INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BARCELONA

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN
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PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN
Barcelona is an open, cosmopolitan, Mediterranean city with loads of character. It successfully combines tourist attractions with its more business-friendly side. This ranks us among the top European cities chosen by international companies.

Half of the nearly 8 million people that visit us each year do so for professional reasons. Many of them come to live and work here. And those who come with their families are faced with the challenge of choosing a school for their children. The Barcelona City Council has created this guide in order to help ease that process.

The International Schools in Barcelona guide features concise practical information on how our local education system works, as well as the public and private resources available. It focuses on international schools in the Barcelona area, as they are one of the options parents consider when moving to the city for a short period of time or when they prefer to keep children in the education system of their home country.

The city has a wide variety of quality options in terms of schooling, including more than 30 international schools. Having international schools is key to attracting foreign talent and clearly an asset that helps strengthen the Barcelona brand, as well as putting the city on the map of European business and education centres of excellence.

Childhood education is one of our most important missions, as it conditions the future of our society. It is also a key tool for economic development and competitiveness, as well as playing an essential role in social cohesion and the integration of residents from around the world. We hope the education centres included in this guide help strengthen your bonds with our city and contribute to making your stay in Barcelona an enriching experience.
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CHOOSING A SCHOOL
When you move to a new city, choosing a school for your children isn’t an easy task. The decision depends on their previous educational experiences and how long you plan to stay in the city, among other factors.

So, families that frequently move from one country to another with school-age children tend to choose international schools that ensure there is some continuity in their education or that they will be able to get an officially recognised degree regardless of where the family is located. There are also families that move here for a relatively short period of time and see the benefits of experiencing a year in a local school, while others prefer for their children to continue on with their previous education system. Families moving here for a longer period of time sometimes opt to enrol their children in a school that follows the local curriculum but also offers quality foreign-language teaching.

Each family is different and has its own priorities and preferences. To select the best option, parents need information on what is available and how the local education system works. This guide aims to address this need.
TYPES OF EDUCATION CENTRES
The education system in Spain and Catalonia establishes **compulsory education** for all children between the ages of 6 and 16.

There are two options: public school and private school, depending on the nature of the body that administrates the centre.

- **Public education centres** are owned by public bodies. The Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council own the public education centres in the city of Barcelona. They are all operated by the Barcelona Education Consortium. Education falls under the purview of the Catalan Ministry of Education. These centres are publicly funded.

- **Private education centres** are those owned by a private individual or legal entity. The curriculum must be approved by the Catalan Ministry of Education but they are privately run.

There are two subtypes within this group:

- **Charter Centres**: these private education centres have been recognised under the legally established charter regime. By participating in the charter agreement and complying with established requirements, these schools receive subsidies from the Catalan government to cover the cost of basic educational needs. Any other expenses beyond the scope of compulsory education are paid by parents on a voluntary basis.

- **Private Centres (Non-Charter)**: these private education centres don’t fall under the charter regime. In this case, the cost of schooling is covered in full by families or other stakeholders.

**Public education services** are provided through public centres and charter centres. As a result, the **Catalan Education Service** is comprised of public centres, which are owned by the Government of Catalonia or the Barcelona City Council, and private centres that belong to the charter system. Both types of centres follow the same pre-enrolment and enrolment criteria and procedures. All of the centres that belong to the Catalan Education Service follow the same curriculum because they are governed by the same law on education. However each centre may employ its own methodology and specific educational programme.
The public education system is broken down into stages, levels, and years of learning. Basically, there is non-compulsory Pre-Primary Education (with a first level from 0 to 3 and the second level from 3 to 6), compulsory Primary Education (from 6 to 12), Secondary Education, which is comprised of Compulsory Secondary Education (Educació Secundària Obligatòria - ESO, from 12 to 16), and the non-compulsory stage (from 16) that includes the Baccalaureate (Batxillerat) and Basic Vocational Training (Formació Professional de Grau Mitjà). After this, there is Advanced Vocational Training and University Education.

The city of Barcelona has a strong network of Municipal Nursery Schools (4 months to 3 years old) as well as many private childcare centres.

For more information: → www.bcn.cat/barcelonabressol

The second level of Pre-Primary Education (from 3 years old), Primary Education, Compulsory Secondary Education and Basic Vocational Training programmes are all free and universal.

The appendix to this guide explains the main traits of the Catalan public education system in further detail.

With regard to private schools, Barcelona has private associations or bodies that operate and manage schools according to their principles or education system, always adhering to the requirements established in Spanish and Catalan laws on education. The curriculum (aims, contents, teaching methods and assessment criteria, etc.) taught at all private schools must be approved by local educational administrations.

There is a registry of learning centres (non-university) that lists all of the centres in the city, whether publicly or privately owned, that offer official schooling.

Catalan registry of education centres: → www10.gencat.net/pls/ense_ensenyam/p01.menu (only available in Catalan)

Registry of education centres in the city of Barcelona: → www.edubcn.cat/ca - ALUMNAT I FAMÍLIES - Consulta de centres educatius de la ciutat de Barcelona (only available in Catalan)

The Barcelona Education Consortium (Plaça d’Urquinaona, 6) offers personalised information services in several languages.
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN THE BARCELONA AREA
What do we mean when we speak of international schools? A priori, a distinction must be made between two types of schools:

- **FOREIGN SCHOOLS**: those that follow their country’s curriculum.

- **FOREIGN-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**: those that teach subject matter in a foreign language while following the local curriculum.

There are many of both types of schools in the Barcelona area, covering a wide variety of foreign education systems and teaching in many different languages: German, English, French, Hebrew, Italian and Japanese.

These are normally private centres, meaning they are privately owned and operated. Financial issues must therefore be taken into consideration. Foreign schools can be an expensive option compared to public or charter schools, which are paid for in full or part with public funds.

