

Al-Rayan International School

Secondary ARISVersity Handbook

2025/2026

ARIS Core Purpose

"We are a diverse community of learners that are committed to inspire, empower and transform for a better world."

ARIS Core Values

- Greatness in Everyone
- Learning with Everyone
- Creativity and Innovation by Everyone
- > Service to Everyone
- Change for Everyone

ARIS Characteristics

- Responsibility and Respect
- Passion and Mindfulness
- Collaboration and Communication
- Reflection and Action

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the organization works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

ARIS offers the following programmes:

- The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP)
- The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP)
- The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. (IBDP)
- The International Baccalaureate Career Programme. (IBCP)

IB Learner Profile

The learner profile is at the heart of all IB program models. This profile brings the aspirations of the IB Curriculum to life and supports and promotes the development of student-centred education. Each unit of inquiry has one or more focused learner profiles linked to it. All IB programmes aim to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. As IB learners we strive to be:



INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.



THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.



CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.



BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.



KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.



COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.



OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.



RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.



REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

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Introduction

ARISVERSITY is a programme developed by AI Rayan International School to empower parents and strengthen the home-school partnership. Recognizing that an informed parent body is crucial for student success, ARISVERSITY offers a deep dive into the school's academic curricula over an 8-month course. Through interactive monthly sessions, parents will gain valuable insights into the key components of the MYP, IB Diploma, and IB Career-related Programs.

Objectives

The objectives of the ARISVERSITY course are:

- To provide parents with a comprehensive understanding of the educational frameworks used at Al Rayan International School in the secondary school.
- To equip parents with the knowledge and skills to actively support their children's learning journey.
- To foster open communication and collaboration between parents and school faculty.
- To empower parents to make informed decisions regarding their child's educational path.

Registration & Communication Process

- At the beginning of the Academic year, the Communications Department sends an email to all secondary school parents. This email includes a registration link and the ARISversity Handbook.
- Interested parents register by completing the online form.
- The Secondary Front Desk follows up with registered parents one week before each session to remind them of the upcoming session.
- Please note that this course is offered at no cost to participating parents.

ARISVersity Completion Requirements

To successfully complete the ARISversity program and receive a certificate of completion, participants are expected to:

Attend at least 7 out of 8 modules, each lasting one hour

- Arrive on time and attend the full duration of each session
- Actively participate in discussions and complete all assigned activities
- Demonstrate understanding of the course content throughout the sessions
- Complete the final assessment

Upon successful completion of at least 7 out of 8 modules and the final assessment, parents will receive a certificate and recognition during the ARISversity Completion Ceremony in the month of June.

Parents who miss more than a session will have the opportunity to catch up on the material the following academic year.

ARISVersity Course Structure 25/26

NB	Date	Module Title	Overview	Facilitator
1	Friday 26th September 2025	IB learner Profiles	The learner profile embodies the IB's mission to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. By understanding the IB Learner Profile, parents can reinforce these qualities at home and support the holistic development of their children.	MYP/DP/CP coordinators
2	Friday 31st October 2025	IB Core in MYP/DP/CP	The IB Core is the central component that unifies the Middle Years Programme (MYP), Diploma Programme (DP), and Career-related Programme (CP). Parents will learn about the key elements of the IB Core. Understanding the IB Core will give parents valuable insight into the holistic, transformative nature of an IB education at AI Rayan International School.	MYP/DP/CP coordinators
3	Friday 21st November 2025	ATL Skills	A cornerstone of the IB programmes, Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills equip students with the tools they need to become successful, lifelong learners. In this module, parents will gain a deep understanding of the 5 key ATL skill categories. Parents will learn how they can reinforce ATL skill development at home to support their children's growth and independence as learners.	ATL Coordinator
4	Friday 30th January	Academic Integrity	This module underscores the IB's commitment to developing principled learners who act with	MYP/DP/CP coordinators

	2026		integrity both in and outside the classroom. In this module, parents will explore the importance of academic integrity and the specific policies and practices in place at Al Rayan International School. The module will cover topics like academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, collusion, and cheating and the use of Al. By understanding the school's approach to academic integrity, parents can reinforce these principles with their children and partner with teachers to ensure honest, authentic academic work.	
5	Friday 20th February 2025	Assessment in DP/CP	Rigorous and varied assessment practices are integral to the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and IB Career-related Programme (CP) at Al Rayan International School. In this module, parents will better understand the external assessments, such as exams and coursework, that are externally marked by IB examiners and the internal assessments, including exhibitions, portfolios and assignments that are graded by IB teachers. By understanding the diverse range of assessments used in the DP and CP, parents can better support their children in managing workloads, preparing for exams, and showcasing their learning in authentic ways.	DP/CP coordinators
6	Friday 27th of March 2026	Assessment in MYP	In this module, parents will gain insight into the MYP assessment philosophy and practices, including the use of both formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress and the application of criterion-based assessment to evaluate student work against clear learning objectives. By understanding the MYP assessment model, parents can better support their children in setting learning goals, receiving meaningful feedback, and taking ownership of their educational journey.	MYP coordinator
7	Friday 24th of April 2026	Inclusion, Differentiati on and Access arrangemen ts	Ensuring an inclusive, equitable learning environment is a key priority at Al Rayan International School. In this module, parents will explore how the IB programmes address the diverse needs of all students through differentiation and access arrangements. By understanding the school's inclusive policies, practices and special accommodation, parents	Enhancement Programme Coordinator

