

HOCHALPINES INSTITUT FTAN
SWISS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND SPORTS ACADEMY



January 2026

HIF Candidate Brief: Head of International

Where Exploration Meets Education

The Hochalpines Institut Ftan provides inspirational learning opportunities and student experiences beyond the ordinary.



We are looking for a dynamic candidate to lead our International programme, educating young people in Key Stage 4 and developing our Post-16 provision in our stunning Swiss alpine location.

Our Story

In 1793, amidst the serene Swiss Alps, the Hochalpines Institut Ftan (HIF) was founded, embodying an early vision for holistic education.

Over the centuries, HIF has evolved into a distinguished co-educational boarding school, offering diverse programmes such as the Swiss Bilingual Matura and the International Diploma Programme seamlessly integrating well-being, experiential learning, and an international perspective into everyday life.

HIF prepares students to navigate an interconnected world confidently. The introduction of the Sports Academy further showcases HIF's commitment to nurturing both academic excellence and athletic prowess, allowing students to pursue competitive sports alongside their studies.



Today, students immerse themselves in hands-on exploration and adventure-driven experiences, fostering resilience, independence, and a deep connection to nature - preparing them for success, balance, and global citizenship. HIF is part of the EiM (Education in Motion) Group.

Diverse academic pathways

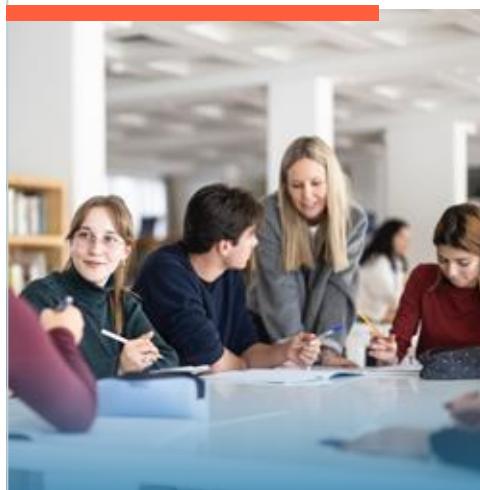
With a culture of intellectual curiosity and a commitment to rigorous learning, HIF equips students with the knowledge and skills to excel in an ever-evolving world.

Our choice of academic pathways empowers students to forge their own futures. Whether opting for the bilingual Swiss Matura or the HIF International Advanced Diploma that combines A-levels with additional 'WorldWise' Future skills and outdoor learning, our approach allows each student to achieve their potential.

Swiss Matura

Years 8 - 13

World-renowned multilingual Swiss secondary school diploma



International Advanced Diploma

Years 9 - 13

Unique mix of UK qualifications combined with hands-on learning and accreditations

Combining academic rigour with practical, future-focused, personal pathways





School Vision



The Hochalpines Institut Ftan provides inspirational learning opportunities and student experiences beyond the ordinary. Through our interconnected and progressive curriculum, we equip our students with the wisdom, spirit, knowledge, and skills required to become healthy, responsible, and enabled global citizens, impassioned to make a positive contribution to society and the planet.

School Mission - Experience HIF



Hochalpines Institut Ftan (HIF) offers more than education – young people aged 12-18 embark on a purpose-driven and academically rigorous transformational journey. Through excellent academic instruction, unbeatable outdoor experiences and top-quality sports provision, our students grow into capable and engaged global citizens, ready to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Set in the breathtaking Swiss Alps, our environment is both our classroom and our playground, offering students daily access to nature, adventure, and self-discovery.

Rooted in over 200 years of educational tradition and embedded in the rich culture of the Lower Engadine, HIF blends regional heritage with a global future. Our diverse boarding community brings lifelong friendships, intercultural belonging and a profound sense of belonging.

Our international community connects students to a global ecosystem of schools and learning opportunities. Organisations such as CERN, the World Economic Forum, and partnerships with The Villars Institute and Leadership Skills Foundation, expand learning into real-world contexts and networks. Academic pathways at HIF are flexible and personalised. Whether pursuing the Swiss Matura or the International Advanced Diploma with A Levels, students benefit from small classes, individual support, and room to grow.



