

# School Profile 2020-2021

CEEB CODE: 792007, IB CODE: 007009, UCAS CODE: 46834

## Secondary School Contacts

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## Accreditation

Authorized by the Spanish Ministry of Education  
(B.O.E. 15.11.2007/B.O.E. 29.12.2007)

## Membership

International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)

## Our School

Brains International Schools is a prestigious group of private independent bilingual schools founded in 1979 with an educational offering that extends from Nursery School to Secondary. Our excellent academic record, focusing on technology, sports and languages, makes us a leading provider of international education in Madrid and Canary Islands. Our **mission** is to form students as whole, competent people, with the capacity to react to change with confidence and security. Brains students are proud to have received their education with us.

In Brains International Schools, our **vision** is to nurture passionate, creative and balanced people, who are the owners of their own destinies, who are socially-minded and change makers, with a global outlook with which to invigorate the world.

Each one of our students is at the center of the Brains education project, which firmly promotes the following **values**:

## Brains Values

International and intercultural mentality	Critical thinking, autonomy and personal balance
Respect and tolerance	The philosophy of effort and team work through sports and general studies
Positive attitude	Solidarity, honesty, resilience and empathy
Sense of humanity	Commitment to environmental awareness

## The Students

**Size of Class of 2020:** 129 (48 full IB DP students + 79 Spanish National Curriculum Diploma students)  
Of the 463 students in the Secondary School, 129 were graduating seniors. **Due to the small class size and competitive and rigorous nature of the Diplomas we offer, we have chosen not to rank our students.**

## The Staff

The Secondary School staff consists of 74 international teachers. All are highly qualified with over 20% holding Masters and/or Doctoral degrees. The student faculty ratio in the Secondary School is 6:1.

## The School Day

The school day begins at 8:50am and ends at 4:30pm; there are a maximum of 8 academic class periods per day of 50 minutes in duration with an extensive afternoon activity program and numerous opportunities for students to enrich their studies with pre-university courses, language instruction, sport and theatre among others. Please see Covid-19 Impact information on last page.

## The Curriculum

Brains International Schools offers the most demanding academic program to its Secondary School Students. In Grades 9 and 10 students complete the mandatory Spanish National Curriculum. In Grades 11 and 12 students may choose to study the National Spanish Bachillerato or work towards the IB Diploma. All IB students are expected to fulfill the Creativity, Action and Service requirements of the IB Diploma program as well as the Theory of Knowledge course and the Extended Essay which are requirements of the IBO.

## Extra-Curricular Program

A broad range of extra-curricular activities are available for students to develop new skills, practice a sport or express themselves through the arts. <http://www.colegiobrains.com/la-moraleja/#actividades-extraescolares/>

IBO SCHOOL STATISTICS	2018	2019	2020
Number of Diploma candidates registered in the session	44	27	50
Number of candidates who passed the Diploma	40	27	47
Average points obtained by candidates who passed the Diploma	33	31	33
Highest Diploma points awarded to a candidate	43	42	43
Session pass rate	91%	100%	94%

School Transcript		
The school uses the IBO's 7 point grading scale in Grades 11-12 for the Diploma Program. The Spanish National Bachillerato uses a 1-10 point grading scale.		
IB Grade		Spanish National Bachillerato
7	Excellent	9-10
6	Very Good	7-8
5	Good	6
4	Satisfactory	5
3	Marginal	4
2	Poor	
1	Very Poor	1-3

All Brains IB Diploma students are given the opportunity to take the IB exams – we do not have a selection process to sit the exams.

We do not calculate Grade Point Averages. All grades are unweighted. Predicted IB scores are available.

## College and University Acceptances

Students at Brains International Schools can be assured of receiving an education that will prepare them for further education at universities worldwide. Graduates of the classes of 2017 - 2020 applied to schools in a range of countries including UK, USA, Holland, Spain, Canada, Italy and China. The majority of 2020 graduates attended universities in Spain (85%), the remaining students (15%) in the UK, the US and other countries.

**In addition to all of the major public and private universities in Madrid, the following colleges and universities have admitted our students since 2015:**

\*indicates enrolment

### USA

Bard College  
Boston University  
Clark University  
Drexel University  
\*Florida Institute of Technology  
\*Fordham University  
\*Georgia Institute of Technology  
Manhattan College  
\*Michigan State University - East Lansing  
Northeastern University  
\*Northwestern University  
\*NYU  
\*Pace University  
\*Pennsylvania State University  
Purdue University  
\*Rollins College  
\*Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
\*San Diego State University  
\*SCAD  
\*School Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Skidmore University  
SUNY - Stonybrooke

\*Syracuse University  
Temple University  
\*Tufts University  
\*University of California- San Diego  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Illinois at Chicago

### UK

\*Aberystwyth University  
\*University of the Arts, London (UAL)  
University of Bath  
University of Brighton  
University of Birmingham  
\*Bournemouth University  
\*University of Bristol  
\*Cardiff University  
\*City, University of London  
\*Coventry University  
Durham University  
University of Edinburgh  
\*University of Essex  
\*University of Exeter  
\*Falmouth University

