

AUS Accreditation Communiqué

LEARNING - ANYPLACE, ANYTIME

Accreditation Team Visit—What to Expect?

During the 2015-2016 school year, AUS began the process of dual accreditation through CIS/MSA. This process will culminate with a seven day peer review by Visiting Team (VT) consisting of nine experienced educators and administrators from CIS/MSA member schools throughout the region.

The Visiting Team is scheduled to visit AUS from **November 23 – 30, 2017.**

The primary function of the VT is to assist the school by providing an objective evaluation of the conclusions of the Self-Study, the process by which the conclusions have been derived, and the supporting documents. The VT observes each classroom and talks with students, parents, faculty/staff and members of the school's Board/Governing Body.

The Visiting Team analyzes all aspects of the school in the light of the Self-Study Report, the AUS Guiding Statements, and the CIS/MSA School Evaluation Criteria. It then submits its report and recommendation to award accreditation to the CIS/MSA Accreditation Staff. After careful review, the recommendation is presented to the Director of School Support and Evaluation who awards accreditation and makes recommendations for future growth and improvement.

The AUS Mission, Vision, and Guiding Statements can be found at <https://www.aus.edu.kw/welcome-to-aus/mission-vision>.

Why Seek Dual Accreditation?

Being accredited says to the other K-12 school, colleges and universities that AUS:

- *Seeks continuous improvement through a rigorous self-evaluation process using internationally agreed upon standards.*
- *Uses feedback from external agencies (CIS/MSA) to create targets for improvement and benchmarks for measuring success.*
- *Maintains a commitment to provide a high quality education.*

Standard at a Glance

Standard B: Teaching and Learning: In Standard B, AUS teachers and administrators reviewed the most integral component of AUS—Teaching and Learning. This standard guided AUS teachers and administrators through critical conversations about how we educate students for success in an ever-changing world.

As a part of this review, we examined the curriculum, teaching practices, student support services, and teacher training for alignment with the school's mission, vision, and guiding statements. We identified intercultural connections and clear indicators of global citizenship. As a result, we have created plans for continued growth and improvement in the areas of curriculum design, implementation & alignment, assessment data analysis to improve student achievement, teacher professional development, and student support resources.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

AUS firmly believes that our students, teachers, and staff are part of a larger community which extends beyond his/her current cultural community and geographic location. The Steering Committee has worked to create a definition of and indicators for what it means to be an AUS Global Student, Global Teacher, and Global Leader. These definitions are ingrained into the AUS experience. AUS students learn to show empathy to others and grow to understand the lasting impact their actions have on the world.

INTERCULTURALISM

At AUS, interculturalism works in concert with our definitions of an AUS Global Student, Global Teacher, and Global Leader. Interculturalism for AUS students, teachers, and staff moves beyond the celebration of food, flags, and festivals. It involves actively seeking to understand different cultures through dialogue and study. It reflects the common belief that understanding other cultures promotes diversity and illuminates similarities between cultures.

NEXT STEPS

The accreditation reports will be submitted to the School Leadership Team in June for final revisions and review.

The final accreditation reports will be sent to CIS/MSA School Evaluation Committee who will then assign members to the Visiting Team.

The Visiting Team will visit AUS from **November 23 – 30, 2017.**

Parents, teachers, students, and staff may be invited to share their experiences with the Visiting Team.

Which Areas of the School Will Be Evaluated?

All aspects of AUS will be evaluated through one or more of the following standards:

- *Standard A: School Guiding Statements*
- *Standard B: Teaching and Learning*
- *Standard C: Governance and Leadership*
- *Standard D: Faculty and Support Staff*
- *Standard E: Access to Teaching and Learning*
- *Standard F: School Culture and Partnerships for Learning*
- *Standard G: Operational Systems*

Detailed information about the accreditation process can be found at: <http://www.cois.org/page.cfm?p=1907>