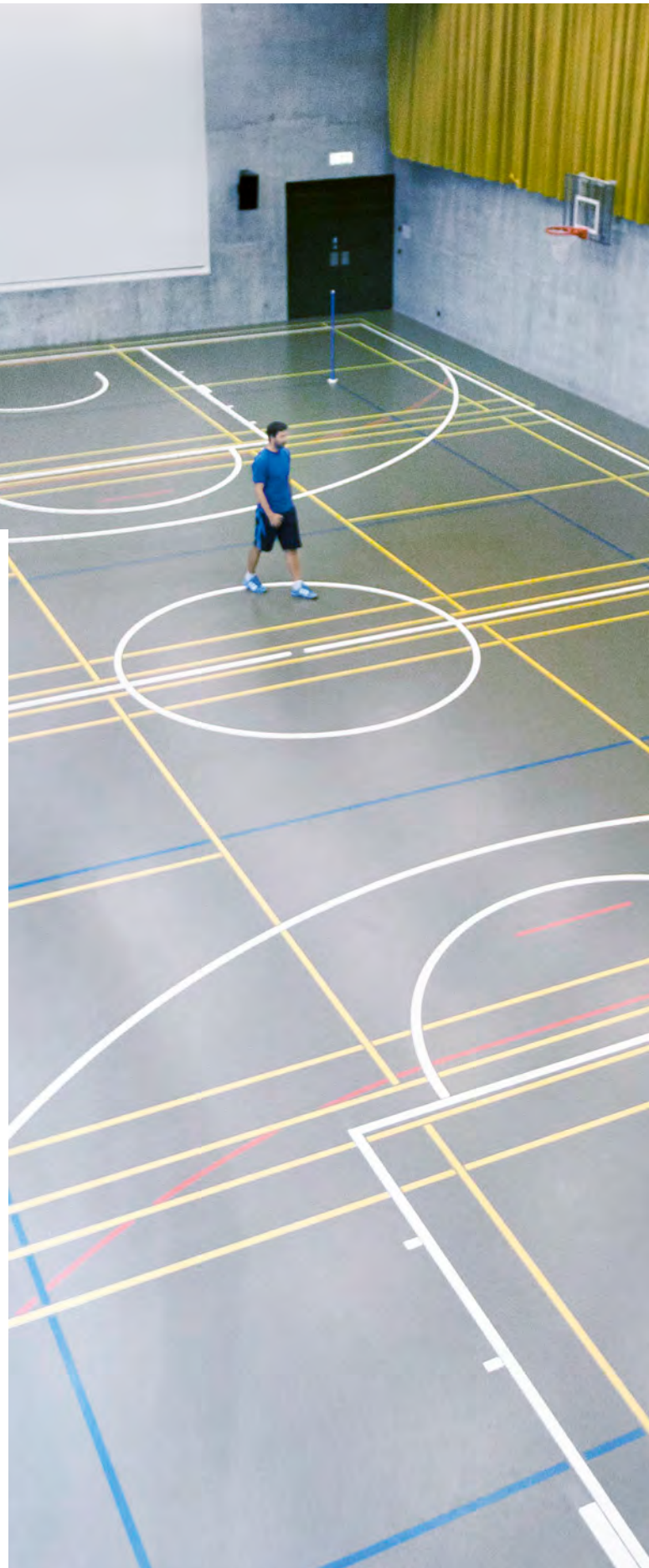
Life outside the classroom

Physical and cultural education plays a major part in the life of our school. A multi-purpose hall provides outstanding sports facilities in the centre of the campus – tennis, basketball, volleyball, football, badminton, gym, hockey and other sports. In addition to this vast range, there are numerous opportunities locally, either by the lake or in the forests, to enjoy cycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, swimming and a range of other activities.

Many students are members of school sports teams which successfully compete in numerous disciplines against other international schools in the region. After class, students choose from the many extracurricular activities on offer – Habitat for Humanity, Model United Nations, music lessons, vocal group, school rock band, dance, drama, cookery amongst others.

Some students take advantage of the opportunities that Lausanne provides to develop a particular talent by joining national sports leagues, furthering their musical careers at the Conservatory or with intensive training in a specific sport. We will always try to facilitate this.

Weekends are always very busy at Brillantmont with a choice of activities taking place for all age groups. There may be weekend workshops such as sailing, stand-up paddle, horse riding, rock climbing, mountain-biking, beauty and health or specialist cookery. Students frequently go the cinema, theatre, attend concerts and shows in Lausanne and nearby Geneva. From January to April, the school organizes a ski and snowboarding trip to a famous ski resort every weekend, with classes taught by trained ski/snowboarding teachers. All students, day and boarding, are encouraged to fully participate in all these activities. At all times, the school is keen to develop the students' ecological awareness and sense of responsibility to the world in which we live.





