

BSB

THE BRITISH
SCHOOL OF
BRUSSELS



Post-16 Years 12 & 13 Course Guide

Learning together
inspiring success

Welcome to Post-16

Years 12 and 13 are the final years of Secondary School. Our students have access to a wide range of subjects and we are the only international school in Belgium that offers three pre-university programmes: Advanced Levels (A Levels), the Business and Technology Education Council Qualification (BTEC Level 3) and International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB).

- More than 25 IB subjects
- More than 20 A Level subjects
- 3 BTEC subjects

We have high academic standards. Typically, over one third of our students gain the highest A*/A grades at A Level which is significantly above national levels. The pass rate and points average in the IB Diploma are typically much higher than the worldwide average and among the very best results in the world. BTEC students consistently achieve a 100% pass rate with the majority being awarded a Distinction/Distinction*.

All students have daily access to our Higher Education team who can provide information on university choices and careers. Students who choose to apply to university go on to study a wide range of courses in top universities around the world.

All students in Post-16 take part in our CAS (Creativity, Activity and Service) programme.

There is an extensive range of enrichment activities available for our students and opportunities are provided for the development of their leadership skills.

What does Secondary School look like?

Year groups	Age	Programme of study	Other information
Years 7-9	11-14	A broad curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid foundation in a wide range of subjects
Years 10-11	14-16	Exam years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I)GCSEs: (International) General Certificate of Secondary Education • BTEC Level 2 in Business also available as an option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-year programme • Exams at the end of Year 11 • 6 core subjects and 3 option choices • BTEC is vocational and is continually assessed
Years 12-13	16-18	Pre-university exam years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Level • IB • BTEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-year programmes • A Level and IB have final exams • 3 subjects for A Level • 6 subjects for IB • Entry criteria apply

Assessment and reporting

- Students are regularly assessed in class
- School reports are issued three times in Year 12 and twice in Year 13
- Parents are invited to sessions to discuss their child's progress around the time of each report
- BTEC is continually assessed
- IB and A Level courses have internal exams at the end of Year 12 and either in November or December of Year 13. Final external exams take place in May/June of Year 13



IB Diploma (International qualification)

Overview

- The IB Diploma is a two-year course
- It is first-class preparation for the future and, like our A Level programme, is recognised internationally by universities and employers alike
- Students are graded from 7 (highest) to 1 (lowest) in each subject. Grade 3 and above is regarded as a pass

Three subjects are studied at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). In addition, students take the following core curriculum:

Subject	What is it?	How is it assessed?
Theory of Knowledge (TOK)	Reflection on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know	Exhibition and Essay
Extended Essay	Independent, self-directed piece of research	4,000-word essay
Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)	Students are involved in a range of activities alongside their academic studies	Not formally assessed, but students reflect on their activities as part of the IB programme

Structure and subjects available

Area	Subject
Studies in Language and Literature	English, French, Dutch, Self-study (SL only)
Language Acquisition	French, German, Spanish, Dutch
Individuals and Societies	History, Economics, Psychology, Geography, Business
Sciences	Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Systems, Societies (SL only) and Computer Science
Mathematics	Mathematics Analysis and Mathematics Applications
The Arts or an elective subject	Music, Visual Arts, Film, Theatre Arts or one of the subjects above

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL COMBINATIONS OF SUBJECTS ARE POSSIBLE. PLEASE REFER TO THE CURRENT OPTION BLOCKS

Entry requirements

New students arriving from other schools are interviewed and are expected to have reports for their desired subjects in line with the following grade requirements. Students who will not have (I)GCSEs and have requested to study any Science (A Level or HL IB) or Mathematics (IB or A Level at any level) will be expected to complete an initial assessment before the beginning of the Autumn term. This assessment is primarily used as an indicator of suitability for the courses, and for Maths, as an indicator for the level of study. However, if a student shows a particularly low level in the Science(s) and/or Maths, we would then expect the student to change their subject choices. Details and preparation materials for these assessments can be requested from Admissions. Assessments typically take place on New Families Day before the start of the Autumn term. However, if resident in Belgium, we strongly recommend taking the assessment as soon as possible after the interview. This can be arranged through Admissions.

In general, students require a minimum of five (I)GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including three at grade 6. There are some additional entry requirements:

Subject	(I)GCSE minimum entry requirements
Biology, Chemistry and Physics*	Grade 7 7 - 9 9 (Double Award)
Mathematics HL Analysis	Grade 8/9
Mathematics HL Applications	Grade 7-9
Computer Science HL	Grade 7-9
All other HL subjects	Grade 6-9

*As the Science curricula are very mathematical, a grade 6 is required in Maths in order to study Biology HL and Chemistry HL, and a grade 7 is required in Maths in order to study Physics HL.

A Levels (UK qualification recognised worldwide)

- The A Level programme is a two-year course
- It is first-class preparation for the future and, like our IB programme, is recognised internationally by universities and employers alike
- It is particularly suited to those students who wish to specialise
- Students will be graded from A* (highest) to E (lowest). Grade E is viewed as a pass with Grade U a failing grade

All students complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is an independent piece of research done on a subject of the student's choice. Students also give a presentation about their report or product.

The standard university requirement in the United Kingdom and Europe is three A Levels. This can be a combination of A Levels and BTEC (see next page). Occasionally, students of high mathematical or linguistic ability may take a fourth A Level in either Further Maths or a modern language, but this is exceptional. New A level students who have not completed GCSEs will also take Maths and English IGCSEs.

