

High School Profile



The School and Community

Founded in 1970 with a vision to be one of the best British, international schools in the world, The British School of Brussels (BSB) is a thriving international learning community, with children from the ages of 1-18 years from over 70 different countries. Based in the eastern suburbs of Brussels on a state-of-the-art campus, we offer a high-quality, holistic education to students of all abilities and linguistic backgrounds. Tuition is mainly in English, although bilingual learning is also offered in French, along with support for other mother-tongue languages. The largest student population comes from the UK (34%). Extra-curricular activities are numerous, covering sport, music, drama and much more and there is also a strong pastoral focus in the school. Students are encouraged to develop wider skills beyond the academic, to take part in service learning opportunities and to see themselves as global citizens of the future, able and willing to make a difference in the world.

Curriculum

The British School of Brussels is made up of two schools: the Primary School - ages 3-11- and the Secondary School - ages 11-18.

All students follow the UK (English) National Curriculum up to age 16. This is enhanced to meet the needs of internationally mobile and expatriate families in Belgium.

Students take the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and the International General Certificate of Secondary Education Examinations (IGCSE) at age 16. Students can also take BTEC (a vocational qualification awarded by the Business and Technology Education Council in the UK) at Level 2 in Business.

They then choose to study for the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level, the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or BTEC Level 3. Some students combine A Levels with Level 3 BTECs. Students study for these in Senior Section – the last two years of education at BSB. Most students studying A Level and/or BTEC will also complete an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification).

The following IB Diploma Subjects are offered:

Biology
Business & Management
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design Technology
Dutch Language B
Dutch Language A: Language & literature
Economics
English Literature
Environmental Systems & Society
Film
French Language B
French Language A: Language & Literature
French ab initio
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
History
Mathematics
Mathematical Studies
Music

Physics
Psychology
Spanish
Theatre Arts
Visual Arts

The following A Level Subjects are offered:

Art & Design (Fine Art)
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computing
Design & Technology
Dutch
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
Government & Politics
History

Mathematics (Mechanics)
Mathematics (Statistics)
Media Studies
Music
Music Technology
Physics
Sociology
Spanish
Textiles

The following BTEC subjects are offered:

Applied Science
Business
Hospitality
Sport

All classes are taught in English, except for language classes and in the Bilingual Programme in Year 7-9, where 35% of lessons are taught in French. A number of students each year sit for the Bilingual IB Diploma.

Class rank and GPA

The British School of Brussels does not rank or calculate GPA for students. There is no appropriate system that would reflect the grading system of the GCSE and IGCSE, International Baccalaureate, A Levels or BTEC to a GPA. In addition, we have a transitory international population of students, many of whom transfer between different educational and grading systems.

Enrolment

Total enrolment including
Early Childhood Centre = 1337
Secondary School = 777
Primary School = 537
Early Childhood Centre = 23
Class of 2016 = 100
Maximum class size in Secondary School: 22
Maximum class size in Senior Section: 14
Student-teacher ratio: 10:1

Faculty

Percentage of Faculty with a Bachelor Degree: 84.6%
Percentage of Faculty with a Post-Graduate Degree: 15.4%
Percentage of Faculty who are qualified teachers: 99.5% (but started PGCE)
Percentage of local Faculty: 13.4%
Percentage of foreign Faculty: 86.6%
Top nationalities represented in Faculty: British (72.3%) Belgian (12.4%) French (5.8%)

University Acceptances 2014-16

Over the last three years, virtually all BSB graduates have gone on to study in Higher Education. Here are the colleges, universities and professional schools in which they have enrolled. Acceptance without matriculation is indicated in italics.

Asia and Australia

Bangalore University
Indian School of Management & Entrepreneurship (ISME), Mumbai
University of New South Wales
Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto
Waseda University, Tokyo
Whistling Woods School of Animation, Mumbai

IED, Barcelona
IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems
Polytechnico di Milano
Pompeu Fabra University
Les Roches Marbella International School of Hotel Management
University of New York, Prague
University College Dublin
WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

University of Chester
De Montfort University (3)
University of Durham (3)
University of East Anglia (6)
Edge Hill University
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex (2)
University of Exeter (10)
University of Glasgow
Goldsmiths, University of London
Guilford School of Acting
University of Hertfordshire (5)
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP)
Imperial College, London (5)
Keele University (2)
University of Kent (8)
King's College, London (4)
Kingston University (3)
University of Leeds (4)
Leeds College of Art (2)
University of Leicester
LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts)
University of Loughborough (10)
University of Manchester (7)
Manchester Metropolitan University
Manchester School of Art
Middlesex University
University of Newcastle (3)
Nottingham Trent University (4)
University of Oxford
Oxford Brookes University (2)
Oxford School of Drama
University of Portsmouth
Queen Mary, University of London (2)
St Mary's University, Twickenham