Extra curricular activities for day and boarding students provide opportunities to reach their sporting and creative potential.



Cultivating passion, enthusiasm and teamwork through meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.

“Going on excursions with the school has allowed me to share new experiences with my friends, discover Swiss culture and traditions and have fun.” **(Isabel)**









Out and about

Switzerland has the best of both worlds – cities and mountains – which offer exciting activities for young people.

In addition, throughout the school year, Brilliantmont takes advantage of its location at the heart of Europe to discover neighbouring countries.

Trips during the October holidays include Salzburg and Vienna, Nice and Verona, Venice and Tuscany, whilst in February a week-long ski trip takes place.

During the third term, classes participate in study trips. Recent destinations include Mathematics trips to Venice, Athens and Mykonos, Geography trips to Iceland and the Azores islands, History trips to the Belgian and French battlefields and other class trips to Southern Spain and outdoor activity centres in Switzerland.

Trips beyond Europe include Singapore (Model United Nations) and destinations with Habitat for Humanity, which in recent years include Vietnam, Cambodia, Botswana and Nepal.

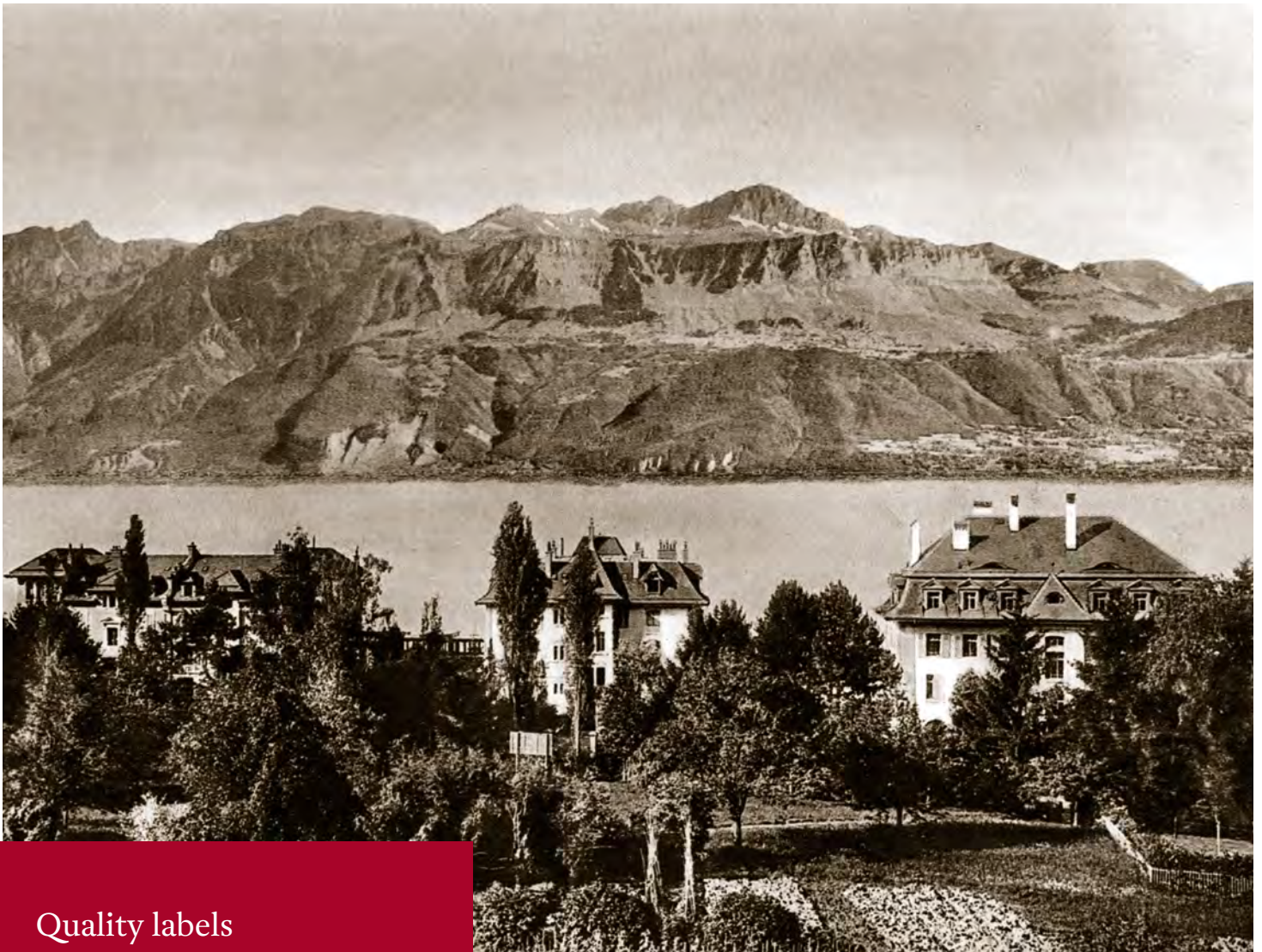
Travel is a great way to discover new ways of life and other cultures and provides memories that students will treasure for years to come.

