



SURVAL MONTREUX
GIRLS' SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

School Information for Applicants



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

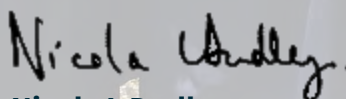
Dear Applicant

Surval Montreux is a unique school with so much to offer students and staff alike. As soon as you set foot in the school, you cannot help but be struck by its warm and welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community. In Surval we seek to make a difference to each individual student and to provide them with a wealth of opportunities to enable them to flourish. We aim to support and challenge the girls in equal measure through our academic and enrichment programmes and through the exceptional level of pastoral care provided in our home from home.

As a career opportunity, Surval provides a unique environment for creative, collaborative and committed educationalists to develop professionally and make a real impact on the development of students. Our tailored curriculum programmes and highly personalised learning environment provide the opportunity for creative and innovative teaching and learning. This is an exciting time to join Surval Montreux, with recent growth and new initiatives to support the development of a leading and modern all-girls education.

Life in Surval is undoubtedly busy, all-encompassing and hugely rewarding. If you would like to be part of a dynamic and forward-looking team, we would love to hear from you. If you have any questions and would appreciate an initial discussion with myself, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,



Nicola L Dudley
Principal



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BACKGROUND

Surval Montreux is an exceptional international boarding school, exclusively for girls aged 12 to 19 years, in a spectacular setting in French-speaking Switzerland. Through our flexible, academically rigorous and internationally recognised study programmes, we prepare and empower young women to go onto universities and careers around the world. At Surval, girls are offered the opportunity to develop a love of learning, to grow and flourish intellectually and personally, and to become leaders with a genuine sense of social responsibility.

Built around our four defining pillars of Leadership, Languages and Culture, Global Perspectives and Social Enterprise, we equip our students with the courage, curiosity, honesty and openness to prepare for their tomorrow. The school is the only one of its kind in Switzerland to teach Etiquette. This gives students a better understanding of nationalities, cultures and languages, and respect for others.

A Surval girl can walk into any room – interviews, conferences, social situations – anywhere in the world and know how to conduct herself. This ‘Globalising’ of the girls is not just from what is taught in the classroom, it’s from the Surval way of life.

A much-loved home for up to 60 girls, Surval offers an outstanding package of care with a nurturing family atmosphere, as well as an innovative and personalised curriculum programme tailored to each individual. Exceptional enrichment opportunities inside and outside of school include a variety of sports, clubs and international travel that make the most of the school’s location in the heart of Europe.

Surval girls enjoy a safe, aspirational and inspirational setting, high above Lac Léman with views across the glistening lake to snowy alpine peaks. Montreux is a beautiful Swiss town that makes the most of its waterfront location, benefitting from the nearby city of Geneva with Paris, Milan and Munich a short train ride away.

Surval’s mission is to create powerful stories for the young women who become part of the global network of Survaliennes. The school aims to equip its girls to make a difference in the world; a world they come to understand all the more through their experience here.

HISTORY

Surval has been celebrating excellence in girls' education for over 60 years. It was founded as an international boarding school for girls in 1961, in Leysin by Ms Georgette-F. Andrea. The school started in a small chalet situated above the valley, which inspired the name 'Sur-Val', meaning 'above the valley'.

In 1964, the school moved to Clarens and in 1967 Ms Andrea handed over the school to her nephew, Mr Fritz Sidler, who ran Surval until his death in 2010. The school grew significantly and with that came the opportunity to buy the Hotel Mont-Fleuri, a magnificent location on a hill above Territet with a breathtaking view of Lac Léman and the Alps. The school moved into its new home in 1998 and continues to thrive in this beautiful setting.

Surval enjoyed a long-standing reputation as a successful Swiss Finishing School and continues to offer courses in Etiquette, Culinary Arts and Languages.

In the last twenty years, Surval has undergone a remarkable evolution into a fully-fledged High School, which started in 2000 with the introduction of the American High School Programme.

Surval was acquired in 2012 by Bellevue Education, a UK based education group, and since then the school has been transformed into an internationally recognised boarding school for girls aged 12 to 19 with a broad, robust and flexible curriculum offering the option of IGCSEs and A Levels, alongside the American High School Programme.

The current Principal, Ms Nicola Dudley, joined Surval in August 2021. With recent growth in student numbers and fresh initiatives under the direction of the new Principal to reinvigorate and grow the school's provision and reputation, this is an exciting time to be joining Surval.

LOCATION

Surval enjoys a stunning hillside location just above the French-speaking Swiss town of Montreux (population 25,000). Montreux is a very safe and friendly town with excellent transport links to some of Europe's most exciting cities.

Surval is a 20-minute walk from the centre of Montreux. The school provides a minibus for the girls so that they can visit the town for walking, cycling, roller-blading or just for a coffee with friends. The vicinity to Montreux allows girls to enjoy some independence within the safety of a small town, giving parents peace of mind.

VALUES

Surval is committed to emboldening girls with the confidence, tenacity, and resilience to find their own path and success in life. At Surval, core values of courage, curiosity, honesty and openness equip girls for their tomorrow – promoted within a culture of courtesy, consideration and care.