The international schools in the city of Barcelona are located mostly in the districts of Sarrià - Sant Gervasi and Les Corts. There are also international schools in parts of the Barcelona metropolitan area with significant foreign communities, like Sant Cugat, Sitges and La Garriga, to name just a few.

Barcelona has schools that follow the German, British, French, Italian, Japanese, US and Swiss education systems. Most of these foreign schools follow the curriculum of their home country throughout pre-university schooling. Others only do so for primary education and then move to the local (Catalan) system for secondary education in order to ease the students’ transition into Catalan and Spanish universities.

The following table shows the equivalences between education systems in different countries.
# Equivalence of Courses in Different Education Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Catalan</th>
<th>German</th>
<th>US</th>
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<td>1. Jahr</td>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>Pre-school</td>
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<td>2. Jahr</td>
<td>Pre-Kindergarten</td>
<td>Nursery</td>
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<td>3. Jahr</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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<td>P5</td>
<td>1r Primària</td>
<td>Klasse 1</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>1r Primària</td>
<td>Klasse 1</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>Klasse 12</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>Year 13</td>
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**Source:** Compiled internally from information provided by the schools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Grande Section</td>
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<td>3. Klasse</td>
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<td>4º Primaria</td>
<td>4. Klasse</td>
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<td>5. Klasse</td>
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<td>6. Klasse</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1º Liceo</td>
<td>1º Sec. di 1º g.</td>
<td>7. Klasse</td>
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<td>2º Sec. di 1º g.</td>
<td>8. Klasse</td>
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<td>3º Liceo</td>
<td>9. Klasse</td>
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<td>10. Klasse</td>
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**EQUIVALENCE OF COURSES IN DIFFERENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

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<tr>
<th>ÉCOLE MATERNELLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pré-</td>
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<td>P4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Sezione 5 anni</td>
<td>3º Primaria</td>
<td>P5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ÉCOLE COMMUNALE**

| CP | 1º Sec. di 1º g. | 4º Primaria | 6º Primaria | 6. Klasse |
| CE1 | 2º Sec. di 1º g. | 5º Primaria | 7º Primaria | 7. Klasse |
| CE2 | 3º Sec. di 1º g. | 6º Primaria | 8º Primaria | 8. Klasse |
| CM1 | 1º Liceo | 7º Primaria | 9º Primaria | 9. Klasse |
| CM2 | 2º Liceo | 8º Primaria | 10º Primaria | 10. Klasse |
| Sixième | 3º Liceo | 9º Primaria | 11º Primaria | 11. Klasse |
| Cinquième | 4º Liceo | 10º Primaria | 12º Primaria | 12. Klasse |
| Quatrième | 5º Liceo | 11º Primaria | 13º Primaria | 13. Klasse |
| Troisième | 6º Liceo | 12º Primaria | 14º Primaria | 14. Klasse |
| Seconde | 7º Liceo | 13º Primaria | 15º Primaria | 15. Klasse |
| Première | 8º Liceo | 14º Primaria | 16º Primaria | 16. Klasse |
| Terminale | 9º Liceo | 15º Primaria | 17º Primaria | 17. Klasse |

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<tr>
<th>SCUOLA SECONDARIA DI PRIMO GRADO</th>
<th>SCUOLA SECONDARIA</th>
<th>SCUOLA SECONDARIA</th>
<th>SEKUNDARSCHULE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Troisième</td>
<td>9º Liceo</td>
<td>9º Liceo</td>
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</table>
Some of these foreign schools are partially funded by their respective countries. Thus, these schools offer public education for foreigners living in the Barcelona area. In these cases, priority is normally given to families from the country that subsidises the school, although the centre is open to students of any nationality. Students of other nationalities that have done part of their schooling in the centre’s home country are also normally given priority.

**FOREIGN-LANGUAGE SCHOOLS**

In the Barcelona area there is a considerable list of private schools that teach in foreign languages. These are what we could call foreign-language schools or bilingual/trilingual schools. Most of these follow the education system of Catalonia: the same curriculum, same school calendar, same holidays, etc. (More information in the appendix). Of these, only some schools belong to the charter system and thus receive support from local educational administrations for all or part of the studies they offer.

The students at bilingual schools are from both foreign and local families who believe that it is a priority for children to learn foreign languages and study in an intercultural environment.

**INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE IB**

It is also worth mentioning the International Baccalaureate (IB), a training programme promoted since 1968 by a Geneva-based not-for-profit organisation that was initially created to offer a diploma for students that travelled a lot internationally during their university-preparation years. Today the programme has four top-quality, highly demanding educational programmes for students from 3 to 19 years of age at a community of primary and secondary schools around the world. For more than 45 years, the IB programmes have been renowned for their top-notch academic level and rigour. There are currently more than one million IB students at approximately 3,800 schools in 148 countries.

Students that successfully finish the IB programme can go on to the best universities in the world. There are currently 10 international schools in the Barcelona area that offer the IB.

For more information on the International Baccalaureate: [www.ibo.org/](http://www.ibo.org/)
Another option that has been available since late 2010 is the Batxibac programme (double degree - Catalan Batxillerat and French Baccalauréat) at centres specifically authorised by the Catalan Ministry of Education. The programme follows a mixed curriculum with one-third of the classroom hours of the Catalan Batxillerat taught in French, plus classes in French language, literature and history. In order to be accepted into the Batxibac programme, students must prove they have basic French, equivalent to B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Students that successfully complete this mixed curriculum earn the Catalan Batxillerat degree and, if they pass an additional external exam in French, the French Baccalauréat.

This option is available at most public and charter schools, as well as a few international schools.

For more information on the Batxibac:
www.xtec.cat/web/curriculum/batxillerat/baccalauréat
Following is a list of international schools in the city of Barcelona and its metropolitan area, in alphabetical order and classified by predominant foreign languages offered and age of students.

