

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. BSB students are entered for the IGCSE Science (Double Award) or IGCSE Science (Single Award) exam and are 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. 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: Fashion & Textiles
Design & Technology: Resistant Materials
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
English Language B
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 are awarded 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 report two grades in Year 12 and Year 13: Mid-Year and End of Year grades.

Enrolment

Total enrolment: 1,326
Secondary School: 862
Primary School: 464
Class of 2023: 128
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: 99.5%
Percentage of Faculty with a Post-Graduate Degree: 7.3%
Percentage of Faculty who are qualified teachers: 99.7%
Percentage of local Faculty: 40.3%
Percentage of foreign Faculty: 59.7%
Top nationalities represented in Faculty: British (33.4%), Belgian (40.3%)

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
International Islamic University, Malaysia
Nanyang Technical University
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
University of Sydney

Belgium

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy Brussels
HOWEST University of Applied Sciences (6)
Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven (9)
Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Antwerp (3)
Thomas More University of Applied Sciences (5)
United Business Institutes, Brussels (2)
University College Leuven-Limburg
ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles) (2)
VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) (5)

Canada

Concordia University (2)
McGill University (5)
OCAD University
Ottawa University
Simon Fraser University
St Mary's University in Halifax
University of British Columbia (3)
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
Western University
York University

Europe

Bocconi University (2)
Charles University, Prague
Cork School of Music
Dublin City University
University College Dublin
ESADE Business and Law School (2)
ESMOD
Florence Design Academy
Francisco de Vitoria University
Griffith College, Dublin
Humboldt University of Berlin
International European University, Kyiv
IE University
Institute of the Arts, Barcelona

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)
La Salle Campus Barcelona
LUISS Guido Carli
Lund University
Massana School of Art and Design
Maynooth University
National University of Ireland, Galway
Politecnico di Milano
PSB (Paris School of Business)
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Sapienza University of Rome
Skema Business School
Sports Management School, Paris
WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management

Netherlands

Amsterdam University College (2)
Conservatory of Amsterdam
University of Amsterdam (7)
Breda University of Applied Sciences
Delft University of Technology (10)
Eindhoven University of Technology (11)
Erasmus University Rotterdam (11)
Erasmus University College (3)
Fontys University of Applied Sciences
University of Groningen
The Hague University of Applied Sciences
HAN University of Applied Sciences
Hotelschool The Hague
HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht
Inholland University of Applied Sciences (2)
Leiden University

Maastricht University (10)
Maastricht Hotel School
Maastricht Academy of Music
Radboud University
Tilburg University (5)
Tilburg University College
University of Twente
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

United Kingdom

Bangor SERC (South-East Regional College)
University of Bath (7)
Birmingham City University
Arts University, Bournemouth

Bath Spa University (2)
University Centre Bishop Burton
Bournemouth University
University of Brighton (4)
University of Bristol (4)
Bristol, University of the West of England (7)
University of Buckingham
University of Cambridge (2)
Cambridge Regional College
University of Cardiff
University of Chester
University of Chichester
City, University of London
University of Durham (2)
University of East Anglia (3)
University of East London
University of Edinburgh (7)
Edinburgh Napier University (2)
University of Essex
University of Exeter (10)
Falmouth University
University of Glasgow (2)
Glasgow Caledonian University
University of Gloucestershire (2)
Goldsmiths, University of London
Hartpury College and University Centre (2)
Heriot-Watt University
Imperial College, London (4)
University of Kent (4)
King's College, London (4)
Kingston University (3)
LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) (2)
Lancaster University
University of Leeds (4)
Leeds Arts University (2)
Leeds Beckett University (4)
University of Lincoln
University of Liverpool (5)
Liverpool Hope University
LSE (London School of Economics and Political Science) (3)
University of Loughborough (3)
The University of Manchester
Manchester Metropolitan University (3)
University of Newcastle (3)

University of Northampton
Northumbria University, Newcastle (3)
Nottingham Trent University (2)
University of Oxford (6)
Oxford Brookes University (2)
University of Portsmouth
Queen Mary, University of London (6)
Queen's University Belfast (2)
University of Reading
Royal Agricultural University (2)
Royal Veterinary College
University of Salford (2)
University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Southampton (4)
Southampton Solent University
University of St Andrews (4)
St George's, University of London (2)
University of Stirling (2)
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey (5)
University of Sussex (4)
Swansea University (3)
Ulster University (2)
University College, London (6)
University of the Arts, London (5)
University of Warwick (5)
University of West London
University of Westminster (2)
University of York (3)

United States

Babson College (2)
Bentley University
Boston University
Brown University
Cornell University
University of the Cumberlands
Florida Institute of Technology
The New School, New York City
New York Film Academy
Northeastern University (4)
University of San Diego (2)
University of Southern California
Virginia Tech
University of Washington

Examination Results

(I) GCSE RESULTS		2023	2022	2021	2020
A*-A/9-7	BSB	50%	62%	59%	60%
A*-C/ 9-4	BSB	92%	97%	97%	90%

A LEVEL RESULTS		2023	2022	2021	2020
A*-A	BSB	32%	49%	45%	43%
A*-B	BSB	59%	70%	75%	74%
A*-C	BSB	79%	86%	85%	98%
A*-E	BSB	99%	100%	100%	100%

IB DIPLOMA RESULTS		2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Total Points	BSB	36	37	40	38
40 or higher	BSB	20%	21%	54%	37%
36 or higher	BSB	37%	59%	94%	71%
30 or higher	BSB	83%	97%	100%	94%
Highest	BSB	44	45	45	44

BTEC RESULTS (Level 3)		2023	2022	2021	2020
Distinction or higher (= A or A* at A Level)	BSB	46%	39%	83%	55%

Academic Calendar

The school year is broken up into three terms:

Term 1 runs from late August or early September until mid-December

Term 2 from early January until late March or early April

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 SCIS (Sports Council of International Sports), ISAA (International Sports Athletic Association) and ISSC (International School Sports Conference). 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 extracurricular 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 ourGIN (Global Issues Network) group.