			can partner with teachers to ensure their children have the necessary support to thrive in the IB programmes.	
8	Friday 29th May 2026	Service Learning	Service learning is a cornerstone of the IB programmes at Al Rayan International School, empowering students to make meaningful contributions to their local and global communities. In this module, parents will explore the school's approach to service learning, which is embedded across the curriculum. By understanding service learning at Al Rayan, parents can encourage their children to apply their knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world.	Service Learning Coordinator
9	Wednesday 10th of June 2026	Celebration of Learning	The final session of Arisversity is a <i>Celebration of Learning</i> where participants proudly present their final assessments in front of their classmates and members of the ARIS leadership team. This culminating event highlights the personal and professional growth each participant has achieved throughout the programme. Following the presentations, participants will be awarded certificates to recognize their successful completion of Arisversity and to celebrate their commitment, effort, and development over the course of the programme.	MYP/DP/CP coordinators

ARISVersity Final Assessment

For ARIS Parent Learners in the IB Framework

1. Introduction

The final assessment for ARISversity is designed to provide parents with an opportunity to reflect on their learning journey, demonstrate their understanding of IB principles, and connect their insights to real-life applications. The assessment is **engaging**, **flexible**, **and accessible**, ensuring that all participants can showcase their learning in a meaningful way.

2. Eligibility for the Final Assessment

To participate in the final ARISversity assessment, parents must have demonstrated consistent engagement throughout the program. Eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Parents must have attended at least 7 out of the 8 ARISversity modules.
- Attendance records will be reviewed to confirm participation.
- Parents who do not meet the attendance requirement will not be eligible to complete the final assessment or participate in the **completion ceremony**.

3. Assessment Options & Formats

Parents may choose from the following four assessment formats based on their interests and preferred mode of expression. The parents can refer to the <u>Padlet</u> to review previous modules.

You may choose your preferred submission format for each task:

- Written essay (750- 1000 words)
- ✓ Video recording (5-7 minutes)
- Audio reflection (5-7 minutes)
- ✓ Infographic- Canva or creative visual (PPT slides, Cardboard presentation)

Assessment Submission Format:

- Submission Deadline: One week before the final session (by end of the day 5th of June 2026)
- Format Requirements:
 - Essays: Typed, 12pt font, PDF format 750- 1000 words
 - Presentations: Live or pre-recorded (MP4 format, max 7 mins).
 - Visual Projects: Infographic (PNG/PDF), Poster (A3 size), or Video (max 3 mins).
 - Case Study: Written (PDF) or Recorded (MP4, max 5 mins).
- All submissions should be completed through email to:

dpcoordinator@aris.edu.gh
cpcoordinator@aris.edu.gh
mypcoordinator@aris.edu.gh

• Support Available: Parents can ask for guidance in the final module (Service) or send an email to any of the coordinators.

Parent Reflection and Engagement Task: "Bringing the IB Home"

As part of our ARISversity experience, we invite you to complete one of the following reflective tasks, applying what you've learned about the IB philosophy, principles, and practices. These tasks are designed to deepen your understanding of how the IB can support your child's educational journey—and your role in it.

Option 1: Reflective Response – "Why Academic Integrity Matters in the IB"

★ Scenario:

Your friend who has a son in your child's school has been called in for a meeting at school because his child has been involved in a case of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism in an assignment). Your friend feels confused about why the school is treating this as such a serious issue.

Task:

Reflect on why academic integrity is a core value in IB education and how it shapes learners beyond the classroom. Explain how understanding and upholding academic honesty helps develop principled, responsible global citizens.

Guiding Prompts:

- Why does the IB place such emphasis on academic integrity?
- How does it connect to the IB Learner Profile (e.g., Principled, Reflective)?
- How can parents support and model academic honesty at home?
- What strategies can help your child understand the importance of doing their own work?

Option 2: Advisory Role Play - "Helping Another Parent Understand IB"

📌 Scenario:

A fellow parent has reached out to you because they're considering moving their child to an IB school. They've heard it's very different from other education systems and want to understand why it might be a good choice. They ask for your honest insights and experience.

Task:

Respond as if you are advising this parent. Share key takeaways from your own

learning about the IB philosophy, its approach to holistic education, and how it supports students to become internationally-minded, balanced learners.

