

English College

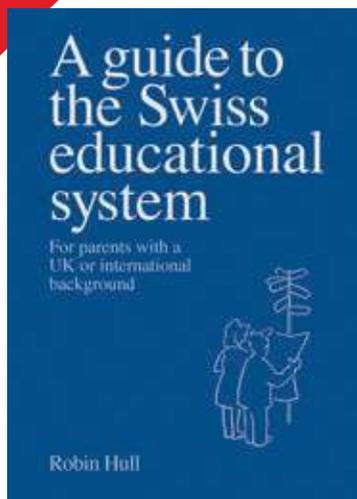
The best is
yet to
come.



Hull's School
Zurich's 1st English College



For parents with a UK or international background



By Robin Hull, lic.phil. Dip RSA

This guide has been written by a practitioner for parents. While most examples illustrating the Swiss system are taken from German-speaking Switzerland and the Greater Zurich Area, the content of this guide applies to Switzerland as a whole, including French-speaking cantons, Italian-speaking cantons and the Rumantsch areas of Graubünden.

Who this guide is for

- ▶ international families who see their long-term future in Switzerland and are planning to or are already sending their children to Swiss schools
- ▶ not intended for expat families who are only spending a few years in Switzerland and will quite rightly have chosen international schools

Aims of the guide

- ▶ compare the educational systems of Switzerland and the UK
- ▶ offer help in coping with Swiss education and the differences in school culture
- ▶ identify the neuralgic points in the Swiss educational system, when the academic elite is selected for elite schools (“Gymnasium”/“lycée”/“liceo”)
- ▶ show who does well in Swiss elite schools and who might encounter problems
- ▶ explain why children from international families struggle to get into Gymnasium
- ▶ provide advice for those who do not fit the mould of Swiss Gymnasium and show little or no interest in apprenticeships
- ▶ show the relative merits of the Swiss Matura, IGCSE / A-levels and the IB
- ▶ compare Swiss – with UK universities and offer advice on how to get in
- ▶ provide helpful information for students with special needs

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History of Hull's School

Hull's School was founded in 1945 by Dr. James Hull. In 1992, Dr. Hull handed over the school to his son, Robin Hull, in order to spend the last ten years of his life completing his magnum opus, «Aldous Huxley – Representative Man», a study of the works of the English 20th century writer Aldous Huxley.

In the 1990s, Hull's School became one of the larger independent schools in German speaking Switzerland. 1997 saw the purchase of a building in the centre of Zurich close to Bahnhof Stadelhofen. Three further campuses in the immediate vicinity of the Zurich Opera House were added as the school became one of the most popular English private sixth form colleges (Kurzgymnasium) in Switzerland.

Hull's School is currently the leading English college in Switzerland using the British curriculum (IGCSE, A-levels) with more than 300 students from Swiss and international families.

Why is an English College the preferred choice in Zurich?

Hull's School offers an alternative route to university and other types of higher education for gifted and motivated adolescents. Many teenagers who finish Year 9 at a Swiss secondary school would prefer full-time education to an apprenticeship if they had the opportunity to attend a school with an attractive curriculum, motivated learners and teachers who take an interest in their students. Unfortunately, Swiss Gymnasias have very limited capacity and their entrance requirements can be very challenging, particularly for youngsters from multicultural families.

Zurich's adolescents are drawn to English and thrive at an English school, regardless of whether they come from families with a Swiss or an international background. The British educational system develops the strengths of the students and allows for more specialisation than the Swiss Matura. It opens doors to universities in Switzerland as well as to the leading universities abroad, including the UK Russell Group. It also paves the way for careers in business, such as Switzerland's many multinational corporations, who prefer their management to have a sound academic background and favour university graduates.

An English College with a difference

Hull's School is based on the UK curriculum and the IGCSE/A-level system. Unlike most such colleges world-wide, Hull's School offers programmes which meet the entrance requirements of Swiss universities such as the ETH, the University of Zurich, the University of St Gallen HSG (Europe's leading business school) and the EHL, the Lausanne Hotel Management School (leading in Europe). And upon taking their A-levels, the students of Hull's School are also welcome at excellent universities in the UK, the USA and any other country in the world.

Students

Students come either from Swiss or international families. Many tend to have spent some years at Swiss schools, while others will have been educated internationally. The majority speak and write German fluently when joining while about 40% are bilingual, with a high level of both English and German. Some students know neither German nor French when they start.

