

# American School of Brasilia

## Admissions Policy



## **American School of Brasilia (EAB)**

We are a diverse community that provides an English-language based pre-kindergarten through Grade 12 education. We are an International Baccalaureate World School with U.S. and Brazilian accreditation.

### **Mission**

Learners inspiring learners to be inquisitive in life, principled in character, and bold in vision.

### **Vision**

To positively impact the world through excellence in academics, activities, arts, leadership, and service.

### **Learning Principles**

#### Learning Engagement

We are learners inspiring learners by being active participants who are engaged in our education.

#### Learning Extension

We are inquisitive in life by viewing mistakes as opportunities for curiosity and reflection to stretch our thinking.

#### Learning Environment

We are principled in character by nurturing safe, mutually respectful learning environments where every student can thrive.

#### Learning Evolution

We are bold in vision by tackling challenges and embracing feedback to enhance our learning.

### **Philosophy Statement**

EAB is committed to the admission and inclusion of students with a wide variety of backgrounds, abilities, and needs. We welcome applications throughout the school year. We consider a family's alignment with the Mission, Vision, and Values of EAB in the admissions process, and we expect applicants to be aware of and commit to the Learner and Character Traits.

### **Admission into EAB**

#### **Grade placement**

In accordance with Brazilian legislation, by September 1 of the application year, students must be three years of age to enter K3, four years of age to enter K4, five years of age to enter K5, and six years of age to enter Grade 1. From Grade 2 onwards, grade placement will be based on students' successful completion of the previous grade level at their previous school.

#### **Language requirements**

All non-native English speakers applying for Grades 5–12 are required to take the World-Class Instruction, Design and Assessment Model (WIDA) English language test. We require students applying for grades 6–8 to achieve a score of at least 3.0, students applying for grades 9–10 to achieve a score of at least 4.0, and students applying to grades 11–12 to achieve a score of at least 5.0.

## **Learning Support Needs**

EAB offers learning support for mild to moderate needs in a personalized manner. Families are asked to disclose all diagnoses, learning needs, and previous support received during the admissions process so that the school can allocate resources and create a tailored plan for each student. This will allow EAB to meet students needs as soon as they begin attending the school. If a need is not identified prior to admission, the procedures outlined in EAB's *Access and Inclusion Policy* will be followed to identify and support individual student needs.

## **Admission into the Grade 11 IB Diploma Program**

The IBDP is a rigorous, two-year college-preparatory program that all Grade 11–12 students complete. Students have the option of completing the full IB Diploma or IB Courses. All IBDP students at EAB must take IB English, IB Math, and two other IB courses. Brazilian students must also take IB Portuguese A (first language). Brazilian students must also take IB Theory of Knowledge.

Grade 11 IB entry is based on WIDA and MAP scores, as well as English and Math placement tests. Because most IBDP courses are taught and assessed in English, all applicants to Grades 11–12 must have a minimum WIDA score of 5.0. In general, students who meet this requirement are admitted into the IBDP; however, placement into Higher Level courses is contingent upon successful completion of previous courses, placement tests, teacher recommendations, and MAP scores. It is recommended that students ensure that they are able to start school at the beginning of August; late entries to the full IB Diploma will be strictly evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The IBDP Coordinator and the High School Counselor review each applicant's file, which includes placement tests, reports from the previous two years (three for Grade 12 applicants), and teacher recommendations. They meet with the student to discuss the difference between the IB Diploma and IB Courses and to understand the student's educational and career ambitions. After the application is complete and the interview is conducted, the final student dossier is submitted to the Admissions Review Committee for a decision. Once admitted, if needed, there is a second meeting with the student, the IBDP Coordinator, and the High School Counselor, during which the student selects courses based on their strengths, placement tests, previous school reports, and interests.

## **Transfer into the Grade 11–12 IB Diploma Program**

Students who wish to transfer into EAB in the middle of Grade 11 or at the beginning of Grade 12 must come from an IBDP school. In this case, if the student's classes align with those IBDP classes

offered at EAB, they can continue in those classes at EAB and will be eligible to take IB exams in those courses. If some of the student's classes do not align, then they will have to take non-IBDP courses or they will have to take the first year of other IBDP courses. They will not be able to take IB exams in those courses.

