

BSB serves more learners with BTEC offering

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Already at the age of 16, students at The British School of Brussels (BSB) begin choosing their path to higher education. For many years, the school has proudly offered two of the most common university track programmes: the English A Level and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Despite the popularity of these two programmes, they don't cater to every student's learning style. To remedy this gap, BSB has added certified BTEC courses in Business, Hospitality, Sport and Applied Science to its curriculum – becoming the only international school in Brussels to do so.

“BTEC has become increasingly popular and well received in recent years as a much-needed alternative option for students who wish to explore a vocational approach in their field of interest that is not centred on excelling in exams,” explains Will Bohanna, BTEC Coordinator at BSB. *“It was with a firm commitment to ensuring all BSB students are given an opportunity to excel that we sought the required certifications and training to offer BTEC in our curriculum.”*

As BTEC assesses students based on assignments and coursework, it's generally geared towards the learner who prefers ongoing assessment as opposed to periodic testing. *“A Levels and the IB Diploma evaluate students based on exams, where some students perform better with alternative forms of assessment,”* adds Bohanna. *“These are the students that BTEC caters to.”*

Most importantly, this unique approach to assessment works. The programme boasts a 100% pass rate. Indeed, many students continue to achieve at the university level. For example, last year one student, who achieved the highest level of distinction in BTEC, went on to study International Business at the University of Manchester.

Think global, act local

One of the programme's key differentiators is to embrace the “think globally, act locally” mantra. BSB has adapted the BTEC programme so students can work within the local community for a hands-on educational experience. Bohanna says that some of the BTEC Business students spend time visiting a local bakery, while those in the

Hospitality course set up and ran their own bistro. *“This really makes their business education realistic, letting them apply what they learn in the classroom to a real-world setting, as opposed to on a multiple-choice exam.”*

An untapped market

According to Bohanna, the BTEC programme clearly hits an untapped market, covering an entire range of students. *“With the addition of this programme, we enable our students to study subjects that matter to them most and prepare themselves for university better than ever before,”* he says. *“In other words, it allows us to solve a unique problem, so we can now attract – and better serve – a specific type of learner.”*

Growing interest

BSB first launched BTEC in Business in 2010. Following this programme's success, the school quickly started expanding into other areas. As of this year, the school offers BTEC in Business, Hospitality, Sport, and Applied Science for ages 16 and up, as well as Business BTEC for students starting at age 14. Currently, the Business programme is the most popular, growing substantially from only eight students to more than 40. Likewise, Hospitality has gone from six to over 20 today, and the school expects to see continued success across all of its BTEC course offerings.

BTEC is not exclusive, meaning a student can pursue BTEC with A Level for a combined effort towards admittance to the university of their choosing. For example, a student seeking a career in sports marketing might obtain a BTEC for sports and an A Level for business.

About The British School of Brussels

The British School of Brussels (BSB), founded in 1969 in Brussels and established in 1970 in Tervuren, is an all-through international school for children aged one to 18 years. There are over 1,350 students on roll, representing approximately 70 nationalities. The school offers a British Curriculum up to age 16 years, (I)GCSE followed by the choice of GCE A Levels, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and BTEC Post-16. Extensive provision for learning support and English as an Additional Language (EAL) is available, as well as a wide range of extra-curricular activities. There is also a French-English bilingual programme for ages 4-14 years. School accreditations include the IB World School, COBIS (Council of British International Schools), IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) and the Principal is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC). BSB has received an outstanding report from the Council of International Schools (CIS). For more information, please visit www.britishschool.be.

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