Curriculum – best of both worlds

The curriculum of Hull's School combines the breadth of the liberal education offered by Swiss Gymnasia (humanistische Bildung) with the high level of specialisation of the UK system. Students have the benefit of a top education in English coupled with a German Language and Literature programme which compares favourably with Switzerland's Gymnasia. Extended assignments are completed in English and – where possible – in German.

High success rate

Students who take their A-levels at Hull's School meet the requirements of most universities in English-speaking countries. About 80% pass their final examinations well enough to achieve their desired goal, which for about a third is to study at a university in Switzerland, where A-levels are highly regarded, and about half to gain access to universities in the UK, such as the Russell Group, or the EU.

Teaching at its best

Students discover that learning can be fun

Most students joining Hull's are surprised to find that they start to enjoy learning. Immersed in English, they rediscover themselves. The English system develops the strengths of the students and boosts their confidence, even in subjects which may have seemed daunting at their previous schools. Many learners who thought they were hopeless at 'Mathematik' are pleasantly surprised to discover that they can after all cope with Mathematics.

Humour, verve and care

English-speaking teachers tend to be lively, humorous and engaging. The same applies to the teachers of German and French at Hull's School. Great care is taken to interest teenagers in the different subjects and to involve them personally as much as possible.

Cutting edge materials

The textbooks used at Hull's School have been written by the world's leading academics and educationalists and are used at English colleges throughout the world. They present complex subject matter clearly and vividly, combining theory with practical application. They are up-to-date in terms of both content and design.

Virtual learning environment

Teachers record the main points of the lessons and the homework assignments on a regular basis on the school's virtual learning environment for the benefit of both students and parents.

Furthering independent thinking

The school motto '**scire et intellegere**' encapsulates the essence of British education: knowledge alone is not sufficient; genuine understanding is essential. In their final examinations (A-levels), students attain top grades by showing that they are able to think independently.

Community and teamwork

Hull's School is a vibrant community. Excursions to destinations in Switzerland, Germany and other European cities, visits to Zürich's cultural institutions, extracurriculars, clubs, sport and numerous school events offer ample opportunities to make friends with fellow students in other classes or even years. Most of the landmark events of the academic year are organised by students. The Student Council plays an important part in the school's body politic by debating controversial issues and liaising between students and the school management.

EC1 trip to London

At the end of the first year (EC1) students spend a long weekend in London. They stay at the Royal Naval Club or the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair, visit the sights, study the history and the cultural attractions and take part in what for most of them is their first Formal Dinner at the club's grand dining hall.

Care and support in small classes

A team of Year Heads and coaches supports students in booster classes, coaching groups and on an individual basis. Academic problems are identified at the earliest opportunity and resolved quickly. Classes have a maximum of 16 students.

What are the advantages of the IGCSE/A-levels system?

The world's best-known university entrance qualification

IGCSE/A-levels have been the leading international university entrance qualification since the Second World War. A-levels open the doors to universities everywhere in the world, including all English-speaking countries.

Flexibility and fairness

IGCSE and A-level examinations can be retaken as often as is necessary. Students with learning challenges (e.g. dyscalculia or dyslexia) receive more time in tests if they write or read more slowly than average.

Concentrating on student strengths

IGCSE/A-levels are not only suitable for all-rounders (as is the case with the Swiss Maturität), but also for those whose talents are narrower. Students who are excellent at languages and humanities but struggle with the natural sciences or mathematics – or the other way round – are likelier to succeed in the British system. By specialising in four or five strong subjects in the last two years, students are better prepared for their future studies at top universities.

Excellence and performance-based access to universities

Good grades in the British University entrance examinations open the doors to Swiss universities and Fachhochschulen (with a practical). Students with top grades will have easier access to UK and US elite universities, while students with lower passes will be able to continue at Swiss higher vocational colleges (Höhere Fachschulen) or at one of many universities abroad.

IGCSE / AS / A-levels and the Swiss Matura

IGCSE / A-levels are a modular system with examinations at three different levels of difficulty. Subjects at the 'basic level' (IGCSE levels) correspond approximately to the 4th year of a six-year Swiss Matura programme. Subjects at Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-levels) largely correspond to the requirements of the Swiss Matura. Subjects at the Advanced level (A-levels) generally require knowledge equivalent to two semesters at a Swiss university, although the requirements vary according to the examination subject.