Jared Nolan
Head of Campus

School Mission - Experience HIF



Our teaching fosters independence, critical thinking, and a strong sense of agency in every learner.

Beyond academic excellence, we equip students with the skills to succeed in life: systems thinking, financial literacy, environmental leadership and more – all gained through experiential learning and real credentials.

At HIF, wellbeing is woven into daily life. Strong student-teacher relationships, time in nature, and a safe, stable Swiss environment enable students to develop self-awareness, confidence and emotional strength.

Through our elite Sports Academy, students train with expert coaches in disciplines such as skiing, snowboarding, sailing, and more.

Whether aspiring to Olympic-level competition or simply passionate about sport, they learn resilience, discipline, and the joy of performance.

At HIF, students gain more than a qualification. They graduate with the mindset, skills, and global fluency to shape their future and contribute meaningfully to the world beyond.



Students come first



'Students come first' is at the heart of HIF. Whether it is on-campus or in an online environment, all learning experiences are designed with the needs, talents and capabilities of our students as the focus. HIF believes that children should be respected and their views should be heard. Helping students cultivate their own voice and choice in the way they learn and enabling them to become mature learners who can take ownership of their learning, is a big part of life. This is what the school understands as 'Student Agency', critical for academic success, university life and beyond.

The school provides a **safe, secure and stimulating environment** and believes wholeheartedly in educating the whole child, with students gaining knowledge and an understanding of the world by questioning, actively solving problems and working collaboratively together. Awareness of the natural world and its resources is important as children learn to live their lives honestly with a spirit of respect for themselves and others.



HIF Principles



The bedrock for successful learning and the ability to lead a happy, fulfilling life is for children to feel valued, appreciated and secure.

Young people thrive when they develop a sense of connectedness with the natural environment and experience the intense joy found in outdoor activities. This promotes good health and a vital sense of personal well-being.

Each individual student has a unique set of talents, learning preferences and personal qualities. An HIF education helps them discover these talents, develop their potential and pursue their dreams.

HIF graduates believe in themselves and their ability to succeed.

HIF graduates devote themselves to life-long learning.





Educational offering

HIF
INTERNATIONAL
DIPLOMA
PROGRAMME

IGNITE
EXCHANGE
PROGRAMME

SWISS MATURA

SPORTS
ACADEMY

International Diploma programme



The launch of our new HIF International Advanced Diploma for September 2025 introduced the globally recognized British international curriculum for Years 9-13 alongside a range of accredited experiential learning opportunities.

Students build a dynamic 'Future Skills' credit profile alongside studying A-Level qualifications, giving graduates the qualifications they need to be accepted into top global universities, alongside real-world skills that will prepare them for success in a rapidly changing future.

The HIF International Diploma cultivates:

- Critical thinking skills
- Digital and technical skills
- Creativity and entrepreneurship
- Emotional intelligence and collaboration
- Adaptability and lifelong learning

The Head of International will work closely with the Head of Gymnasium who leads these programmes, to support the mutual development of all curriculum offerings at HIF.



Ignite:Switzerland

HIF is home to the unique educational opportunity exclusively available to Year 9 students of Sherfield School Hampshire UK, and Dulwich College International schools globally, offering these students an exciting and diverse curriculum of indoor and outdoor learning opportunities, all taking place in our breathtaking alpine environment.

Spending 12 weeks with HIF, participants cannot fail to be inspired and uplifted by the wildlife, mountains, forests, and rivers of the Lower Engadin valley.

Students are encouraged to develop their sense of adventure, independence, and discovery, through a rigorous core academic programme, a range of electives, and our 'Seasonal Sport Programme'.



Swiss Matura (Gymnasium)



The Swiss Matura is the official secondary school-leaving qualification in Switzerland. It is the main pathway to university education for students in the Swiss system. Rigorous and comprehensive, the Matura programme is approved by the federal and cantonal authorities and gives students the unrestricted right to study at Swiss universities.

