



# Years 10 & 11 Course Guide

Learning together  
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# Introduction

The British School of Brussels (BSB) is an inclusive, international learning community for students from approximately 70 different nations. We offer a wide choice of 15 (I)GCSE and BTEC subjects for 14-16 year olds at examination level, in addition to the core subjects of English Literature and Language, French, Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry which all students will study.

Though we are a non-selective school, our standards are high. We have a consistently very high (I)GCSE pass rate. Equally, with our results at Post-16 for our three pre-university courses: The IB Diploma, BTEC and A Levels our results are superb. (100% pass rate in IB for four years running and 99% pass rate for A Level). A comprehensive Higher Education advice team is on hand to direct students on their future careers leading up to their choices for A Level, BTEC and IB in Years 12 and 13.

In recent years, the whole campus has been redeveloped and improved. Impressive facilities include: 11 well-equipped Science laboratories, Maths and Computing areas, a Modern Languages centre, a Drama studio and recording studios as well as an Arts Centre, an excellent Music Suite and film-editing facilities. Design and Technology, Food and Textiles workshops have state of the art equipment. All our main classrooms have modern furniture and are fitted with interactive whiteboards. There is wifi connection across the whole campus as all students from Year 10-13 are expected to bring their own device into school. Students have their own large lockers securely accessed through an individual electronic card, which also contain USB low charging facilities. To add to our existing sports facilities, our new 25 million euro Jacques Rogge Sports Centre, containing a competition-standard swimming pool, opened in September 2016.

All students are encouraged to take part in our extensive range of extra-curricular activities and student leadership programme. In addition, the school has a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular trips on offer to students throughout the two years.

A link to comprehensive information all our courses can be found on our website. [www.britishschool.be](http://www.britishschool.be)



# The Core Curriculum

The Year 10 and 11 curriculum is broadly based on the English curriculum and is adapted by our teachers with the aim of ensuring that students follow a broad and balanced range of courses and have access to a wide variety of teaching and learning styles.

The **English General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)** and the **International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)** are public examinations which provide a superb foundation for preparing students for more advanced study in Years 12 and 13. ***A new wave of GCSEs introduced from September 2016 will be graded 9-1, 9 being the top grade and a 5 or 4 being seen as a satisfactory standard. Dutch will be expected to follow the old grading system of A\*-G.***

Most students take **six core subjects** and **three or four optional subjects** at (I)GCSE or BTEC, and so usually take a total of nine or ten (I)GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11.

Whichever of our three courses students study from 16-18, (I)GCSE grades will form an important part of any application to university, especially in the UK since they will probably be the only qualifications a student has at the point of higher education application in Year 13. For students planning to apply for places on the most selective courses at university, it will be essential also to have achieved top grades at GCSE and IGCSE as well as IB and A Levels. Students wishing to study subjects at A Levels or IB Higher Level, it will be necessary to have at least a grade B at (I)GCSE and a grade A or above for Mathematics or Science. The present entry criteria can be seen in the Post-16 Course Guide.

BTEC is graded, D\* (starred) or D (Distinction), M (Merit) and P (Pass). BTEC is continually assessed throughout Year 10 and 11 through units of work and hence no examinations are presently taken for BTEC at the end of Year 11.





# The Option Subjects

The optional subjects are divided into four curriculum areas:

- humanities
- second additional language
- creative subjects
- technological subjects.

For most students, breadth and balance will be achieved by choosing an option from each area. However, it is recognised that the backgrounds, talents and aspirations of BSB students vary greatly and the option system has been designed to allow a certain degree of flexibility.

*Provision is made within the option system for non-native English speakers to improve their English with specialist help from the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department. Learning Support may replace **one (!)GCSE option** - this should be discussed with the Learning Support Department. For those students for whom a ten (!)GCSE programme may not be appropriate or desirable: for example, those students who may need additional learning or language support, have a heavy extra-curricular load, Supervised Study, or under the guidance of a member of staff, may replace one option. This allows these students to increase their chances of achieving better grades in their remaining subjects.*

Initially, all students must choose **at least one subject from Group 1** and **at least one subject from Group 2**.



Group One	
<b>Humanities</b>	History
	Geography
	BTEC Business
<b>Second Additional Language</b>	German
	Dutch
	Spanish
	English as an Additional Language

Group Two	
<b>Creative</b>	Art
	Drama
	Music
	Physical Education
<b>Technological</b>	Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
	Design & Technology: Textiles
	Food & Nutrition
	Computing

Students are strongly advised to select six subjects initially, then put the preferred four subjects on the choice form. The remaining two will act as your reserve subjects.

From this initial student selection, our option blocks will then be published in March. These will aim to meet the maximum number of choices possible, but it will not be possible to meet all options. Also, subjects will need to have a minimum of ten students selecting the subject for it to run.

From March, new students to BSB will need to select one subject from each of our four option blocks. Option blocks are available from our Admissions Department.



## An international learning community

**The British School of Brussels vzw**

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