Structure and subjects available

Subject	Area
Sciences and Technology	Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Textiles
Languages	English Literature, French, German, Spanish, Media Studies
Human, Social and Political Sciences	History, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Business Studies, Government and Politics
Mathematics	Maths, Further Maths
The Arts	Music, Music Technology, Art and Design, Drama

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL COMBINATIONS OF SUBJECTS ARE POSSIBLE. PLEASE REFER TO THE CURRENT OPTION BLOCKS

Entry requirements

New students arriving from other schools are interviewed and are expected to have reports for their desired subjects in line with the following grade requirements. Students who will not have (I)GCSEs and have requested to study any Science (A Level or HL IB) or Mathematics (IB or A Level at any level) will be expected to complete an initial assessment before the beginning of the Autumn term. This assessment is primarily used as an indicator of suitability for the courses, and for Maths, as an indicator for the level of study. However, if a student shows a particularly low level in the Science(s) and/or Maths, we would then expect the student to change their subject choices. Details and preparation materials for these assessments can be requested from Admissions. Assessments typically take place on New Families Day before the start of the Autumn term. However, if resident in Belgium, we strongly recommend taking the assessment as soon as possible after the interview. This can be arranged through Admissions.

In general, students require a minimum of five (I)GCSEs at grade 5 and above, including three at grade 6. There are some additional entry requirements:

Subject	(I)GCSE minimum entry requirements
Biology, Chemistry and Physics	Grade 7 7 - 9 9 (Double Award)
Mathematics	Grade 7-9
Further Maths	Grade 8/9
All others being continued from (I)GCSE	Grade 6-9

*As the Science curricula are very mathematical, a grade 6 is required in Maths in order to study Biology and Chemistry, and a grade 7 is required in Maths in order to study Physics.

BTEC Level 3 (UK qualification*)

- BTEC Level 3 is a two-year course
- This vocational course is designed specifically to meet the needs of students who prefer continuous assessment rather than traditional examinations
- Many BTEC students take a combination of subjects to include one or more A Levels
- This qualification is only recognised by UK universities
- Students are graded from Distinction* to Pass

Structure and subjects available

Subject	Qualification	Equivalence
Business	Certificate	equivalent to half an A Level
	Subsidiary Diploma	equivalent to one A Level
	Diploma	equivalent to two A Levels
Hospitality	Certificate	equivalent to half an A Level
	Subsidiary Diploma	equivalent to one A Level
	Diploma	equivalent to two A Levels
Sport	Certificate	equivalent to half an A Level
	Subsidiary Diploma	equivalent to one A Level
	Diploma	equivalent to two A Levels

PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT ALL COMBINATIONS OF SUBJECTS ARE POSSIBLE. PLEASE REFER TO THE CURRENT OPTION BLOCKS

Entry requirements

New students arriving from other schools will be interviewed and will be expected to have reports indicating that they have a level of education equivalent to the grades indicated below.

In general, students require a minimum of five (!)GCSEs at grade 4 and above. However, due to the courses being continually assessed, there may be greater flexibility regarding entry criteria.

BTEC Level 3 subjects can be combined with A Levels although not all combinations can be catered for (see blocks).

BTEC

- Viewed as equivalent to 3 A Levels by the majority of UK universities
- Students must study: BTEC Business (Double) with BTEC Sport or Hospitality (Single)
- BTEC are accepted in the UK and the Netherlands (Universities of Applied Science)
- Also accepted at many university colleges/hogeschole in Belgium.
- Accepted at some universities in Canada, USA and Ireland but not directly equivalent of A Levels or IB Diploma.

* Please note; although the BTEC is accepted at some higher education institutions outside the UK, the individual BTEC qualifications tend to be only accepted at UK universities.

FAQs

What is the class size?

The maximum class size is usually 14 students although this can occasionally be higher in exceptional circumstances. However, the average class size is around 7-8 students at Post-16.

Do you offer the bilingual IB Diploma?

For students with the appropriate linguistic abilities, it is possible to take French and Dutch at first language level. A bilingual IB Diploma does not mean that all subjects are taught in two languages.

Can I join either of these year groups at any time?

No, the IB, A Levels and BTEC are challenging two-year courses. All students need to start in September of Year 12.

What happens if my child fails Year 12?

The vast majority of our students work hard and continue into Year 13. On a case-by-case basis, we may advise students to repeat Year 12, but this is rare.

What support is offered for Post-18?

Students have access to the Head of Higher Education (HE), who provides advice on university courses and applications as well as other options beyond Year 13.

What do I need to bring with me?

Laptop

A graphical calculator is required for Maths. The model is specified at the beginning of the course.

My child needs English as an additional language (EAL) support. What is provided?

Due to the challenging nature of the courses, students require an appropriate level of English to access the curriculum. For non-native English speakers, this is assessed prior to joining BSB.

EAL support is provided on Wednesday afternoons instead of CAS. IB EAL students are required to complete CAS in their own time.

My child has additional educational needs (AEN). How does the school help?

AEN students are assessed by the Head of Learning Support prior to joining BSB. If BSB is able to accommodate the student's needs, the application can be taken further and advice is given on appropriate courses.



Family testimonials



“ The BSB has excellent, kind and motivating teachers who made great efforts to integrate our son who came from a different school system. The enrichment activities are excellent, and the facilities are outstanding. ”

Aandahl family

“ BSB values each child as an individual. Students gain an open, internationally aware perspective on life. ”

Wallace family



“ A lovely and caring environment, both our children immediately felt welcome and included. Great learning support as soon as the need was identified. ”

Pollmeier family

“ The teachers always encouraged and respected my child's efforts toward learning. He enjoyed his time at BSB and is really proud of being a student of BSB. ”

Inoue family



“ Excellent teaching in a wonderful community atmosphere, fantastic extra-curricular activities, good communication between the school, children and parents. ”

Meenan family





An international learning community

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