There is a datasheet for each school with a photo and brief description, mainly provided by the schools themselves.

The information in this guide is merely descriptive and in no way indicates any type of commitment on behalf of Barcelona Activa to the centres, interested parties or third parties. Barcelona Activa will not be held liable for the information contained in this guide, which has been provided by the participating centres. Interested parties must verify the information regarding any centre they wish to establish relations with.
# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BARCELONA AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>AGES</th>
<th>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</th>
<th>IB*</th>
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<td>St. Esteve Sesrovíres</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>x x x x x x</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Àgora Sant Cugat International School</td>
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<td>x</td>
<td>x x x x x x</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. American School of Barcelona</td>
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<td>x x x</td>
<td>x x x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td>Valldoreix (St. Cugat)</td>
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*International Baccalaureate
Ágora International School Barcelona is an independent, non-denominational day school highly committed to the values of international education. The school is part of the NACE Group and offers a comprehensive, pluralistic, trilingual education of the highest standard in purpose built state-of-the-art facilities.

The school offers an education that prepares students for a successful and fulfilling future. It provides students with the skills, knowledge and abilities they will need to integrate into “tomorrow’s world”.

A personalised education that allows every student to reach his or her maximum potential in the academic, personal, social and creative fields and an education based on values and virtues that teaches analytical, critical and problem-solving skills.
ÀGORA SANT CUGAT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Àgora Sant Cugat International School is a private co-educational, non denominational school which is part of the educational group of NACE centres. The education provided to students is known for being innovative and leading to high academics results, giving priority to personal attention and each student’s needs. A trilingual education is offered in English, Catalan and Spanish with the option of French, German and Chinese. Importance is given to human and social values. The school offers an education for children ranging from 0 to 18 years of age and follows a curriculum with an international projection. Students can experience different international activities: language and cultural exchanges, Comenius Project, MUN, GYLC, etc.

The music project is directly linked to the Barcelona Liceu Conservatory, and it provides all students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in School from the age of 6 to 16, as well as the option of taking the Liceu examinations. The School also has an orchestra and a band. ICT’s are used in all areas of the curriculum and in all ages as an important component of the learning process.
The American School of Barcelona (ASB), founded in 1962 is an independent school offering an educational program from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for students of all nationalities. ASB is committed to a rigorous international curriculum that effectively prepares students to enter some of the best universities in the United States, Spain, and other countries in Europe.

The school offers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) in the last two years of high school and is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Spanish Ministry of Education.

ASB has a full selection of after-school activities and is involved in a wide-range of community service projects, both locally and internationally.
Founded in 1968, the school is entirely independent and has no political, religious or economic affiliations. Aula Escola Europea seeks academic excellence through these 7 main characteristics:

- Acquire knowledge and be able to relate through knowledge and discovery.
- Stimulate intellectual curiosity in finding answers through the formulation of questions, with curiosity and imagination.
- Develop a creative attitude in all areas of the students life.
- Owning the culture of effort and the achievement of personal goals.
- Learn how to learn through methods and tools demanding and effective.
- Convey the taste for beauty and sensitivity through artistic expression.
- Requiring a high sense of ethics based on respect for the other things in nature, space and time.

Aula Escola Europea seeks academic excellence in a spirit of critical rigor, tolerant and dedication to international diversity and understanding. It prepares young people to reflect, analyze, create, imagine and, above all, to generate the changes demanded by society.
BFIS is a truly international school in Barcelona, with a roughly one-third breakdown among US, International, and Spanish families. Its diverse and engaged student body, faculty and parent community- now comprised of over 45 nationalities and cultural heritages- is the heart and soul of the school. BFIS students develop compassion, empathy, cooperation, respect, and insight in this inclusive, engaged, and culturally diverse community that requires them to consider multiple perspectives and adapt to different ways of being. English is the language of instruction, with language courses offered in Spanish, Catalan and French.

The teaching approach at BFIS is based on differentiated instruction and places the student at the center of the learning process. BFIS encourages and supports students to be curious, independent learners who pursue their passions and understand the beauty and power of knowledge. The school also supports their emotional needs so that they may develop into creative, self-confident, and responsible individuals. BFIS graduates receive offers of acceptance and merit-based scholarships from some of the most prestigious universities in the world.
The British School of Barcelona is an international association committed to excellence at all levels. It offers high quality British education to children ages three to eighteen years old.

The BSB emphasizes effective learning and a comprehensive education that goes beyond the purely academic. In addition to classes, students participate in various activities including sports, art, music, theater, school partnerships and community service.

It is a school that is accredited and formally recognized by the British government as a center that follows the English national education program. There are students from over 40 nationalities. At the end of their Studies they get place in world-class universities in Spain, Britain and the U.S., among other countries.

The school is conveniently located near Barcelona and Sitges, Castelldefels, surrounded by institutions with sports facilities, including the Olympic Canal, Andrés Gimeno Tennis Club and Club Deportivo Granvia Mar.
COLEGIO HATIKVA

HATIKVA, previously the Sephardic School, has offered, since 1972, a multicultural and humanistic education. Hatikva ensures a comprehensive and holistic development of its students, guided by the values of the millenial Jewish tradition. It offers four languages, encompassing four different cultures. It strives to achieve personal, moral and cognitive growth in each student. At the same time, school excellence as a whole is an important goal. Based on the Catalan curricular framework, the school’s programme is ambitious, both on the formative and academic fields. Its constructivist learning system is focused on investigation, significant learning, multi-disciplinary projects and ample spaces of creativity. The students are indispensable active participants in their process of growth. Its mission is to form responsible and proactive citizens of the world, with a strong sense of identity, and democratic values.

