



Myanmar International School Yangon (MISY) (Campuses in Yangon and Mandalay)

Background Information

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in teaching at MISY. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some information about the school to help you decide whether you wish to apply for a teaching position. If you do decide to apply please read the separate document '*How to apply for a teaching post*' which you can download from the *Vacancies* section of our web site (www.misyedu.com).

Recent history

The MISY Yangon campus opened in August 2009. Since then the school has grown rapidly with a current enrolment of approximately 610 students. Classes throughout the school now are almost full, indeed classes in years 1-6 are all completely full, and our Yangon campus is a vibrant, noisy but crowded place.

MISY will be opening a second campus in Mandalay in August 2018. The Mandalay campus will initially cater to classes from Nursery to Year 8.

Early years and primary curriculum

Students in the early years and primary sections follow the English National Curriculum suitably modified for international students. They also study two additional languages, Myanmar and Mandarin.

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes seek to develop the students' language by using Jolly Phonics. The Oxford Reading Tree and Pie Corbett story telling are also widely used in the primary section.

Secondary curriculum

Students in Years 7-9 follow the English National Curriculum suitably modified for international students. They also study two additional languages, Myanmar and Mandarin.

Students in Years 10 and 11 can follow IGCSE courses, or ASDAN courses, or a combination of both. AS and A2 courses are offered to students in Years 12 and 13 along with ASDAN courses.

Primary leadership structure

The Head of Primary in Yangon is supported by a Head of Early Years & Key Stage 1, a Head of Key Stage 2 plus a Head of Pastoral Care & PSHE, Head of Data Tracking & Analysis, and a Lead Teaching Assistant.

Secondary leadership structure

The Head of Secondary in Yangon is supported by a Deputy Head, an Examinations Officer and numerous Heads of Department.

The Learning Centre (TLC) currently at our Yangon campus only

The Learning Centre (TLC) caters for students with special learning needs. Some TLC students are taught separately but the majority are either partially or fully integrated into mainstream classes.

Working at MISY

Teachers are largely from the UK and Myanmar with a smaller number from Australia, Canada, USA or other parts of the English speaking world. Non-teaching staff and Teaching Assistants are all Myanmar nationals. Students are well behaved and motivated. Parental support is good but with accompanying high expectations. The school is reasonably resourced and over the coming years will try to improve and update resources. Salaries are modest by UK standards, however, the cost of living in Myanmar is much less than in the UK. I asked if some teachers would like answer the question “*Why teach at MISY*” and also to give an indication of their lifestyle and savings potential. Here are a few of their answers.

Teacher 1:

MISY, like Myanmar is an exciting place to work as it going through a process of change and progression. It is a warm and welcoming school, students are polite and friendly and eager to learn, the school allows a good work life balance. For me it offered an excellent opportunity for professional development. Yangon is a great city to live in with lots of things to do; working at MISY affords you quite a good quality of life. As a single expat I save approximately US\$1000 a month. I think you could easily save more - I am not particularly frugal - I eat out regularly, and have done quite a lot of travelling within and outside of Myanmar since I have been here.

Teacher 2:

Great kids, friendly caring staff. Smaller and positive school atmosphere: can feel there's a heart here thanks to inclusion of special needs students to varying extents, in regular classrooms. Creative opportunities at primary: two stage performances each year, plus after school activities to teach one day after school. Primary teachers all have full time Teaching Assistants. Teachers bring their skills and talents to this school, and are welcomed to implement them. As a single teacher, I save approximately US\$1000 per month (which becomes retirement savings) out of my salary if I take into account my monthly housing payment, food, taxis, two flights to USA each year, three voluntary visa runs, plus travel on breaks and vacations.

Teacher 3:

There is a real drive for excellence this year as we set ourselves up for CIS membership. If you're up for the challenge, you can have a real impact here as the school takes big strides forward. This is an extremely exciting time to be a teacher at MISY. As a professional couple without kids and with a modest lifestyle I am saving about 60% of my salary.

Teacher 4:

As a family of four with two earning teachers at MISY we have been able to save a total of US\$30-US\$35,000 per annum. We live a frugal lifestyle (we don't eat out regularly and when we do we do we don't go to expatriate restaurants), but enjoy travelling in Myanmar and overseas. We have visited Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore etc. Our travelling is limited to Asia as return visits to our home country with a family of four is cost prohibitive.

Teacher 5:

Working at MISY has been an exciting journey and one which has nurtured me into the teacher I am today. It has been a school where I have felt trusted and encouraged, which in turn has provided great opportunity to grow and be autonomous in my teaching. The school has a real community feel about it, filled with teachers and students who are supportive of one another.

Teacher 6:

The students are great! With few exceptions, the students are compliant, respectful and cooperative. MISY students help to make the school an enjoyable place to work.

David Wakefield
Head of Schools
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