



Admissions Policy

Adopted March 1, 2017
Last Update November 15, 2021

Section 1: SCHOOL PROFILE

The American English Academy (AEA) is a private coeducational international school which offers a full U.S. educational program from pre-kindergarten (age 3) through Grade 12. Based on international Best Practices and accreditation requirements, the school's curriculum follows the U.S. Common Core Educational Standards. The learning program is in English language, student-centered, and includes a wide range of after-school activities and sports. The school year starts on September 15 and ends on June 30.

Through its adjunct Abraham Lincoln School, licensed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, AEA offers an optional Dual Language Program which is developed for the specific requirements of local students. The Dual Language Program meets the national educational standards and it is available for students from the age of 5 to Grade 12.

The American English Academy is fully accredited by U.S. Middle States Association – Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CES).

AEA is an independent, secular, private school without affiliation to any religious, political or interest group.

Section 2: ADMISSIONS CONCEPT

The American English Academy operates a selective admissions policy and welcomes applications from students who have demonstrated high motivation, good command of the English language, excellent social skills, and eagerness to learn. American English Academy expects parents and/or guardians to show respect and concern for others by their attitude towards the admission procedure and further as part of the school's community.

All applicants for Grades 1-12 are subject to further evaluation which includes an entrance interview, an English language skills assessment, and accordingly to the individual case – a general placement test.

Admissions to the American English Academy are based on the capacity of the school to meet the educational needs of the applicant, and the potential of the applicant to benefit from the education provided. In addition to the above, all applications are further evaluated in consideration of language support, special needs, class size and demographics. All admissions are subject to availability, and in case their designated grade-level is full, students may be included in the wait pool upon parents' request.

Priority of admission is given to applicants in the following order: *children with siblings currently studying at AEA; children who have been studying in other international schools; children of parents with international citizenship; children of parents with Bulgarian citizenship.*

Section 3: ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

American English Academy accepts students throughout the entire school year, provided that there is available placement in the respective grade level. All applications are reviewed on individual basis when submitted and there is no deadline for application. After being carefully evaluated, new applications will receive either 'approved', 'rejected', or 'continued for further assessment' status. Approved candidates are enrolled and registered at AEA only after an Agreement for educational services is signed between the school and student's parent/representative. The complete 'application to enrollment' process usually requires about ten to fifteen days, provided all the application documents are submitted within the given time frame and no further assessment of the applicant is required.

Approved applicants are admitted to the school based on the chronological order of their application submission, acceptance, and registration. Therefore, we strongly advise interested parents to submit an admission application at their earliest conveniences in order to secure placement in the desired grade level.

Section 4: STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The student body of the American English Academy incorporates children from about 40 different countries. Cultural diversity is one of the most distinguishing features of AEA and the school aims to maintain a balanced mix between international and Bulgarian students. In order to provide enriched international experience and active intercultural exchange, AEA maintains an approximately equal ratio between international and local students. In this environment our international students gain a better perspective and appreciation of the local culture, while in the same time our students from Bulgaria benefit from the enriched international diversity.

Section 5: GENERAL PLACEMENT

New students are placed in a specific grade level based on their previous educational experience, and their age. Thus, for example, a student who has completed 3rd grade in a previous school most probably will be admitted to 4th grade at AEA. Applicants' assessment results provide additional guidelines in regard to students' most adequate placement. The following table illustrates the AEA general placement age requirements as of academic year 2021-22.

| Level | Applicant's Year of Birth | Class Size | Level | Applicant's Year of Birth | Class Size | Level | Applicant's Year of Birth | Class Size |
|---------|---------------------------|------------|---------|---------------------------|------------|----------|---------------------------|------------|
| K3 | 2018 | 10 | Grade 3 | 2013/2012 | 20/40 | Grade 9 | 2007/2006 | 20 |
| K4 | 2017 | 20 | Grade 4 | 2012/2011 | 20/40 | Grade 10 | 2006/2005 | 20 |
| K5 | 2016 | 20 | Grade 5 | 2011/2010 | 25 | Grade 11 | 2005/2004 | 20 |
| K6 | 2015 | 20 | Grade 6 | 2010/2009 | 25 | Grade 12 | 2004/2003 | 20 |
| Grade 1 | 2015/2014 | 20/40 | Grade 7 | 2009/2008 | 25 | | | |
| Grade 2 | 2014/2013 | 20/40 | Grade 8 | 2008/2007 | 20 | | | |