Four college years at a glance

Broadly based general education in years 1 and 2		
English College Year 1 (EC1)	UK Lower Fifth Form	US Grade 9
English College Year 2 (EC2)	UK Upper Fifth Form	US Grade 10
Customised programmes in years 3 and 4		
English College Year 3 (EC3)	UK Lower Sixth Form	US Grade 11
English College Year 4 (EC4)	UK Upper Sixth Form	US Grade 12

Broadly based general education in years 1 and 2 (EC1 and EC2)

After finishing the Swiss Sekundarschule, students need to acquire sound academic foundations in a broad range of subjects and become familiar with Western culture. In order to be well prepared for higher education and a professional career, students at Hull's School become proficient in English, German and a third language (usually French). They study History, Economics, Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology, Classics, Music, Philosophy and Art History in the first two years. After the first year, French may be dropped and replaced with Physics. They also read a representative selection of literary classics in German and English and become acquainted with the corresponding history of literature and language. Sport, including some of the traditional English sports such as Cricket and Rugby, and a wide range of extracurriculars (including Drama and Debate) round off the programme. Extracurriculars enrich learning, offer students an attractive social life and enable them to develop their creativity.

At the end of the second year, students sit IGCSE examinations in English, English Literature, History, Economics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. IGCSE French is taken at the end of the first year. Physics as an alternative to French may be chosen in EC 2 (IGCSE Physics at the end of EC 2).

Customised programme in years 3 and 4 (EC3 and EC4)

In their final two years, students specialise in their strongest subjects in order to qualify for university study or other goals. Most students take at least three full A-levels. However, a rising number of students opt to take up to five full A-Levels with a view to applying to elite universities in England or in the USA.

Hull's also offers programmes which prepare students for medical school, engineering and other scientific disciplines, at the University of Zurich, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and other fine universities worldwide.

In consultation with their academic advisor (Year Head), students put together a programme with courses selected from the following course options:

Subjects offered in Years 3 and 4

Mathematics and Science

- A-level Mathematics
- A-level Biology
- A-level Physics
- A-level Chemistry

Humanities and Arts

- A-level Economics
- A-level History
- IGCSE Art and Music

Languages

- Cambridge Proficiency English Language
- A-level English Literature
- A-level German
- A-level French

Weekly timetables

English College Year 1 (EC1) (example)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
08.45 – 09.30	Biology	Art History Classics	German	French	English
09.35 – 10.20	Biology	Art History Classics	German	French	English
10.40 – 11.25	History	French	Music Philosophy	German	Chemistry
11.30 – 12.15	History	French	Music Philosophy	German	Chemistry
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
13.15 – 14.00	Mathematics	Biology	English	History	Economics
14.05 – 14.50	Mathematics	Biology	English	Advisory	Economics
15.10 – 15.55	Sport	English		Mathematics	
16.00 – 16.45	Sport	English		Mathematics	

Number of 45-minute lessons per subject and week

	Lessons
English	6
French	4
German	4
Biology	4
Mathematics	4
Economics	2
Art History/Classics	2
History	3
Chemistry	2
Sport	2
Music/Philosophy	2
Advisory	1
In total	36

English College Year 2 (EC2) (example)

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
08.45 – 09.30	English Language	Biology	French or Physics	English Literature	Economics
09.35 – 10.20	English Language	Biology	French or Physics	English Literature	Economics
10.40 – 11.25	French or Physics	English Language	German	German	History
11.30 – 12.15	French or Physics	English Language	German	Advisory	History
12.15 – 13.15	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
13.15 – 14.00	Mathematics	Mathematics	Economics	History	Chemistry
14.05 – 14.50	Mathematics	Mathematics	Economics	History	Chemistry
15.10 – 15.55	English Literature	Chemistry		Biology	
16.00 – 16.45	English Literature	Chemistry		Biology	

Number of 45-minute lessons per subject and week

	Lessons
English Language	4
English Literature	4
French or Physics	4
German	3
Biology	4
Mathematics	4
Chemistry	4
Economics	4
History	4
Advisory	1
In total	36

English College Year 3 (EC3)

English College Year 3 Students who qualify may take up to a total of 38 lessons from the following menu

Subject	Lessons per week	Aims
English Language and Literature	3	Extended assignment (E)
English Literature	8	AS examination
French	8	AS examination
German	4	AS examination / extended assignment (D)
Mathematics	8	AS examination
Biology	8	AS examination
History	8	AS examination
Economics	8	AS examination
Physics	8	AS examination
Chemistry	8	AS examination
Optional	2	IGCSE Art/Music
Academic Advisory	1	The Year Head helps students understand and plan their academic programmes and also tries to be of assistance with any issues that affect their education.