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The Ministry of Education of Japan oversees the quality of teaching and the educational and management team. The school’s academic programme is divided into two levels: the “shogakko” - from 7 to 12 years old – and the “chugakko” - up to 15 years old-, which is the minimum required. The teaching of contemporary subjects is complemented with traditional studies such as calligraphy, Japanese cooking or practices of the tea ceremony.

In 2015, the school celebrated its 30th anniversary.
The Mary Ward School of Barcelona, known as the “german nuns”, belongs to a group of Christian Schools of Catalonia. The school has a single line with a strong involvement in the entire educational community. They teach classes to students from 1 year old (P1) to 16 years old (4th ESO). The school’s first foreign language is German, which starts at P1. English is introduced at the 5th grade, getting a very good level as shown by the results of the CB (Competencies Bàsiques). Secondary (ESO) students can choose as first foreign language German or English. New students are offered free lessons to initiate on German. The Mary Ward School of Barcelona supports their students to be competent learners with a comprehensive education.
The educational project ranges from 0 to 18 years of age and accompanies each student in achieving their personal excellence. The educational system is based on the Early Stimulation and Multiple Intelligences theory and it uses proactive methodologies for a student-centred learning. The school encourages autonomy, commitment, cooperative learning and collaboration with the aim of improving the social environment. The integration of technologies facilitates personalised learning which is contextualised in real life. The presence of art, music, drama and visual media in the curriculum contributes to the enhancement of self-expression and aesthetic sensitivity. The centre is trilingual and also teaches French, German and Chinese.
Xaloc is a school founded in 1964 which not only imparts formal education but also International Baccalaureate. Xaloc’s educational project is based on the single-sex education, which encourages each student to develop his abilities and aims to give students a firm grounding that spreads to all the student’s dimensions, in an atmosphere of freedom and responsibility. It provides a solid education to full students’ personal development such as the conquering of good habits and manner, order, effort, perseverance, respect and solidarity; new technologies integration and good command of his native languages as well as English and French. Personal attention is given to every student and family by a personal tutor. The education offered at school is inspired by a transcendent vision of human existence in accordance with the Catholic Church.
The DSB, founded in 1894, is a private German school abroad, which offers a future-oriented education in a tri-cultural environment. The DSB provides a complete training that goes from Nursery to High School / Abitur for children of German, Spanish and Catalan speaking.

The campus, currently about 1400 students, includes, in addition to a spacious building with modern science rooms, a large auditorium, a cafeteria, and the library. It also owns attractive sports facilities and much more.

The German School of Barcelona stands for:
• Technical and methodical learning at a high level of performance
• Intercultural encounter and cooperative school environment
• Consistent education in values: respect, tolerance, openness and fairness are especially important
• Education for self-reliant, dedicated people
• Promoting creativity and a high level of education
Founded in 1859 by Ferdinand-de-Lesseps, Barcelona’s previous Consul General for France, the school is the oldest French educational establishment on the Iberian peninsula. Enriched by its long history, the school continues to pursue its academic mission and promote both local and European culture.

580 children attend the French School Ferdinand-de-Lesseps from the first year of nursery school (3 years old) to fifth grade (11 years old). It is a private institution, part of the AEFE network (French Teaching Overseas Agency).

In accordance with the convention signed with the AEFE, the school strictly adheres to the syllabus set by France’s Education Ministry. In addition, the teaching of both Spanish and Catalan are included in the school curriculum.

Pupils who then wish to pursue their education can do so by attending the French Lycée in Barcelona (LFB), also a member of the AEFE school network.
English Academy Santa Claus is a trilingual school of kindergarten and Primary school. It was founded in 1965 by an English based in Barcelona. The school has always been characterized by its linguistics plurality and English language teaching. The school has a single line allowing personalized and family education and a close monitoring of the students. Santa Clause is a school where the three languages (English, Spanish and Catalan) have the same weight. In the Kindergarten stage, there is a total immersion in the English language with teachers who are native speakers. In primary education, the school follows the official curriculum, maintaining a good level of English that allows our students to obtain certificates of the Trinity College of London and Cambridge University exams. E.A.S.C is a school that is proud of its work over the past 50 years and does not want to grow in size, but seeks constant growth in quality and humanity. It is a plural school and it’s open to anyone who is interested in a good academic education and human formation.
The English school is a unique, friendly International school which offers a high level of linguistic and cultural education. They regard themselves as an open, secular, non- elitist school.

Children at The English School start their full English immersion at age 3. The school can provide individualized linguistic support programmes, based on the school long experience of integrating children from all over the world.

At secondary school, students start learning French as their 4th language, offering them the perfect foundation to take the International Baccalaureate (IB) or even the Batxibac (the French/Spanish equivalent). The school’s student support includes psychologists, art therapist and speech therapists.

The extra-curricular activities that the school offers includes: chess, tennis, basketball, ballet, arts&crafts, robotics, skating, yoga and drum lessons.
ES INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Since 1999, ES International School has been offering an American Elementary, Middle, and Senior High School program. The school’s endeavor is to provide students with an international experience that broadens their horizons, creates a positive learning experience, and affords each student the opportunity to excel both academically and athletically. All students receive individual attention, close academic guidance and personal counseling, in order to ensure both the acquisition of academic competencies and the development of individual strengths and talents. Student’s population is very international, and the predominant language on campus is English.

ES International School operates very much like any elementary, middle or senior high school in the United States but with an important emphasis on promoting the relationship between academics and athletics. Sports are an essential part of the curriculum.
What: An international educational project progress and quality

Europe International School prepares students so they can achieve excellence in their human and intellectual development. Europe IS main project is to form character through personal effort, team work and social awareness.

The school educates internationality from a modern, comprehensive and practical approach. Europe IS work with an active methodology which aims to enable students to learn and enjoy it, to be lifelong learners. Because in an increasingly complex world the school wants their students to become autonomous and responsible, able to study and work here or anywhere in the world.