Please note that each applicant is assessed on a case-by-case basis, but the Kindergarten placement is based on the year of birth only. Due to the specifics of our student population and the fact that our students come from different educational systems, there are instances where additional criteria are applied. In general, students should be no more than twelve months older or younger than the average age for their grade.

Section 6: TUITION FEE RATES

NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS FEES

The following tuition fees are applicable for both new enrollees and returning students who are continuing their education for a consecutive academic year. A non-refundable application and capital fee are charged upon students' admission for their first school year at the American English Academy (*no application fee is charged for children whose siblings are already studying at AEA*). Wait pool registration is charged with an additional fee of 55 EUR.

The AEA tuition fee is all-inclusive and no additional charges are made in relation to the educational process. The capital fee is dedicated to the continuous development of the school facilities. All fees listed below are VAT inclusive.

The American English Academy accepts new students year-round based on the availability of placement. Tuition fee installments are paid in accordance with the *AEA Standard Payment Plan* as described below. Please note that new students are enrolled only after an Agreement for educational services is signed between the school and student's parent/representative. The first installment for new students is due within a month after enrollment, while returning students' first payment is scheduled for April 15.

| Grade Level | Annual Tuition Fee |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Kindergarten K3-K5 | 6 400 EUR |
| Advanced K (K6) | 8 500 EUR |
| Grade 1-8 | 9 730 EUR |
| Grade 9-12 | 7 500 EUR |

| Standard Payment Plan | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Application Fee | 450 EUR | Due upon student's application |
| Capital Fee | 1 750 EUR | One-time fee, new students only |
| Tuition Payment 1 | 50 % | Due by March 31 |
| Tuition Payment 2 | 30 % | Due by July 31 |
| Tuition Payment 3 | 20 % | Due by December 15 |

PARTIAL YEAR ENROLLMENT AND EARLY WITHDRAWAL

We recognize that in many cases international families need to relocate at a very short notice, sometimes for a period which is not known in advance. Aiming to facilitate this transfer, AEA offers the option for both partial year enrollment and early withdrawal. In such cases, tuition fees are calculated on a prorated basis in accordance with the enrollment period. Partial year enrollment option is offered for students in K3 - Grade 12. Individual payment plan is applied. A non-refundable application fee of 450 EUR is charged additionally for all new students (*siblings of AEA students excluded*). A capital fee of 1 750 EUR is charged upon the enrollment of each new student.

| Enrollment Period | Tuition Fee |
|--|---|
| Students enrolled within 4 th quarter | 25 % of the annual tuition fee is charged |
| Students enrolled within 3 rd quarter | 50 % of the annual tuition fee is charged |
| Students enrolled within 2 nd quarter | 75 % of the annual tuition fee is charged |
| Students enrolled within 1 st quarter | Full annual tuition fee is charged |

ADDITIONAL FEES

Additional school fees cover optional non-pedagogical and pedagogical services, such as: *school meals, transportation, and after-school activities*. All listed fees are VAT inclusive.

| Optional Service | Additional Fee Per Academic Year |
|------------------------------------|---|
| School meals (breakfast and lunch) | Approx. 750 EUR (K6-Grade 3), 830 EUR (Grades 4-7), and 920 EUR (Grades 8-12) |
| Transportation – round trip | Approx. 1 520 EUR per student, fee is updated annually |
| Transportation – one direction | Approx. 970 EUR per student, fee is updated annually |
| After-school activities | Fees are set in accordance with the respective average price range for Sofia City |