Guiding Prompts:

- What makes IB different from other systems?
- How does the IB prepare students for real-world challenges and opportunities?
- What has impressed you most about the IB Learner Profile, Core (TOK, CAS, EE), or ATL skills?
- How has your perspective on education or parenting shifted through learning about the IB?

Option 3: "Bringing IB Principles into Parenting"

★ Scenario:

Imagine you are creating a resource to help other parents understand and apply Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills or IB values at home. Your goal is to demonstrate how these principles can support your child's growth, learning, and wellbeing in a home setting.

@ Task:

Choose **one key IB concept** that resonated with you during the ARISversity modules, and present how it can be applied in **parenting or home learning**. Your work should clearly show how this concept connects to your experience as a parent and how it can benefit others in the ARIS community.

Possible Focus Areas:

- Helping your child develop self-management or research skills at home.
- Encouraging reflective thinking or open-mindedness in family conversations.
- Supporting balanced routines and caring habits to foster wellbeing and academic growth.

Option 4: Case Study Analysis – "Navigating the IB Way"

★ Scenario Choices (choose one):

- a) Your child struggles with time management, often leaving assignments to the last minute and feeling stressed. How can you help them develop self-management ATL skills using IB strategies?
- b) Your child needs to complete a CAS experience, but feels unsure about how

to choose a meaningful activity. How can you guide them to find and reflect on an experience that aligns with IB values?

c) You observe that your child is facing peer pressure to take shortcuts in their schoolwork. How can you encourage them to uphold academic integrity and be a principled learner?

Task:

Analyze your chosen scenario and propose IB-aligned strategies you would use as a parent to support your child in navigating the situation.

Quiding Prompts:

- How does the IB framework help address this challenge?
- Which Learner Profile attributes or ATL skills are important in this case?
- How can you model and reinforce IB values at home?

♠ 4. ARISversity Parent Assessment Rubrics by Format

1. Written Essay (750–1000 words)

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Clarity & Structure	Clear, logical structure with strong introduction, body, and conclusion	Mostly clear structure; minor lapses in flow	Some organization ; some ideas unclear	Lacks clear structure and coherence
Application of IB Concept	Insightful and specific application to parenting/home learning	Good understandi ng and relevant application	Basic understandi ng; application could be deeper	Limited or unclear understanding/a pplication
Reflection & Personal Connection	Deep, thoughtful reflection and strong personal relevance	Reflective with some personal examples	Some reflection; examples may be general	Limited reflection or personal connection

engaging style errors, generally m	errors; difficult to follow language may hinder clarity
readable	

2. Video Recording (5–7 minutes)

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improveme nt (1)
Delivery & Engagement	Confident, expressive, and engaging delivery	Clear delivery with some engagement	Uneven delivery, limited expression	Low engageme nt; hard to follow
Content & Organization	Clear focus, well-organized content with smooth transitions	Mostly clear and organized	Some clarity; transitions may be choppy	Lacks focus or clear structure
Application of IB Concept	Strong, meaningful application to parenting/home learning	Relevant application with clear understanding	Basic application with general ideas	Unclear or minimal connection
Reflection & Relevance	Thoughtful, personal insights and practical relevance	Reflective with some connection to personal experience	Some reflection; may lack depth	Minimal reflection or relevance

3. Audio Reflection (5–7 minutes)

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improveme
				nt (1)

Clarity & Expression	Clear, expressive voice; easy to understand	Mostly clear; few lapses in tone or pace	Some difficulty in clarity or tone	Hard to hear or follow consistentl y
Organization of Ideas	Logical flow with strong structure	Mostly organized; some transitions could improve	Partially organized; some ideas jumbled	Disorganiz ed or difficult to follow
Application of IB Concept	Insightful, relevant application with strong connection	Appropriate application with good understanding	General application; needs deeper insight	Minimal or unclear application
Personal Reflection	Deep, authentic reflection and connection to parenting	Personal and reflective, some depth	Basic reflection; may feel surface-level	Little personal insight or reflection

4. Infographic or Creative Visual (e.g., Canva, PPT, cardboard)

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvemen t (1)
Visual Design	Eye-catching, well-organized, visually balanced	Appealing and organized with some design strengths	Basic visuals; may be cluttered or sparse	Poor layout or hard to read visuals
Content Accuracy	Clearly communicates one IB concept with relevant examples	Mostly clear and accurate; minor gaps	Message is somewhat unclear or lacks clarity	Unclear or inaccurate concept representatio n
Application to Parenting	Strong, specific application to home/family context	Good application with some relevance	General or vague connection	Weak or missing link to parenting

Creativity &	Highly original,	Creative and	Some	Minimal
Effort	shows clear effort	thoughtful	creative	effort or
	and thought	presentation	effort shown	creativity