English College Year 4 (EC4)

English College Year 4 Students who qualify may take up to a total of 38 lessons from the following menu

Subject	Lessons per week	Aims
English Language and Literature	4	Cambridge Proficiency Examination (CPE)
English Literature	8	A2 examination
French	8	A2 examination
German	2	A2 examination
Mathematics	8	A2 examination
Biology	8	A2 examination
History	8	A2 examination
Economics	8	A2 examination
Physics	8	A2 examination
Optional	4	IGCSE Art/Music
Academic Advisory	1	The Year Head helps students understand and plan their academic programmes and also tries to be of assistance with any issues that affect their education.

Extracurriculars

Extracurriculars are a key feature of the school's community and offer opportunity for team work, mutual support and leadership experience. There is considerable scope for creativity and for the development of important skills (e.g. public speaking, event organisation, teaching). Students frequently discover hidden talents as they make friends across the years and classes.

Experience shows that an involvement in extracurriculars will pay off academically as well as help graduates to build a successful career. Good universities and future employers prefer students who are academically successful, interesting in terms of their cultural pursuits and hobbies, actively engaged, creative and public-spirited.

Extracurricular clubs are included in the school fees and are offered subject to demand.

English Drama Club

The Drama Club is run by an experienced Drama teacher. It is one of the most popular circles of the school and performs publicly every year.

Journalism Club

The Journalism Club edits 'Hullarious', the school's newsletter, with articles written by students in English and other languages.

Music Club

The Music Club is run by a member of the Tonhalle orchestra and features bands and other ensembles.

Art Club

The Art Club is run by an English-speaking artist and encourages its members to draw, paint and experiment with a number of techniques. Students are welcome to join the optional IGCSE Art programme.

Debating Society

Students practise debating according to the English rules and explore a wealth of topics from philosophy to politics and current events. The Debating Society regularly takes part in international competitions.

Events Committee

The Events Committee plans and organises the landmark events of the school year, including the Annual Ball. Members learn to work to a schedule – very often under time pressure – and take responsibility for a budget.

Charity Club

The Charity Club raises money for worthy causes in Switzerland and in other countries by preparing and selling (to interested teachers and students) a delicious weekly hot lunch as well as organising a variety of other fun events which generate money for charity.

Student tutoring

Academically strong students are encouraged to tutor their fellow students for free. Student tutors receive an official community service certificate from the school once they have taught a minimum of 30 lessons (of 60 minutes). Community service contributes to the culture of Hull's School by fostering an atmosphere of mutual help and care. Also, community service certificates are a prerequisite for applying to many universities in English-speaking countries.

Entrepreneurship Club

The Entrepreneurship Club explores everything from sourcing products, designing, marketing, pricing and accounting are all done by the students themselves. Club projects include upcycling (creatively reusing) discarded bottles and jackets and launching their own brand of designer T-shirts.

Sports Club

Sport features in EC1 with a wide range of offerings including some of the typical English team sports such as Football, Rugby and Cricket. After EC1, students are offered the opportunity to pursue these and other sports in our after-school Sports Club.

Other Clubs

Mindfulness, English Literature, Video Club, Duke of Edinburgh and Philosophy Club



Teachers

They make it easier to learn and understand the world.

The largest
directly
comes from
body to v

School fees 2021/22 (Rights reserved to adjust fees as necessary)

One-off registration for any new entrants CHF 650.–

English College Year 1 per year CHF 28 200.–
 in 12 instalments CHF 2 350.–

English College Year 2 per year CHF 28 800.–
 in 12 instalments CHF 2 400.–

English College Year 3 and 4 per year CHF 29 400.–
 in 12 instalments CHF 2 450.–

Miscellaneous fee (2020/21): English College Year 1 CHF 1 400.–
 English College Year 2 CHF 1 400.–
 English College Year 3 CHF 1 300.–
 English College Year 4 CHF 1 200.–

The miscellaneous fee covers the costs of:

- books and other academic materials
- day trips, excursions
- school events and sports days
- year book
- visits to theatres and museums

The following are included in the school fees:

- group coaching in key subjects
- individual tuition by fellow students
- clubs and other extracurricular activities

The following are not included in the school fees:

- additional subjects
- individual tuition by college teachers
- year end trips (e.g. EC1 London)
- external examination fees (EDEXCEL, Cambridge)
- German as a Second Language

Admission

Prospective students are interviewed by the Principal. All students sit placement tests in English, French, Mathematics and German (if they are not native speakers).