Section 7: ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

| Enrollment procedure | Description of the process | Parents submit the following documents |
|---|--|--|
| Step 1: Application | Parents submit an application for admission form. If possible, a personal visit to AEA is scheduled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admission application (<i>AEA form</i>) ▪ Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the application fee |
| Step 2: Assessment | An assessment procedure is conducted at AEA Kindergarten. The child is introduced to a group of other children for a period of 1 h and 30 min. During this period, the child is under the care and supervision of the school's counselor and the Kindergarten director. | |
| Step 3: Preliminary Registration | The child is pre-registered as a new student for the respective kindergarten group and school year. The preliminary registration is valid for a period of one month and parents are invited to sign an Agreement for educational services. Preliminary registration is cancelled and the reserved place is announced open if the Agreement for educational services is not signed within the given time frame. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registration card (<i>AEA form</i>) |
| Step 4: Agreement for Educational Services | An Agreement for educational services is signed between the school and a parent/guardian of the child. The child is registered as a new student for the respective kindergarten group and school year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the capital fee • Agreement for educational services |
| Step 5: Medical Documents | Prior to child's actual admittance to kindergarten, parents need to provide mandatory medical documents and test results. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization record translated in Bulgarian • Health-prophylaxis medical card completed by a Bulgarian GP • Single negative test for pathogenic intestinal bacteria and intestinal parasites, carried out not earlier than 15 days before the child's admittance to kindergarten • Blood and urine tests carried out within 1 week before the child's admittance to kindergarten • Medical note from a General Practitioner stating the lack of contact with others with infectious diseases, issued not earlier than 3 days before the child's admittance to kindergarten |

ENROLLMENT IN GRADE 1

| Enrollment procedure | Description of the process | Parents submit the following documents |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Step 1:</u> Application | Parents submit an application for admission form. If possible, a personal visit to AEA is scheduled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admission application (<i>AEA form</i>) ▪ Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the application fee |
| <u>Step 2:</u> Student Assessment | An assessment procedure is conducted at AEA or online via Skype video conference. The procedure includes entrance interview and student's evaluation test. | |
| <u>Step 3:</u> Preliminary registration | The student is pre-registered for the respective school year. The preliminary registration is valid for a period of one month and parents are invited to sign an Agreement for educational services. Preliminary registration is cancelled and the reserved place is announced open If the Agreement for educational services is not signed within the given time frame. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registration card (<i>AEA form</i>) |
| <u>Step 4:</u> Agreement for Educational Services | An Agreement for educational services is signed between the school and a parent/guardian of the student. The student is registered for the respective grade and school year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the capital fee • Agreement for educational services |
| <u>Step 5:</u> Medical Documents | Parents need to provide mandatory medical documents not later than 30 days after student's admittance to AEA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization record translated in Bulgarian • Health-prophylaxis medical card completed by a Bulgarian GP |

ENROLLMENT IN GRADES 2-12

| Enrollment procedure | Description of the process | Parents submit the following documents |
|--|--|---|
| <u>Step 1:</u> Application | Parents submit an application for admission form. If possible, a personal visit to AEA is scheduled. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admission application (<i>AEA form</i>) ▪ Academic transcript from previous school translated in English or Bulgarian ▪ Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the application fee |
| <u>Step 2:</u> Student Assessment | An assessment procedure is conducted at AEA or online via Skype video conference. The procedure includes entrance interview and English language skills evaluation. | |
| <u>Step 3:</u> Preliminary registration | The student is pre-registered for the respective school year. The preliminary registration is valid for a period of one month and parents are invited to sign an Agreement for educational services. Preliminary registration is cancelled and the reserved place is announced open if the Agreement for educational services is not signed within the given time frame. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registration card (<i>AEA form</i>) |
| <u>Step 4:</u> Agreement for Educational Services | An Agreement for educational services is signed between the school and a parent/guardian of the student. The student is registered for the respective grade and school year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfer/cash receipt for the payment of the capital fee • Agreement for educational services |
| <u>Step 5:</u> Medical Documents | Parents need to provide mandatory medical documents not later than 30 days after student's admittance to AEA. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization record translated in Bulgarian • Health-prophylaxis medical card completed by a Bulgarian GP |

Section 8: GENERAL 'INQUIRY TO ENROLLMENT' PROCESS