Surval provides, within an international context, a unique education for girls which will enable each girl to become her best self and will prepare girls to play an active part in an increasingly global society.

The aspirational environment motivates, challenges, encourages and supports each girl. The school celebrates a culture of achievement that sets no limits and which enables each and every one to become the best she can be.

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

Surval offers a broad and flexible curriculum 12-19 to meet the interests and needs of our internationally diverse students.

The Foundation Year programme (UK Grade 8) leads into the 4-year Surval High School programme which offers a broad and flexible curriculum of options including a selection of Advanced Placements courses. IGCSEs are also offered subject to demand.

In Grades 11-12, girls aspiring to UK universities may opt to take AS and A-Levels. The Swiss Gap Experience programme is available to students who have completed their school studies.

The school's small class sizes (up to 10 students) enables a highly personalised approach to teaching and learning. The school's Teaching and Learning Charter is structured around CODE - Challenge, Ownership, Dialogue, Engagement. Teachers seek to optimise the opportunities to develop critical thinking and promote student-led discussion and debate.

Some girls come to Surval for one term or one year's study and the school ensures they have an effective transition to and from their home country. Others enter with the intention of moving up through the school and graduating from Surval.

Languages feature strongly at Surval. For most girls, English is their second language; lessons are taught in English, complemented by a strong emphasis on French, with all girls following the DELF programme.

The school also offers SAT, IELTS and TOEFL training, alongside a comprehensive university application and careers advice programme so that the girls are fully equipped for their future.

The aspirational environment motivates, challenges, encourages and supports each girl. The school celebrates a culture of achievement that sets no limits and which enables each and every one to become the best she can be.

FOUNDATION YEAR

The school offers a Foundation Year for girls from the age of 12 which provides excellent preparation for the High School Diploma Programme or for IGCSE and A Level courses.

The Foundation Year has a strong language element, which is ideal for girls wishing to improve their English. French is compulsory, and other languages are available through private tuition.

Foundation Year girls enjoy a broad curriculum, including Maths, Science and Global Perspectives, together with Art, Etiquette and Culinary Arts.

These formal studies are complemented and supported by a comprehensive Sports and Wellbeing programme and busy weekend activity schedule. The tutorial programme supports girls' personal, social and health education.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM

The school's 4-year High School Diploma programme provides an international study programme for students who wish to enter colleges, universities or business schools in the US, Canada, Latin America, Switzerland and elsewhere.

Surval's High School programme is modelled on the American High School programme and accredited according to the California Standards by COGNIA.

This course offers a college preparatory curriculum with an emphasis on fulfilling or exceeding requirements for high-quality university entrance.

UK universities also recognise the American High School programme, especially when combined with Advanced Placements which have been introduced in August 2021 and are already proving a popular addition to the school's High School programme.

IGCSE AND A LEVELS

Whilst the majority of current students are following the High School Diploma programme, Surval is experienced in offering IGCSEs and A-Levels for those girls aspiring to UK universities.

Surval prides itself on tailoring programmes to meet the needs of the girls and flexible programmes can be created to prepare the girls to sit iGCSEs and A-Levels in a range of subjects.

Surval offers Pearson Edexcel International IGCSE and A Level courses.

THE SURVAL SWISS GAP EXPERIENCE

The Surval Swiss Gap Experience offers a unique Pre-University programme for young women aged 17 to 19.

The programme has at its core Languages, Culture and Travel, complemented by Social Enterprise and Communications projects, as well as studies in International Relations and Global Perspectives, alongside Sports and Wellbeing activities.



WINTER CAMP PROGRAMME

Surval's Winter Camp Programme provides the perfect opportunity to combine academic studies with physical challenge in the superb Swiss snow.

The school offers plenty of opportunities for skiing such as whole-school skiing afternoons on Thursdays and weekends in Gstaad and other resorts, husky sledging, ice-skating, as well as visits to Bern, Interlaken and elsewhere. Surval ski week takes place in January at Anzère, close to the famous resort of Verbier.

Students joining Surval Winter Camp enjoy many activities and classes with girls who join for the full school year.

ENRICHMENT

Co-curricular enrichment is at the heart of each girl's Surval experience. The school takes girls beyond the syllabus and classroom to inspire them further in all areas of their personal growth, encouraging every girl to try new things and have a go.

The school has an impressive programme of visiting speakers from worldwide organisations, including most recently the former Director of UNESCO.

Staff make the most of the school's proximity to CERN, the UN and leading Swiss higher education establishments and professional organisations to enhance the girls' learning and experience.

SURVAL SUMMER CAMP

Surval Summer Camp is a fabulous holiday programme, exclusively for girls aged 8 to 16.

Language learning (English or French), combined with sunny Swiss adventure, promises a summer to remember and boundless fun. Personal challenge and the development of new skills, resilience and independence are all at the heart of the Surval Summer Camp and are enabled by a vast array of sports and activities on offer.