\*University of Glasgow  
\*Goldsmiths, University of London  
\*Imperial College of London  
\*Keele University  
\*King's College London  
\*Lancaster University  
\*University of Leeds  
\*University of Leicester  
Loughborough University  
\*New College of the Humanities  
\*Northumbria University  
\*University of Manchester  
\*University of Nottingham  
\*Queen Mary University of London  
University of Reading  
Regent's University  
University of Sheffield  
\*University of Southampton  
\*University of Surrey  
\*Swansea University  
\*University of Sussex  
\*UCL (University College London)  
\*The University of Warwick  
\*University of Westminster

### Others

\*Universiteit Gent (Belgium)  
Copenhagen Business School (Denmark)  
\*Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (Holland)  
\*University of Amsterdam (Holland)  
\*University of Groningen (Holland)  
Erasmus University Rotterdam (Holland)  
\*Universiteit Leiden (Holland)  
Tilburg University (Holland)  
\*Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences - RSB (Holland)  
Utrecht University  
\*NABA - Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (Italy)  
\*McMaster University (Canada)  
\*Renmin University (China)  
\*Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)  
\*Hult International Business School (multi-campus)  
\*IE University (Spain)  
\*Suffolk University (Madrid campus)

# Impact of COVID -19

## Information for University and College Admissions Teams

On March 12, 2020 the Spanish central government declared a State of Alarm which included strict lockdown measures in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with all schools in Spain, Brains International Schools were unable to hold in-person lessons for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Minimal teaching time was lost due to a "homeschooling" contingency plan implemented immediately and continuously adjusted throughout the duration of the lockdown situation.

The school adopted a **virtual approach to teaching and learning** using Cisco Webex to connect with students, alongside a range of on-line subject specific learning platforms such as Kognity for IB students and our own iTunes U courses for the Spanish national qualification (Titulo de Bachiller) students. The school ensured that all students were able to engage in live online classes. Teachers also recorded lessons and videos and made these and other resources available online, whilst implementing strategies to ensure that learning was taking place by all students no matter what their situation or where they were located geographically.



Through use of the ManageBac platform for the IB Students, teachers were able to set and assess student work in the same way as when teaching in person classes. With the cancellation of the IB May 2020 session exams, any outstanding work (oral exams, visual arts exhibition, etc) was completed remotely and uploaded to the IB platform by the stipulated deadlines. Despite rumors of students around the world rewriting their internal assessments to take

advantage of the circumstances, at Brains International School our students had already submitted the final version of the majority of their papers to their teachers, due to our earlier internal deadlines in February. Therefore we did not allow any students to "improve" their work and resubmit. We firmly believed in the ability of our students **to produce the best possible work under the supervision of our teachers** and trusted the criteria of the IB when awarding final marks. In the end and after the multiple revisions and adjustments the IB made to the final results, we are satisfied that students received fair treatment and our overall passing rate and average score is in line with what we had predicted for our students.



Spanish national qualification students sat their final examinations under the strictest controls possible, involving multiple teachers invigilating students during the remote exams to ensure the highest level of academic integrity. After the final exams, a partial return to school was allowed in the month of June for those students preparing the Evaluation for University Access exams (EVAU). Students were given the choice of returning to school for 3 weeks to prepare for these exams or connecting from home. The EVAU exams took place in person during the first week of July.

**There was no disruption to our normal university application processes**, with the exception of all SAT and ACT testing being canceled in Spain for the March, May and June sessions. Students in the final year had access to University Advisors through Webex connections and individual one-to-one guidance was provided throughout the academic year and continued after exam results were published, to ensure that students were assisted in securing their desired university place. 75% of our Grade 12 (Year 13) students applying abroad, 28% of our total cohort, were accepted by their first-choice university.



All Grade 11 (Year 12) students who had not already met on a one-to-one basis with the International Universities Counselor had virtual meetings. Students were able to request individual meetings until the end of July. An individual action plan for each student was issued and students were able to follow it during the remainder of the academic year and over the summer. **Several on-line seminars were held in the month of June** covering different systems, procedures and applications for the US, UK and Holland which enabled students to gain an understanding of the university application cycle and resources available to assist their research over the summer.

IB Year 1 mock examinations were postponed until September 2020 and will be used alongside data collected through ongoing teaching and learning to determine predicted grades. SAT testing in Madrid has been canceled at nearly all centers through December 2020 which means that less than 30% of our students applying to the US have been able to take an SAT exam.

School resumed in Spain on September 7th with a government requirement that upper secondary have at least 30-50% of teaching in person. At Brains International Schools, the Senior Leadership and Covid Committee have spent countless hours designing contingency plans for the various scenarios we may face throughout this 2020-21 academic school year.

To date we have begun the school year with strict hygiene and social distancing measures, mandatory masks for all students and **100% in person learning**. Students who must stay home due to quarantines, high-risk health conditions or for any other reason are able to connect to all their classes online. Teachers are fully trained in all the platforms, technology and strategies necessary to assure that all content is covered and no learning time is lost for any student.

We are also moving forward with **modified versions** of our pre-university courses in partnership with local universities, Model United Nations, Debate, volunteering, sports and other extracurricular activities that students take part in to round out their educational experience.

For further information please contact the International Universities Counselor for the UK, US and rest of the world **Ms. Laura Jean Nohr** [laura@colegiobrains.com](mailto:laura@colegiobrains.com)