Admission to English College Year 1 (EC1)

- Aged 14 or older
- B1 level in English or higher

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- Leavers of Swiss secondary schools (Sek A)
- 2nd year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- 3rd year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- UK Upper Fourth Form or
- 8th Grade at an international school
- grade 9 or 10 of a Rudolf-Steiner school

Admission to English College Year 2 (EC2)

- Aged 15 or older
- B2 level in English or higher

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- EC 1 at Hull's School
- 3rd year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- 4th year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- UK Lower Fifth Form
- 9th/10th Grade at an international school or
- grade 10 of a Rudolf-Steiner school

Admission to English College Year 3 (EC3)

- Aged 16 or older
- C1 level in English or higher

Satisfactorily completed one of the following:

- EC 2 at Hull's School
- 4th year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- 5th year of a Swiss six-year grammar school programme
- UK Upper Fifth Form
- 11th Grade at an international school or
- 11th grade of a Rudolf-Steiner school



Further Information

Student identity card

On request, students will receive an international student identity card.

Reports (performance and social competencies)

EC 1 reports are issued in November, January, April and July. EC 2 and EC 3 reports are issued in November, March and July. EC 4 reports are issued in November and March. No report card is issued in July of the final year, as the grades for the external final examinations are already available in August.

Academic year/school holidays

The school year commences mid-August and lasts until July of the following year. There are no classes over the holidays. EC 4 ends in the third week of June, when the external examinations are finished. Exam preparation classes are held during exam weeks. You will find more detailed information on our website: www.hullschool.ch

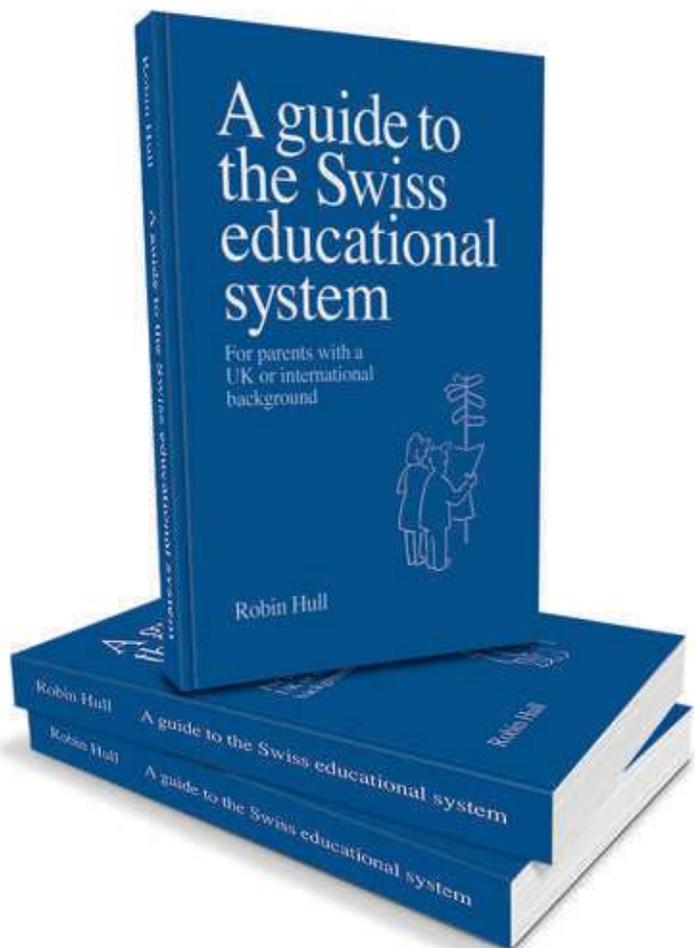
How to contact us

We hope we have whetted your interest in Hull's School. If you would like more information or a personal interview, please contact us at:
044 254 30 40 or at college@hullschool.ch.



Falkenstrasse 28 + 28a

Hull's School
Creating a brighter future



Hull's School

Zurich's 1st English College

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