The bilingual Matura programme can be entered in Year 8 or Year 10 for students who meet the language requirements of fluent German, a second Swiss national language (Rhaeto-Romanic, French or Italian) and English. The bilingual Matura is examined in German and a second language. Teachers provide advice and support to help students find their way to the course of studies that best matches their needs and abilities.

In the Swiss Matura, teaching and learning are guided by the aims and objectives set out in the federal and cantonal curriculum frameworks, emphasising:

A broad, rigorous general education

- Developing age-appropriate study skills and problem-solving strategies
- Self-directed, independent learning
- Project-based collaborative learning in teams
- Acquisition of in-depth, specialised knowledge in selected subjects
- Ability to evaluate arguments and evidence used in academic publications

The multi-faceted learning is enriched by excursions in Switzerland, academic clubs, participation in the student parliament, hikes in the Alps, music and art, as well as programmes to develop leadership skills and resilience.



HIF Sports Academy



Academic Excellence + Sporting Excellence

The HIF Sports Academy is one of the oldest and most successful Swiss sports schools and is also a Swiss-Ski regional performance center (RLZ) for the disciplines of alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, biathlon and snowboard freestyle.

With professional and individual support, we develop the full potential of competitive athletes as well as those athletes who want to improve technique and performance.

This unique and successful model has already taken over 20 HIF athletes to the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) and/or the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF). Over two dozen HIF skiers, biathletes, cross-country skiers and snowboarders have made it to the Winter Olympics in the course of their careers.



The Role: Head of International

HIF is seeking an exceptional candidate to lead the International Program from August 2026.

Reporting to the Head of Campus, the Head of International will build on the achievements of an established team and seek to further develop the school's academic activities, outreach, and growing reputation.

Successful candidates will be proven and credible professionals, with the ability to lead highly capable teams. The Head of International must possess the intercultural sensitivity and adaptability required to effectively navigate an international environment. They must be a team player, have the agility and drive to continue to support the growth of the International School at HIF, and be genuinely excited by the opportunities afforded to them as part of a wider network of high performing schools.



The successful candidate will:

- Be a capable leader with relevant experience of development and execution of strategy.
- Have a demonstrated commitment to putting children first, motivated by the passion about delivering the best education.
- Have relevant leadership experience in a British curriculum school
- Experience of GCSE and A-Level examinations with an understanding of how to use data to improve learning and teaching.
- Have proven experience of being able to collaboratively analyse problems, reach reasoned judgements and resolve issues.
- Be a highly committed team player with the drive, energy and passion to develop an expanding and forward-looking school and work within a network of schools.
- Have excellent communication and relationship building skills.
- Have high personal and professional expectations.
- Have demonstrable evidence of working effectively with integrity under pressure.
- Present as an effective and confident ambassador for HIF.
- Have a growth mindset.
- Show initiative and be able to pre-empt issues and challenges.



How to apply?

Referees will not be approached until the final stages and not without prior permission from candidates.

To apply, please submit a comprehensive CV and covering letter, which sets out your interest in the role and encapsulates the aspects of your experience relevant to the required criteria. Please include the names and addresses of three referees.

The closing date for applications is February 28th 2026.

Preliminary interviews will be conducted online, after which shortlisted candidates will be invited to HIF to take part in a sequence of in-person interviews.

In person interviews at HIF will take place mid March 2026, subject to availability.

Inclusion statement

Education in Motion is committed to diversity within our team, organisational practices, policies and culture. We recognise that people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions, and it encourages and leverages these differences to make our work more relevant and approachable.

Education in Motion will not discriminate or tolerate discriminatory behaviour on any grounds such as, but not limited to, race, gender, disability, nationality, national or ethnic origin, religion or belief, marital/partnership or family status, sexual orientation, age or socioeconomic background.

Education in Motion strives to be an inclusive workplace where everyone feels a sense of belonging, has a voice, can raise concerns, and feels comfortable and confident.



We expect everyone who works within to share this commitment and to act accordingly, as we aspire to best serve the Education in Motion mission and the community. Education in Motion is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all applicants to share the same.

We follow safe recruitment practices which are aligned to the recommendations of the International Task Force on Child Protection. We hold ourselves to a high standard of effective recruiting practices with specific attention to child protection.



Thank you