Applicants from non-IB schools will be strictly evaluated to ensure they can be successful at EAB. They will only be eligible to take non-IBDP courses or first-year IBDP courses. They will not take IBDP exams in any courses.

## **Exchange Programs**

Students who wish to complete an exchange program at another school may do so prior to Grade 11. Exchanges are not allowed in Grades 11–12. Prior to an exchange, students must notify the Admissions Department about their withdrawal and their intent to return. Brazilian students must check course requirements with the Brazilian Director.

## **Graduation requirements**

During the admissions process, the High School Counselor will perform a credit check to ensure that students can earn the American Diploma and to ensure that Brazilian students can earn the Brazilian Diploma. In alignment with the *EAB High School Course Description Guide*, unless there are exceptional circumstances, all students in grades 11 and 12 are required to successfully complete at least four International Baccalaureate (IB) classes in order to graduate. These include mandatory classes in both mathematics and English, with students free to pursue two IB courses of their choice.

To graduate from the American School of Brasilia a student must earn the American Diploma through the completion of the following courses:

- Complete 30 courses in grades 9–12;
- Earn 26 credits in the specific subjects below;
- Be enrolled in nine classes during grades 9 and 10;
- Be enrolled in at least seven classes in grades 11 and 12;
- Complete at least four Standard Level (SL) IB classes in grades 11 and 12, including English and Math, with two IB classes of the student's choice.

In exceptional circumstances, the pathway to earning the American Diploma may be altered to accommodate extraordinary individual student needs. The High School Principal will make final decisions in such cases. To graduate with the Brazilian Diploma students must earn 24 credits in the specific subjects listed below during grades 10–12.

The Brazilian Diploma is based on credits attained over three years, from grades 10–12. To graduate with the Brazilian Diploma students must earn 24 credits through the completion of the requirements in the table below.

All international students in grades 11 and 12 are expected to complete four IB courses, including mathematics and English. The student may choose their other two IB classes. All Brazilian students are also expected to complete five IB English, mathematics, an IB course in Portuguese. Except in exceptional circumstances, to receive credit for an IB course the student must take the externally-assessed IB exam in May of their Senior year. The High School Principal will make the final decision in such cases.

<b>US Diploma Grades 9–12 26 Credits</b>		<b>Brazilian Diploma Grades 10–12</b>		<b>IB Diploma Grades 11–12</b>
English	4	Portuguese	3	Studies in Language and Literature
Foreign Language	3	English (Foreign Language)	3	Studies in Language and Literature OR Language Acquisition
Math	4	Mathematics	3	Mathematics
Science	4	Science	3	Sciences
Social Studies	3	Social Studies (World Studies 10, IBBSS11 or BSS11, IBBSS12)	3	Individuals and Societies
Arts	1	Arts (IB Diploma Students are recommended to take this in grade 10, unless they intend to do IB Film, IB Theatre, or IB Visual Arts)	3	Arts
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	3	N/A
Electives	5	Philosophy/Sociology (IB TOK will fulfill this requirement.)	3	Diploma Core: Extended Essay, CAS and Theory of Knowledge

## Admissions Process

All applicants will follow the following admissions process:

1. Complete an introductory meeting with EAB's Admissions Team. If the applicant is in Brasilia, this meeting will take place on campus; otherwise it will be on Zoom.
2. Submit an online application and all required documentation.
3. Complete testing, including the WIDA test for all non-native English speakers, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test for all applicants, and English and Math placement tests for incoming Grade 11 and 12 applicants.

4. Grade 11 and 12 applicants complete an interview with the IBDP Coordinator and High School Counselor.

After the above steps are complete, the student's file will be sent to the Admissions Review Committee for review and admission decision. Parents will be notified as soon as possible, no later than two weeks after the interview.

**For more information, please refer to the following documents:**

- *EAB Access & Inclusion Policy*
- *EAB Language Policy*
- *EAB High School Course Description Guide*