

BSM Admissions Policy



British School Muscat (BSM) offers a UK style education that broadly follows the English National Curriculum from EYFS to Year 13. BSM offers GCSEs in Years 10 & 11. In the Sixth Form students do A Levels and BTECs.

Admission is not automatic. The Admissions Policy is designed to ensure that the students who attend have the capacity to thrive within, and benefit from, all that BSM offers.

The school caters for students who meet the following criteria:

- Attitudes and values that match the BSM Learning Ethos
- The ability to thrive in a high achieving environment
- A supportive family who will engage with the school in promoting their child's education, personal development and English language development
- Individual learning needs which can be largely met within the mainstream classroom and without significant additional adult support
- Willingness to participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum

English Language Acquisition

Children who are new to English at the point of admission, will be immersed in English throughout their day at school, however may need time to adjust to working in English on both social and academic levels.

Assessment & Interviews

Assessment and interviews are designed to ensure the student's educational needs can be met within a mainstream school setting and in an appropriate class.

Admission is contingent upon assessment, interview, and availability of space. Assessments and interviews are conducted throughout the year. Decisions will be based on the assessments and interviews of all applicants.

Where there is some evidence of additional educational need, opportunities will be provided to discuss the child's educational development in more detail, and for the school to carry out appropriate assessments, before an offer of a place can be made.

We do not share test results or references with applicants.

Oman Resident Cards

An Oman Resident Card is not required to apply to BSM, however, if your application is successful, you will need to submit copies of a valid Oman Resident Card for the applicant

and their parents to our Admissions Department prior to starting at school. This is a requirement from Oman's Ministry of Education. In exceptional circumstances BSM may be able to grant families an extra month from their start date to provide a copy of the Resident Cards to school.

British School Muscat reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place if the applicant or their parents are not in possession of an Oman Resident Card prior to starting at British School Muscat.

Progression Within Bsm

Very occasionally, as a student progresses through one year group, it may become apparent that they are not making sufficient progress. BSM reserves the right to prevent progression to the next year group or key stage until it is deemed that the student is able to access that curriculum adequately.

Similarly, as a student progresses through the school, it may become apparent that BSM is not able to provide the most appropriate educational setting that is in the best interests of the student. In this rare event parents will be thoroughly consulted; however the final decision rests with the school.

Admission into Foundation Stage

Communication and language is one of the three prime areas within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Each prime area is divided into early learning goals, for communication and language these are: Listening, attention, understanding and speaking.

Children at an expected level of development will:

- Listen for short periods of time and respond appropriately to what they hear with relevant questions, comments or simple actions/facial responses (e.g when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions)
- Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary or repeating phrases/single words.

Students will be asked to attend play assessments where they can be observed in our EYFS setting.

Admission into Years 10 and 11

Ideally students will begin their GCSE journey at the beginning of Year 10. If a family wishes to seek admission during the school year or in Yr 11, then we will conduct a full review of the exam boards and make a decision in the best interests of the students.

Admission into the Sixth Form

All Sixth Form students are expected to work hard if they are to be successful at A Levels or BTECs. To fulfil their potential, they must also develop and focus their commitment, energy and ambition. At BSM, we strive to develop students' attitudes and behaviour in line with the BSM Learning Ethos so as to prepare students generally for an independent life and for progression to higher education in particular.

Suitability for Sixth Form

Sixth Form study is designed to allow students to pursue subjects in which they have a particular interest to much greater depth and breadth. As such, students are encouraged to opt for subjects they enjoy with a passion and to which they are willing and able to dedicate at least two more years of study.

Naturally, a certain level of academic achievement in these subjects is also required for the student to be successful and to enable them to progress to university. Guidance is given from subject teachers about a student's suitability for a course and we strongly urge students and parents to act on such advice.

When considering a student's suitability for entry to the Sixth Form, the following criteria will apply:

- The student's track record in terms of:
 - Commitment to the BSM Learning Ethos
 - Academic ability
 - Contribution to school life
- At least 5 GCSEs at A*-C or 9-4 including English and mathematics (a B is required where the student has taken iGCSE English as Second Language)
- Each A Level has its own minimum entry requirement, usually a grade 6 or B at GCSE. 'Please see Sixth Form Entry Requirements'
- Where a student has not taken GCSEs it is expected that they can prove an equivalent level of academic ability via alternative examinations or school references.

Movement to Year 13:

A grade D in the AS examination is required at the end of Year 12 to allow a student to progress to Year 13/A2.

Examination entry

The school reserves the right not to enter a student for external examinations if they fail to respond to academic interventions.

Students requiring additional support

BSM has only limited resources to cater for students whose learning needs can only be met with significant support. Currently our Learning Support department offers both 'in class' and 'withdrawn' additional support to meet the needs of our students.

It is in the interests of all concerned, and particularly of the students themselves, that all who are admitted to BSM are able to enjoy high levels of success and thrive within the high achieving environment.

Parents of children who have a history of requiring any additional educational support are required to bring to the attention of the school detailed information regarding their child's specific learning needs. This information should include: previous school reports, SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) reports, copies of previous Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and any reports from outside professionals (e.g. educational psychologist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist). Parents are also strongly advised to discuss the potential needs of their child prior to making a formal application to ensure that the school is in a position to meet these needs.

Failure, at the stage of application, to declare accurately and fully the extent of a child's individual learning needs may result subsequently in parents being asked to withdraw their child because the school is unable to meet his or her learning needs. This is a situation that we are anxious to avoid, particularly as it may impact adversely on the child's self-esteem and future learning.

Children who have been offered a place at BSM, and who have also been identified as presenting with additional educational need, will be assessed in context once they start at the school. The most effective way to ensure a child's individual needs are being met is to assess them in their learning environment. After a designated amount of time, a review meeting will take place to discuss the student's transition, progress and on-going provision that will be offered within school. If over time, the needs of the child are unable to be effectively met by the provision BSM can offer, we will endeavour to assist you in finding a suitable alternative placement.

Year group entry

Students will be placed in the appropriate age group taking account of their age on the 1st of September. It is the policy of the school to place students within their appropriate age group, although the school reserves the right to place students in a different age group if it is deemed more suitable for the needs of that student.

Waiting list priority

BSM gives priority to the following categories of students:

1. Children of employees
2. Former BSM students who have left their deposits
3. Other groups

- a. Siblings
 - b. Former BSM students who took their deposits
 - c. Children of Alumni
4. Normal Waitlist

Outcomes of an application

When a student is accepted by BSM, we will email the parents with an offer of place and the Reservation Fee invoice.

Once the Reservation Fee is paid we will email the Acceptance letter and acceptance documents (Home School Agreement, ICT Agreement, Security Pass Form etc).

The Tuition Fee invoice will be sent prior to the student's start date. If the student is starting immediately, then the Tuition Fee invoice will be sent at the same time as the Acceptance Letter.

Other outcomes:

If BSM cannot accept a student: applicants are welcome to reapply, however they will only be considered for entry after 6 months.

Where a student is accepted by BSM, parents may defer their son/daughter's start date only once. After this, a full term's fees must be paid to keep the student's place.

If a place is offered but refused by the parent, the parent gives up any claim to a place in the future and would have to reapply.

Home School Agreement

Prior to accepting a place at BSM, parents and students should read and sign our Home School Agreement which outlines our expectations for all parents, staff and students to work in partnership to ensure all students are happy, safe, secure and can reach their full potential.