

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 (30%). 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 1-11 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 an International BTEC (a vocational qualification awarded by the Business and Technology Education Council in the UK) at Level 2 in Business. We do not offer the Triple Science option but our students are entered for the IGCSE Science (Double Award) or IGCSE Science (Single Award) exam. They are however, taught by subject specialists for each of the components.

They then choose to study for the General Certificate of Education Advanced Level, the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or International BTEC Level 3. Some students combine A Levels with Level 3 International BTEC, some complete the Extended International Diploma. Students study for these in "Post16" – the last two years of education at BSB.

Most students studying A Level and/or International BTEC will also complete an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). The expectation is that students will begin *three* A Levels/Level 3 International BTEC and complete them over two years. A small number will begin four. We do not offer AS Levels as a stand-alone qualification.

The following A Level Subjects are offered:

Art & Design (Fine Art)
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computer Science
Design & Technology
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
Government & Politics
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Music Technology
Physics
Sociology
Spanish
Textiles

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 Language A
Environmental Systems & Society
Film
French Language B
French Language A: Language & Literature
French ab initio
Further Mathematics
Geography
German Language B
History
Mathematics
Music
Physics
Psychology

Spanish Language B
Spanish ab initio
Theatre Arts
Visual Arts

The following Level 3 International BTEC subjects are offered:

Business
Hospitality
Sport
Business + Hospitality (as the Extended International Diploma)
Business + Sport (as the Extended International Diploma)

All classes are taught in English, except for language classes and in the Bilingual Programme in Year 7-9, where 30% of lessons are taught in French. A number of students each year sit for the Bilingual IB Diploma.

Class Rank, GPA and Mid-Year Grades

The British School of Brussels does not class rank or calculate GPA for students. We also do not have Mid-Year grades in Year 13 (the Senior year). We report grades in December, March and May. These appear on official Transcripts.

Enrolment

Total enrolment = 1300
Secondary School = 830
Primary School = 470
Class of 2021 = 112
Maximum class size in Secondary School: 21
Maximum class size in Post16: 14
Student-teacher ratio: 9:1

Faculty

Percentage of Faculty with a Bachelor Degree: 97%
Percentage of Faculty with a Post-Graduate Degree: 6.4%
Percentage of Faculty who are qualified teachers: 99.7%
Percentage of local Faculty: 30.1%
Percentage of foreign Faculty: 69.9%
Top nationalities represented in Faculty: British (53.5%) Belgian (30.1%) French (6.2%)

University Acceptances

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.

Africa, Asia and Australia

FEDISA Fashion School
Nagoya University
University of Witwatersrand

Belgium

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy Brussels
HOWEST University of Applied Science
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (4)
Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp (2)
United Business Institutes, Brussels
United International Business School, Brussels
VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) (5)

Canada

Bishop's University
Concordia University (2)
Dalhousie University
McGill University (4)
OCAD University
Ottawa University (2)
Simon Fraser University
St Mary's, Halifax
University of British Columbia (2)

Europe

Tónlistarskólinn, Akureyri
Charles University, Prague
Technical University of Dublin
École Polytechnique
ESADE
Florence Design Academy
Humboldt University of Berlin
International European University, Kyiv
IE University (3)
Institute of the Arts, Barcelona
Karolinska Institute
La Salle Campus Barcelona
LISAA (L'Institut Supérieur des Arts Appliqués)
Paris

National University of Ireland, Galway
PSB (Paris School of Business)
Skema Business School
Sports Management School, Paris
Uni-Campus Bio-Medico di Roma
University College Dublin

Netherlands

Breda University of Applied Science
Conservatory of Amsterdam
University of Amsterdam (6)
Delft University of Technology (2)
Eindhoven University of Technology (7)
Erasmus University Rotterdam (8)
Erasmus University College
University of Groningen
Groningen University College
The Hague University of Applied Science
Leiden University (3)
Leiden University College
Maastricht University (3)
Tilburg University (2)
Tilburg University College
Van Hall Larenstein, University of Applied Science

United Kingdom

Anglia Ruskin University
Bangor University
University of Bath (8)
BIMM (British and Irish Institute of Modern Music)
University of Birmingham (2)
University College Birmingham
Arts University, Bournemouth (2)
Bath Spa University
Bournemouth University
University of Brighton (3)
University of Bristol
Bristol, University of the West of England (4)
University of Buckingham
University of Cambridge (2)
Cambridge Regional College
Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Art
University of Cardiff (2)
Cardiff Metropolitan University
University of Chichester
De Montfort University (2)
University of Durham (4)
University of East Anglia (3)
University of Edinburgh (7)
University of Essex (2)
University of Exeter (7)
Falmouth University
University of Glasgow
Goldsmiths, University of London (2)
University of Greenwich
Hartpury College and University Centre
Heriot-Watt University
University of Hertfordshire
Imperial College, London (5)
Keele University
University of Kent (3)
King's College, London (4)
Kingston University
Lancaster University (2)
University of Leeds (5)
Leeds Arts University (2)
Leeds Beckett University
University of Liverpool (3)
Liverpool Hope University
LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) (3)
University of Loughborough (7)
University of Manchester (7)
Manchester Metropolitan University (6)
Middlesex University
University of Newcastle (4)
University of Northampton
Northumbria University, Newcastle (2)
Nottingham Trent University (2)

University of Oxford (5)
Oxford Brookes University
Queen Mary, University of London (3)
Queen's University Belfast (2)
Royal Agricultural University
Royal Holloway, University of London
Royal Veterinary College
University of Salford (2)
University of Sheffield (3)
Sheffield Hallam University
SOAS University of London
University of Southampton (2)
Southampton Solent University
University of St Andrews (4)
St George's, University of London (3)
Staffordshire University
University of Stirling
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey (5)
University of Sussex (7)
Swansea University (2)
Ulster University (2)
University College, London (9)
University of the Arts, London (5)
UCFB
University of Warwick (6)
University of West London
University of Westminster
University of York (5)

United States

Boston University
The New School, New York City
New York University
New York Film Academy
Northeastern University
University of Rochester
Tufts University
Valley Forge Military College

Examination Results

(I)GCSE RESULTS		2021	2020	2019	2018
A*-A/9-7	BSB	59%	60%	56%	61%
A*-C/ 9-4	BSB	97%	90%	92%	95%

A LEVEL RESULTS		2021	2020	2019	2018
A*-A	BSB	45%	43%	41%	35%
A*-B	BSB	75%	74%	62%	67%
A*-C	BSB	85%	98%	80%	87%
A*-E	BSB	100%	100%	99%	100%

IB DIPLOMA RESULTS		2021	2020	2019	2018
Average Total Points	BSB	40	38	35	35
40 or higher	BSB	54%	37%	14%	17%
36 or higher	BSB	94%	71%	45%	46%
30 or higher	BSB	100%	94%	84%	91%
Highest	BSB	45	44	44	43

BTEC RESULTS (Level 3)		2021	2020	2019	2018
Distinction or higher (= A or A* at A Level)	BSB	83%	55%	57%	61%

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 enrichment 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). BSB is the only international school in Belgium to have its own 25m indoor swimming, 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 also exceptional 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 and to engage actively, ethically and purposefully with the world at large through such activities as THIMUN (The Hague Model United Nations, Belgian Special Olympics, Fair Trade and a range of environmental projects through our GIN (Global Issues Network) group.