Weekly excursions explore the country. As the Survalienne alumnae testify, girls return home with friendships and memories for life and often wanting to return for the full school year! For those students and families who are considering boarding school for future studies, the summer camp provides a good taster of boarding life.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The school provides a broad range of activities for girls to discover their passions and talents. This include MUN (Model United Nations), giving girls the opportunity to participate in local, national and international conferences.

The Charity Committee is particularly popular and girls take the lead in raising awareness of and support for the work of a selection of charities. Students also enjoy Arts and Crafts, Fashion and Style analysis, Baking, Yearbook and language clubs, as well as the International Award (equivalent to the UK's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme).

The girls have the opportunity to represent their peers in Student Voice and the Food Committee.

ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL EXCURSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

Surval takes the weekends seriously! Girls enjoy the different opportunities and experiences offered through the extensive Weekend Activity programme: ranging from cultural excursions, extreme sports experiences and in-house projects. As part of discovering the beautiful, traditional cities of Switzerland, the girls have also enjoyed giving presentations in the United Nations and taking part in projects at CERN in Geneva, as well as visiting the Paul Klee, Natural History and Einstein Museums in Bern, to name a few.

The fantastic accessibility of Surval's location also offers the opportunity to explore the famous sights and sounds beyond Swiss borders. In three hours, girls can find themselves in Milan or Paris! Europa Park is also a firm favourite.

Surval girls love to travel; international trips are an essential part of the offering, typically taken during public and school holidays and with a wide-ranging choice across the world. In recent years, the girls have experienced a cultural tour of Greece, which also included a cruise around the Greek islands, as well as long weekends to Copenhagen's famous Christmas Market, Budapest, Iceland and an Easter tour of Japan.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES

As visitors to Switzerland, Surval takes seriously its commitment to the local community. Whilst COVID has hindered some activities recently, under normal circumstances girls work with Cartons du Coeur and help to pack boxes for the 'invisible poor', delivering them to safe and unidentifiable collection points.

Girls also support L'Etape programme which sets up a weekly food kitchen for the most neglected in the community, as well as volunteering for weekly visits to the elderly at the Byron Home to run activities with the residents.

These activities help the girls to consider the lives of others and build in them a strong sense of social responsibility. The school has established strong links with Habitat for Humanity, raising significant funds for the charity and sending senior girls for 10 days to help build homes in Kenya for dispossessed families.

SPORTS

Surval is a small campus, benefitting from its own tennis court, dance studio and fitness room. The school also makes full use of the wonderful surrounding environment to enable the girls to make the most of the great outdoors and take advantage of a rich sporting programme, both as part of timetabled sports and after school and weekend activities.

Surval offers a wide range of individual and team sports from basketball, volleyball and soccer, to running, climbing, rollerblading, hiking, tennis, cycling, dance, aerobics, fitness and yoga. Winter brings the opportunity for skiing, snowboarding, and ice-skating every week, and with that exploring and experiencing various Swiss resorts and slopes.

With the warmer weather comes the opportunity for water sports on the nearby and stunning Lac Léman, including water skiing, stand-up-paddle boarding, sailing and kayaking, as well as rafting and canyoning high up in the Swiss mountains. The girls also love horse riding at a local equitation centre.

BOARDING LIFE

Boarding is at the heart of Surval; the school is a much-loved home to our international family of full-boarders from around the world and staff are committed to ensuring every girl feels safe and secure, well cared for and happy. Each girl's welfare and well-being matters to us more than anything else.

The school recognises the benefits of having a diversity of nationalities. Each girl brings her own language, customs and traditions; part of the fun of boarding at Surval is learning about, enjoying and sharing each other's different backgrounds. Bedrooms are en-suite, with balconies overlooking the lake and mountains and typically shared by 2-4 girls.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on Surval Montreux and Bellevue Education please visit: www.surval.ch and www.blvue.com.

BELLEVUE EDUCATION

Bellevue Education was founded in 2003 with a single school in North London educating 40 children. Since its foundation, the family of schools has since grown to 21, comprising all-through schools, a sixth form college and two international schools. Bellevue works in partnership with schools, educating children and students aged from just a few months to 18 years throughout the UK and in Europe.

Bellevue's vision is to be a world-class group of exceptional schools, to which parents are proud to send their children; where students choose to study and teachers aspire to work. Bellevue's mission is to achieve academic excellence in an innovative and supportive learning environment where every student is treated as an individual. In 2018, Bellevue took a further step towards this vision and mission by joining the GEMS group.

Each Bellevue school is run independently, built on the foundation of the same shared values: broad curricula – delivered in innovative ways that excite and engage children; and investment – in teachers, buildings, and technology. Bellevue believes that exceptional results should be a by-product of the education that its schools offer, not the exclusive focus. Bellevue pupils are encouraged to aim high and all staff aim to provide them with everything they need to succeed.

The schools across the group are committed to providing an educational environment that challenges, nurtures, excites and involves every single pupil. As part of Bellevue Education, Surval Montreux benefits from being part of a large, international group with significant opportunities to collaborate and share best practice.



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Surval Montreux, Route de Glion 56, 1820 Montreux, Switzerland
+41 (0)21 966 16 16 info@surval.ch www.surval.ch