“Ski Week was the chance to spend an amazing week with friends and teachers, improving my technique and having fun.” **(Donya)**



“A world on our doorstep, waiting to be discovered.”

“Habitat for Humanity is a unique, eye-opening experience. Going to Portugal enabled me to see a different reality; it took me out of my comfort zone and helped us all acknowledge our responsibilities towards society.” **(Antonio)**



Brillantmont, early 1900s

Quality labels and affiliations.

Our school is:

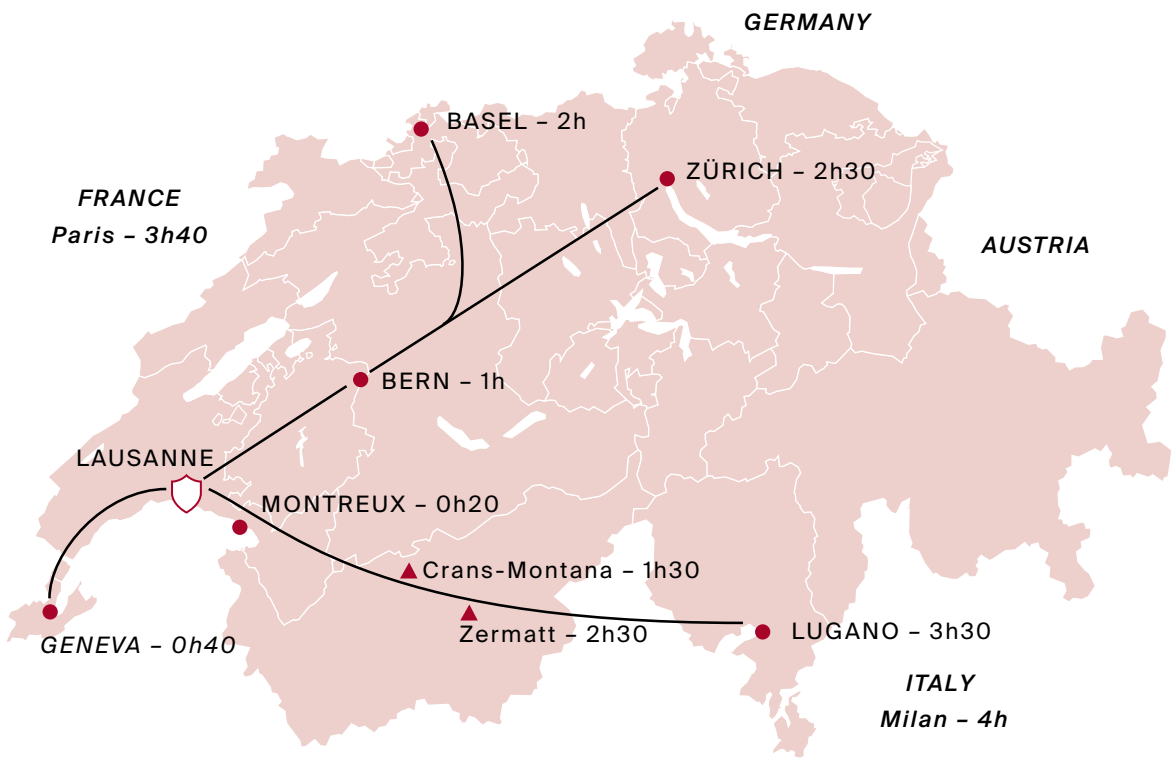
- fully accredited by the CIS (Council of International Schools) since 1983 / www.cois.org
- fully accredited by the NEASC (New England Association of Schools & Colleges) since 1983 / www.neasc.org
- an approved "CIE International Fellowship Centre" / www.cie.org
- a CIE official centre (Cambridge International Examinations) / www.cie.org
- an official centre of the US College Board Examinations / www.collegeboard.org
- a member of the ECIS (European Council of International Schools) / www.ecis.org
- a member of the SGIS (Swiss Group of International Schools) / www.sgischools.co
- a member of the FSEP (Fédération Suisse des Ecoles Privées) / www.swiss-schools.ch
- a member of the l'AVDEP (Association Vaudoise des Ecoles Privées) / www.avdep.ch
- a member of Swiss Learning / www.swisslearning.com

Appendices detailing the programmes are annexed to this brochure and are also available on the site www.brillantmont.ch in their most recent version.

Brillantmont also organises a Summer Course for 10-17 year olds in July and August. Further details can be found on the website www.brillantmont.ch



A safe country
in the heart of Europe.



Brillantmont 
International School Lausanne

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