Scotland's Rural College
University of Sheffield (2)
SOAS, University of London
University of Southampton (2)
Southampton Solent University (2)
University of Surrey (2)
University of Sussex (3)
Swansea University
University College, London (3)
University of the Arts, London (9)
University for the Creative Arts (2)
University of Warwick (4)
Warwickshire College
University of Westminster (3)
University of the West of Scotland
University of Winchester
University of the West of England
Writtle College
University of York (5)

Belgium

CERIA, Brussels
Groep T, Leuven (2)
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Hogeschool-Universiteit Brussel (2)
IAD (Institute of Media Arts), Louvain-La-Neuve
Odisee University College
United International Business School, Antwerp
United International Business School Brussels
Université libre de Bruxelles
l'ULB: La Cambre Horta
Université Saint-Louis, Brussels
Vesalius College, Brussels (4)

Netherlands

Delft University of Technology
Eindhoven University of Technology (3)
Erasmus University Rotterdam
University of Groningen
Leiden University (2)
Maastricht University (5)
University of Twente
University College Utrecht
Wageningen University

United Kingdom

Academy of Contemporary Music (ACM)
Anglia Ruskin University
Arts University, Bournemouth
Aston University (3)
Bangor University
University of Bath (4)
Bath Spa University (3)
University of Birmingham (4)
University College Birmingham
Bournemouth University
University of Bristol
Brunel University
University of Cambridge (2)
University of Cardiff (3)
Cardiff Metropolitan University

Canada

Bishop's University
Concordia University
University of Guelph
Mount Allison University
Queen's University
University of British Columbia (5)

European

Bocconi University (2)
Dublin City University

United States

AMDA, Los Angeles Campus
American University
Clarke College, Indianapolis
DePauw University
Florida Institute of Technology
Gustavus Adolphus College
Kenyon College
University of Michigan
New York University Stern School of Business
Northeastern University (4)
University of Pennsylvania
Pepperdine University
St Lawrence University
St Olaf University
Sewanee: The University of The South
Whitworth University

Examination Results

(I)GCSE RESULTS		2016	2015	2014
A*	BSB	30%	27%	23%
A*-A	BSB	51%	48%	45%
A*-B	BSB	72%	68%	71%
A*-C	BSB	90%	86%	91%
	Worldwide	67%	69%	68%

IB DIPLOMA RESULTS		2016	2015	2014	2013
Average	BSB	36	34	33	34
Total Points	Worldwide	30	30	30	30
40 or higher	BSB	30%	6%	5%	16%
36 or higher	BSB	57%	42%	24%	36%
30 or higher	BSB	67%	81%	79%	61%
Highest	BSB	44	40	44	44

A LEVEL RESULTS		2016	2015	2014
A*	BSB	10%	10%	13%
A*-A	BSB	30%	35%	37%
	Worldwide	26%	26%	26%
A*-B	BSB	59%	68%	72%
A*-C	BSB	83%	86%	88%
A*-E	BSB	99%	99%	100%

BTEC RESULTS (Level 3)		2016	2015	2014
Distinction* or higher (= A* at A Level)	BSB	39%	73%	40%
Distinction or higher (= A at A Level)	BSB	65%	83%	75%
Merit or higher (= C at A Level)	BSB	87%	90%	75%
Pass (= E at A Level)	BSB	100%	100%	100%

Note: Diploma = two A Levels; Subsidiary Diploma = one A Level; Certificate = one AS Level.

Academic Calendar

The school year is broken up into three terms: Term 1 which runs from late August or early September until mid-December; Term 2 from early January until late March or early April; and Term 3 from late April to late June or early July.

Activities and Service

Service learning and extra-curricular activities are a vital and integral part of school life. Students have an extensive and diverse range of possibilities including sport, drama and music all supported by superb facilities. Sports include rugby, football, netball, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, golf, basketball and hockey. Many students compete successfully in the International Schools Sports Tournaments (ISST) and some BSB alumni have gone on to be Olympic medallists. BSB is the only international school in Belgium to have its own 25m indoor swimming pool as part of an extensive new sports centre which also includes a multi-purpose sports hall, specialist gymnastics space, dance studio and a fitness room. Music and drama opportunities are exceptional and perform regularly across the age range. Many students also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at all levels. There is an extensive range of CAS activities available and a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular trips and residential visits. BSB students are actively encouraged to develop leadership through a range of opportunities, and to engage actively, ethically and purposefully with the world at large through such activities as THIMUN (The Hague Model United Nations), TEDxBSB, Fair Trade, environmental projects and a range of service and charity initiatives under our banner of 'One World.' Students have set up their own project called The Best of Both supporting schools in northern Ghana and every two years a group of staff and senior students work in these schools during a three-week summer project.