From 0 to 18 the school helps each one of their students to develop their potential and capabilities. The project begins during childhood and is consolidated in high school, participating in numerous international events linked to academic programs, sports competitions and humanitarian actions that maximize the capabilities of the students, their talents.
Hamelin International Laie School is a private school provided with the acknowledgment of the ISO Quality Norm, which certifies our excellence in education. The new facilities of the school are being built in Montgat.

Below you will find a brief description of what makes us different:

- **Teaching levels**: K-12, Children’s Education, Primary Education, Compulsory Secondary Education, High school education, IB Diploma Programme
- **Methodology**: Skillful and motivated teachers, Trilingual Education (English, Spanish, Catalan), Fourth language (French, German, Chinese), Active methodology, Exchange programmes, Early stimulation, Comprehensive education, Conscientious treatment of values, Development of emotional intelligence, Individual monitoring
- **Facilities**: Own kitchen, Canteen and cafeteria, Sports grounds, Laboratories, Computer rooms, Dancing halls, Theatre
- **Services**: School psychologist, Speech therapy, School transport, After-school activities

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Highlands School Barcelona is a private, bilingual (English / Spanish) and catholic school with the mission of training the leaders of the future through academic excellence and integral formation, accompanied by personal guidance. The educational model is based on developing intelligence, willpower, emotional balance and sense of transcendence, through 4 main areas:

• BILINGUAL EDUCATION: Highlands school believes in the importance of languages as a fundamental vehicle for personal development within a multicultural environment.

• PERSONAL GUIDANCE: The school considers each person as an individual soul.

• INTEGRAL AND CATHOLIC FORMATION: The school educates students with human values and seek to forge all-around individuals to be great people the day of tomorrow. They learn values as responsibility, cooperation or forgiveness.

• ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: the school develops unique educational programs in Barcelona that difference us from the rest. Those educational programs give pupils the capacity to achieve the academic excellence.
The International School in Barcelona is a private international center, which offers a broad perspective on education on their students from 2 years old up to 18 years old. The International School of Barcelona has been especially designed to meet the needs of students through its progressive teaching philosophy and modern, purpose-built facilities. The International School philosophy emphasises a belief in community, family, education and knowledge. Students come from many different countries and have the opportunity to share their cultures while learning.

The International School in Barcelona prepares students to access the tests:
- Cambridge Exams of Secondary Education (IGCSE)
- Spanish Secondary Education (ESO)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Cambridge Exams equivalents to the Baccalaureate (A levels)
- Spanish High School

These qualifications allow their students to access any university in the world.
JOHN TALABOT SCHOOL

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John Talabot is a state-funded school. English, Catalan and Spanish are used as vehicular languages following the Spanish curriculum. Throughout their 40-year history, the school’s educational project and humanistic formation begins from the earliest stages of learning, 3 to 16 years old. The school’s educational methodology is based on the principle of holistic education where they value and encourage the social, intellectual, physical and artistic potential of each of the students. The school and family work together to prepare students for a positive integration into society.

Jhon Talabot holds only one group per level, a structure that allows to get to know and adequately serve in a very individualized manner each one of their students.

The school project is born out of their deep roots to Catalan culture also offers the cultural richness of growing and learning in a trilingual environment. The faculty, native and international, guide students through this immersion process not only academically, but also in their daily school life.
KENSINGTON SCHOOL

Kensington School was founded in 1966 to provide a British education to the international community in Barcelona, making it one of the oldest British curriculum schools in Spain. Its current size is of 250 students between the ages of 3 and 18. The school is academically non-selective, it achieves remarkable examination results at both GCSE and Advanced Level. This is due to the dedication of its teachers and the small class sizes which allow pupils of all abilities to develop their full potential. Apart from Spanish and French, all lessons are taught in English and follow the National Curriculum of England and Wales. Fluency in English is important to access the curriculum so we provide support for those needing additional help to improve their linguistic capacity. Our students gain access to prestigious universities all around the world with the majority reading for degrees in the United Kingdom.

The school encourages a friendly atmosphere and promotes a common sense approach to behavior and learning, thereby stimulating motivation for study. The aim is to achieve a high level of understanding, independent reasoning and cooperation between staff and pupils.
The Lycée Français Bel Air was created in 1992. It is a private school and not state assisted. The teaching has been officially approved by the Ministère de l’Éducation Nationale Française from nursery school P3 to the end of the secondary studies. It is a Secular School, multilingual and intercultural, located in the town of St. Pere de Ribes near Barcelona. The Lycée Française Bel Air is enrolled in the register of foreign schools. It is recognised and authorised by the competent authority for education purposes, and it has the obligation due to the French-Spanish agreement of teaching the Spanish and Catalan language and culture. The centre provides comprehensive programmes in these subjects.
The Lycée Français de Barcelone has been operating in Barcelona since 1924. The LFB is run directly by the Agency of French Education Overseas (AEFE). It contributes to the promotion of the French language and culture by educating French, Spanish and foreign pupils. It contributes to consolidating the bonds of cooperation between the two educational systems. The LFB curriculum has been officially approved by the French Ministry of Education, from preschool to baccalaureate (3 to 18 year-olds) and it abides by the French educational system.

The LFB, which is recognised and authorised by the Spanish government, also integrates an additional curriculum, in compliance with the cultural agreements between both countries. The governments have set the equivalence between the Studies done at the LFB and those done within the Spanish system. The LFB is noted for:

• An education base on reasoning and analysis.
• Teaching four languages
• The enhancement of scientific education
• An artistic education
• Official French and Spanish degrees
Lycée Français Bon Soleil at Gavà, near Barcelona, is a French institution based on multilingual language learning (French, English, Spanish and Catalan) where great emphasis is placed on new technologies applied to all fields of education and also practising sports from an early age. Close cooperation with families combined with an established and experienced team is the school’s greatest asset.

