



Years 7-9 Course Guide

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Introduction

The British School of Brussels is an inclusive, international learning community catering for students from approximately 70 different nations. We are engaged in a rolling programme of improving and expanding our facilities. They include 11 well-equipped science laboratories, Maths and Computing areas, a Modern Languages centre, Drama studio and recording studios as well as an Arts Centre, an excellent Music Suite and film-editing facilities. Design and Technology and Textiles workshops and Food Nutrition kitchens 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 and all students in Years 7-9 are issued with their own Windows 1:1 laptop. Students have their own large lockers securely accessed through an individual electronic card. To add to our existing high quality sports facilities, we opened a new sports centre containing a competition-standard swimming pool, sports arena, gymnasium, dance studio and fitness suite in 2016.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study the core subjects of **English, French, Mathematics** and **Science** (compulsory until the age of 16) and eight of the foundation subjects, namely **Design and Technology, Computer Science, Drama, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music** and **Physical Education**. Students are assessed continuously through a wide range of formal tasks throughout Years 7 and 8 and 9, students which include end-of-year examinations.

All students are encouraged to take part in our extensive range of enrichment activities and student leadership programme. In addition, the school has a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular trips for all students throughout these three years, and beyond.

Overall, our programmes of study and enrichment activities build on prior learning and set students up for success at examination level in the final four years of Secondary School and develop the whole student through our holistic approach to learning. Everything we do centres around students and their learning.

The Curriculum

Setting and Banding

Most subjects are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. Where subjects are not taught in tutor groups in Years 7-9, banding and setting groups apply as follows:

Maths:

Years 7, 8 and 9: setting – usually 7 sets in each year group, 1 being the highest and 7 being the lowest.

French:

Three courses are offered in each of Years 7, 8 and 9 and each course is taught in sets:

- advanced courses for native or near-native speakers
- standard courses for the majority of the of the year group
- *ab initio* (a beginners' class for students new to French in Year 7; post-beginners' classes in Years 8 and 9).

Spanish:

Year 7: taught in mixed ability groups.

Years 8 - 9: taught in broadly banded ability groups.

German:

Years 7 - 9: taught in mixed ability groups.

Dutch:

Years 7 - 9: taught in two differentiated groups in each year group - one for fluent speakers, the other for second language learners.

DT/Food and Nutrition/Textiles/Art: taught in half tutor groups.



The Second Additional Language

Students entering Year 7 will be offered one of three second languages: **Dutch, German or Spanish**, unless they are receiving Learning Support or English as an Additional Language. This second additional language will be studied until the end of Year 9. Students who already have a significant grasp of one of these languages should give careful consideration to their choice of second language. Students receiving Learning Support may have the opportunity of joining a second language class at a later date, but there will not be beginners' groups in Year 8 or Year 9. Students joining second language classes in these Year groups will be offered lunchtime lessons once a week to help catch up with the rest of the group.

The broad aims of all the courses are:

- to enable students to understand and to use Dutch, German or Spanish effectively
- to help students gain insight into the culture and life of the language studied
- to instil a positive attitude to the language studied and to offer, as far as possible, opportunities for personal contact with the people and country of the language studied.
- to instil a positive attitude to the learning of foreign languages in general.

Programme Bilingue anglais/français - Années 7 à 9

Dans les Années 7, 8 et 9, une classe bilingue a été ouverte. Celle-ci organise une partie de ces cours en français.

Le contenu du programme et la méthode d'évaluation adoptée pour la section bilingue sont exactement les mêmes que pour les autres groupes. Certains cours sont donnés de manière équitable en anglais et en français (50%-50%) ; pour d'autres cours (français, PSHE) l'enseignement est réalisé uniquement en français ; le reste des cours sont donnés en anglais, même si les matières enseignées en anglais bénéficient toujours de ressources et d'activités supplémentaires en français.

Le cours prévoit une période de transition pendant laquelle les étudiants peuvent expérimenter les avantages d'une éducation bilingue et apprécier le développement de leurs compétences linguistiques à travers un usage accru et quotidien du français. Le programme maintient un juste équilibre entre les matières académiques enseignées en anglais en vue de la préparation des examens (I)GCSE et la promotion de l'enseignement du français académique.

La décision de s'inscrire au programme d'éducation bilingue de la BSB ne doit pas être prise à la légère. En effet, les étudiants doivent déjà posséder au départ un très bon niveau de lecture et d'écriture du français et de l'anglais. Ils ont aussi besoin d'un bon soutien à domicile dans les deux langues cibles. Tous les étudiants sont soumis à un test d'évaluation de niveau tant en français qu'en anglais afin de s'assurer que le cours répond à leurs besoins. Dans beaucoup de matières, les étudiants sont appelés à communiquer et à utiliser le langage académique de façon égale : tant en français qu'en anglais.

Ce programme de français renforcé est parfait pour les étudiants désireux de continuer leurs études jusqu'à l'obtention du diplôme bilingue (français – anglais) offert par le Baccalauréat International (IB) après 16 ans. De nombreuses études montrent qu'une éducation bilingue renforce le contenu académique du programme d'études car les étudiants assimilent les concepts fondamentaux dans les deux langues, tant en anglais qu'en français.

The Bilingual French/English Programme

This takes the form of a single bilingual teaching group in each of Years 7- 9 where subjects are enhanced in French.

The content of the curriculum and the assessment for the bilingual tutor group are exactly the same as for the other tutor groups. Some subjects are delivered 50% in English and 50% in French; others (French, PSHE) are delivered solely in French; and the remainder are delivered in English. Some subjects delivered only in English still have selected resources and activities in French.

The course ensures a transition period, where students experience the benefits of a bilingual education and enjoy the increased exposure to the daily use of French for developing their French language skills. The programme provides a good balance between maintaining English academic subjects in preparation for (I)GCSE whilst increasing exposure to academic French.

The decision to enter the bilingual programme at BSB should not be taken lightly. Students entering this course need to have good levels of reading and writing in both French and English. Students also need support at home in both target languages for home study. All students have their levels of French and English assessed at the admissions interview to ensure the course is appropriate for them. In many subjects, students are expected to use academic language equally in French and English.

This enhanced French programme is ideal for those students who will continue to the IB Bilingual Diploma in French and English after the age of 16. Many studies show that a bilingual education re-enforces the academic content of the curriculum as students assimilate key concepts in both English and French languages.



Matières/Subject	Equivalences Linguistiques/Language equivalences	
	Français	Anglais
Art & Design	0.5pps	0.5pps
Design & Technologie, Textiles et Alimentation & Nutrition/Design and Technology, Textiles and Food & Nutrition		2pps
Théâtre/Drama	0.5pps	0.5pps
Anglais/English		4pps
Français/French	3pps	
Espagnol, Néerlandais ou Allemand/Spanish, Dutch or German	3pps en espagnol, néerlandais ou allemand (environ 10%)	
Géographie & Histoire/Geography & History	1.5pps	1.5pps
Informatique/Computer Science		1pps
Mathématiques/Mathematics		4pps
Musique/Music	0.5pps	0.5pps
Education Physique/Physical Education	1pps	1pps
Sciences	2pps	2pps
PSHE (Initiation à la citoyenneté et au développement de soi & Contact avec le Titulaire)	1pps	
Soutien aux Etudiants/Student support	La Prise de Présence 1 heure par semaine	Assemblée 15 min. par semaine
Répartition globale entre l'anglais et le français Overall English and French split	Environ 35%	Environ 55%





An international learning community

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