Students are drawn from a wide background and the resulting experience enriches their school life.

It is people-centred school with a European outlook. Student care is a priority and the prime objective is to educate future European citizens with sound values. The final two years of school enable the students to obtain both French and Spanish baccalaureate which therefore entitles them to study at French and Spanish universities.
Oak House School is a co-educational Primary and Secondary school for children from 3 to 18 years of age. In Primary, the study programme follows the National Education Curriculum for England and Wales. Primary pupils also study Spanish and Catalan languages, as well as Humanities, in Spanish. Oak House Secondary school is also authorised by the Catalan regional government and pupils are taught in English, Spanish and Catalan. A fourth language (French or German) is also introduced in Secondary. The study programme for Secondary pupils is based on the local Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) curriculum, as well as a range of subjects through the established British Cambridge Examination Board (IGCSEs). During the final two years of their education, our pupils can either follow the regional Bachillerato courses or the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB), taught in English. Oak House School pupils receive a broad and balanced trilingual education and are thus prepared for further study in any of the three languages.
Princess Margaret School, founded in 1967, is a private co-educational and trilingual school of reference in Barcelona. The school offers different stages from Early Years Education and Primary to Secondary Education following the “Generalitat de Catalunya” official programme. In addition and simultaneously, students are immersed in the English language in a way that guarantees a high level of English. They obtain successful results in the Official Cambridge University Examinations, which have a wide International recognition, and in the “Escola Oficial d’Idiomes”, obtaining certificates recognized by universities in Spain.

Students receive a quality education as a result of the pedagogical methodology used by the school. Children obtain extraordinary academic results and, at the same time, they are formed as individuals able to face their future on a human, professional and personal level.
Santa Clara IC is a 45-year-old school devoted to the comprehensive education of students aged 18 months old to 18 years old. The school offers a personalized trilingual teaching, putting the emphasis on English as a universal communication tool. Santa Clara IC enables their students to acquire both knowledge and values through the transversality of contents, stays in England and Finland, sharing educational projects in the field of Mathematics and the assessment of student’s creativity through art experiences. The school promotes students to acquire essential skills for their professional life. Oratory, as well as taking part in well-known theatre plays makes it easier for them to communicate in front of an audience. Santa Clara IC philosophy is to make the educational task a project that comprises all aspects of personal development.

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The Swiss School of Barcelona in Plaça Molina, in the Centre of Barcelona, is a Swiss Government Approved School following the Swiss Curriculum. The school is multicultural and multilingual and is open to children from 3 to 18 years old from all nationalities. The language of instruction is German but all students will also learn Spanish, Catalan, English and French. The students leave the school with a Swiss and Spanish double degree. In addition to the academic programme focusing on a balanced intellectual, emocional, social and physical development, the school is well known for its personal approach towards students and their families. The highly qualifies and experienced staff keeps the children motivated and eager to learn.
The official name of the school is “Istituto Italiano Statale Comprensivo di Scuola primaria e di Scuola secondaria di 1º e di 2º grado”.

It comprises a “Scuola infantile” (3-5 years old, 6 sections, 133 students), a “Scuola primaria” (6-10 years old, 10 classes, 234 students), a “Scuola secondaria di 1º grado” or “Scuola media” (11 to 13 years, 6 classes, 136 students), and a “Liceo Scientifico” (14-17 years old, 8 classes, 127 students).

In total there are 630 students divided into 30 classes. The vehicular language of teaching is Italian. Spanish, Catalan and English are also taught. The qualifications are recognised by the Spanish education system.
SEK Catalunya International School is one of a family of non-religious schools, “San Estanislau de Kostka,” with a reputation for its international outlook, interactive style of learning and emphasis on English. It is located near the lovely town of La Garriga, close to Barcelona, with a bus service provided for most surrounding areas. It has large, spacious buildings and grounds including an indoor pool and newly refurbished infant play areas. It maintains its international outlook through the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at all educational levels, as well as frequent contact and exchanges with other international schools. Students aged from 3 to 18 learn in English, Catalan and Spanish with German and French options at secondary level. Native English conversational assistants work alongside teachers in lower primary and infant English classes.
There are 8 main characteristics that define St. Paul’s School:

- **LINGUISTIC OBJECTIVES**: The aim is for pupils to be fluent in English, Spanish and Catalan and have a high level of French.
- **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**: Pupils are encouraged to achieve their full potential. Commitment, hard work and dedication is emphasised throughout the learning process.
- **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**: Pupils should know how to conduct themselves in any situation, take decisions which contribute to their own personal development as individuals and lead a healthy lifestyle.
- **LEADERSHIP IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**.
- **CURRICULUM OF THE GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA**: St. Paul’s School is a school in Barcelona which is open to the world.
- **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**: All aspects of Fundación Privada St. Paul’s, a non-profit organization, contribute to the ultimate aim: education.
- **QUALITY**: Effort is placed on continual improvement.
- **FROM 3 YEARS OLD UP TO UNIVERSITY**: A long path together.
St. Peter’s School Barcelona is a private International school where students from 18 months to 18 years old are prepared to face the challenges they will meet throughout their lives. Not only does the school give the children the academic excellence they need to enter the most prestigious universities around the world, but also they encourage them to become well-informed, independent and open-minded individuals, ready to study, work or live wherever they wish.

As well as the focus on languages, St Peter’s school prepares the students to become changemakers, equipped with a range of skills in science, technology, humanities, design and communications.
The International School of Catalunya is a British School that offers the National Curriculum supported by the International Primary Curriculum. Spanish and Catalan are an integral part of the programme. Mother-tongue instruction in Swedish and Russian are current options within the programme for international students, with German and Dutch becoming available from September 2011.

ISCAT aims to foster a life-long passion for learning through a reduced number of students per class, enquiry-based creative learning and a differentiated programme which ensures the appropriate intellectual challenge for each individual. Learning explicitly addresses inter-cultural awareness and social responsibility through developmentally appropriate thematic units.

The School’s mission is to offer a secure, nurturing and multicultural environment in which the intellectual, physical, emotional and creative development of each student is optimised, respecting the language, culture and creativity of every individual.
The Olive Tree School is a small British Government recognized school with a warm, caring atmosphere. The school has a maximum of 16 children per class. It is located in a bright and spacious building with a beautiful garden, in Sant Pere de Ribes, near Barcelona. The school emphasizes on creativity, experimentation and intellectual discovery. All children regularly put on termly productions, they play musical instruments, paint, design and create. Only children who are native-speakers or very fluent speakers of English guarantee excellent standards. The school follows the English National Curriculum but interpret it creatively.

The Olive Tree School inspires children with love for learning and a gentle respect for all others.
Zürich Schule is a school which its sign of identity is the German language: the quality of its teaching is based on a pedagogy based on collaboration and teamwork in small groups, and an ongoing evaluation. The learning process takes place in four languages: German, English, Spanish and Catalan. New technologies are a tool for the education of their students, as well as sports and activities.

The school’s mission is marked by a humanistic approach, which essentially determines the educational work (Humanistic and Positive Psychology).

In kindergarten and early primary grades, there are seven assistant teachers. In Primary and Secondary education there is available one hour weekly of group tutorials. There is also support activities.
APPENDIX: The education system in Barcelona and educational administrations
The education system follows a **decentralised model** that shares power among the Spanish government, the autonomous communities (Government of Catalonia), local administrations and education centres. The Spanish non-university education system is governed by the **Organic Law on Education** (LOE) passed in May 2006. This law establishes the structure and organisation of the education system and reaffirms its nature as a public service. The LOMCE (Organic Law for the Improvement of Educational Quality) passed in 2013, among other issues, makes it compulsory to offer 25% of all classes in Spanish upon parents’ request. ([www.boe.es/boe/dias/2013/12/10/pdfs/BOE-A-2013-12886.pdf](http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2013/12/10/pdfs/BOE-A-2013-12886.pdf))

The State, through the Spanish **Ministry of Education**, works to ensure the education system is homogenous and that everyone has equal access to it, exercising his or her basic right to education.

The Government of Catalonia has the power to develop national laws and regulate non-essential elements of the education system, as well as executive and management competencies over the system in its territory. In Catalonia, the body in charge of this is the **Catalan Ministry of Education**. Catalan Law 12/2009 on Education, of 10 July, governs the education system in Catalonia.

The **Barcelona City Council** collaborates with the Government of Catalonia to create, build and maintain public centres of learning, as well as organising complementary activities and services.

Given the importance of Barcelona and its status as the capital of Catalonia, a special regime has been established by law for the city: the Municipal Charter of Barcelona. From this law, passed in 2002, the Barcelona Education Consortium was created as a public body jointly promoted by the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council. It is a decentralised joint-management tool for cooperation in improving management of the education services available in the city of Barcelona.

The **Education System of Catalonia** has a network of education centres made up of **public centres and charter centres**. All of the information in this appendix refers to these types of centres.

For more information:
Barcelona Education Consortium

Catalan Ministry of Education
> [www.gencat.cat/ensenyament](http://www.gencat.cat/ensenyament)
(in Catalan and Spanish)

Spanish Ministry of Education
> [www.educacion.gob.es](http://www.educacion.gob.es) (in Spanish)
Next page is a table summarising the education system in public and charter schools.

**PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION (EDUCACIÓ INFANTIL - EI)**

Pre-primary education is the period before compulsory schooling offered to children from 0 to 6 years old in order to aid in their physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. It is divided into two three-year periods:

- first level (0 to 3) and
- second level (3 to 6), free.

Centres that only offer the first level of pre-primary education are generally called pre-schools or nursery schools (*llar d’infants* or *escola bressol*). There is a strong network of nursery schools promoted by the local government in Barcelona.

Although it is not compulsory, the second level of pre-primary education has become standard throughout the country and nearly all children from 3 to 6 years old attend school.

For more information: [www.bcn.cat/barcelonabressol](http://www.bcn.cat/barcelonabressol)

**PRIMARY EDUCATION (EDUCACIÓ PRIMÀRIA - EP)**

Primary education is compulsory and free of charge. It is comprised of three two-year levels (lower, middle and high) for students between 6 and 12 years of age. In general, students begin primary education the same calendar year that they turn 6.

**COMPULSORY SECONDARY EDUCATION (EDUCACIÓ SECUNDÀRIA OBLIGATÒRIA - ESO)**

Compulsory secondary education (ESO) is compulsory and free of charge, completing basic education. It is made up of four years of schooling for students between 12 and 16 years old. However, students have the right to stay in the centre under the ordinary regime through the age of 18. There are curricular diversification programmes, from the third year, geared towards receiving the degree of graduate in ESO (GESO). This degree allows students to enrol for post-compulsory secondary education programmes.
CATALAN EDUCATION. SIMPLIFIED CHARTS SYSTEM

- CONDITIONAL ACCESS
- ACCESS TEST REQUIRED

PH STUDIES
Estudis de doctorat

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES
Estudis de postgrau

UNIVERSITY DEGREE
Estudis de grau

HIGHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING
Cicles formatius de grau superior

UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION
Baxillerat (16-18 years)

VOCATIONAL TRAINING
Cicles formatius de grau mig

COMPELLARY SECONDARY EDUCATION
Educació secundària obligatòria (12-16 years)

COMPULSORY

UPPER (10-12 years)

INTERMEDIATE (8-10 years)

INITIAL CYCLE (6-8 years)

SECOND CYCLE (3-6 years)

FIRST CYCLE (0-3 years)

Source: Compiled internally based on information from the Catalan Ministry of Education.
**Upper Secondary Education (Batxillerat)**

Upper secondary education is one of the post-compulsory secondary education programmes on offer and, therefore, is voluntary. It is comprised of two years of schooling in one of three areas: arts, science and technology, or humanities and social sciences. The Baccalaureate (Batxiller) degree allows students to enter higher education programmes.

**Vocational Training (Formació Professional)**

Vocational training is broken down into basic (grau mitjà) and advanced studies (grau superior), which offer vocational qualifications and advanced vocational qualifications, respectively.

In order to do basic vocational training, students must have graduated from compulsory secondary education (GESO) and for advanced vocational training, must have completed the Baccalaureate (Batxiller) or an equivalent academic level. Students without the aforementioned academic qualifications may also gain access to these training programmes through an entrance exam (candidates must be over 17 for the basic level and over 19 for advanced training, or 18 if they have a related vocational qualification).

**University (Ensenyaments Universitaris)**

Students must pass an entrance exam to access these studies or have a vocational qualification or an equivalent academic level.

For more information on enrolment:

[www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/queestudiar](http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/queestudiar) (in Catalan and Spanish)
SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school year runs from September to June and is divided into three terms:

• Fall term runs from September to the Christmas holidays, which last approximately 15 days.

• Winter term is from January to the Easter holidays (March/April), which last approximately 10 days.

• Spring term goes from the Easter holidays to the end of June. The summer holiday runs from July through the first week of September.

For Baccalaureate students taking university entrance exams (Prova d’Accés a la Universitat - PAU), the school year finishes in May, leaving them approximately one month to prepare for exams.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

When enrolling children in the Education System of Catalonia, parents or guardians may select the school of their choice, public or private (charter or non-charter). In order to enrol in a non-charter private school, contact the school in question. For public and charter schools, follow the instructions below.

On the pre-enrolment form, applicants must list different education centres in order of preference.

Spots in each school are allocated according to a point system, according to priority-based criteria such as siblings that attend the school; parents who work there; proximity to the child’s habitual residence or to a parent’s workplace; families that receive “renda mínima d’inserció” benefits; children, parents or siblings with disabilities; large or single-parent families; children with chronic illnesses, etc.

If there aren’t enough spots at any one school to meet demand, students will be selected through a draw with applications ordered by points.
PRE-ENROLMENT

Pre-enrolment begins in March for the school year starting in September of the same year. Those interested must fill in a pre-enrolment form available at any education centre, at the Barcelona Education Consortium Information Office (Plaça Urquinaona, 6, ground floor), at the Barcelona City Council Institute of Education (Plaça d’Espanya, 5), at the Resident Information Centre for each district or online.

For more information on Pre-enrolment:

[www.gencat.cat/preinscripcio](http://www.gencat.cat/preinscripcio)

This form should be submitted to the first choice school by the established deadline with all the required documents. In extenuating circumstances, it may be submitted to the Barcelona Education Consortium Information Office or at one of the Resident Information Centres (Oficines d’Atenció al Ciutadà - OAC). We recommend requesting a dated, stamped copy of the application. The following documents must be submitted with the form:

- Original and photocopy of the Family Record Book (*Llibre de Família*) or other documents proving family relationship.

- Original and photocopy of DNI, passport or other form of identification for parents or guardian.

- Proof of family residence.

- Photocopy of the child’s DNI or alternative document if over 14.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPEALS

The education centre will publish a provisional list of students with the corresponding point scale and establish a period of appeals. All of this information will be available on the notice boards at the schools. Finally, once any appeals have been dealt with, each centre will post the definitive list of students and a waiting list for those not admitted directly if applicable.

ENROLMENT

To secure the spot assigned, students must enrol in the centre during the established period and provide any documents not submitted in the pre-enrolment process. Otherwise, the centre will understand the student to have rejected the spot.

The director of the centre will meet with the parents or guardian of students enrolling in the school for the first time.
**PRE-ENROLMENT CALENDAR**

This process must take place within the deadlines posted on the Education Consortium website. Families must be aware of the deadlines. Pre-enrolment normally begins in April. Applications submitted after the deadline will be sent to the educational administration to be handled.

**TRANSLATION SERVICE**

The Catalan Ministry of Education offers translation/interpretation services for schooling commissions and education centres that enrol students attending school in Catalonia for the first time in order to facilitate communication between the centre and the family.

For more information on enrolment in different languages: [www.xtec.cat/web/projectes/projectes](http://www.xtec.cat/web/projectes/projectes)

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**OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN THE CATALAN EDUCATION SYSTEM**

Catalan is the language of Catalonia. It is co-official along with Spanish, which is the official language throughout Spain.

Catalan is normally used as the vehicular language for learning in the education system in Catalonia in both public and charter schools.

Upon completion of compulsory schooling, students are fluent in both official languages (Spanish and Catalan) and have adequate knowledge of at least one foreign language. This language is generally English but in some schools may be French or German. Many centres offer students the opportunity to study more than one foreign language. As part of their educational project, public and charter schools must draft a language project establishing the framework for the languages used in the centre.

Students joining the education system who don’t speak either of the official languages have the right to receive special language support. Centres must provide newly arrived students with a personalised welcome and, specifically, language services that allow them to begin learning in Catalan.
In order for education centres to develop quality language programs, it is key for teachers involved in foreign-language teaching to receive further training.

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Catalan Ministry of Education has put in place an Action Plan for effective student multilingualism featuring a series of programmes and projects in various languages that also include faculty training.

For more information: → www.xtec.cat/web/formacio/llengues/accions_llengues_estrangeres_curriculars