



EF ACADEMY

International
Boarding Schools

EF ACADEMY – TORBAY

Admissions Policy



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Document Purpose:	Sets out the criteria required for a student to enter and successfully complete a course of study at EF Academy Torbay
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Purpose

EF Academy is an inclusive 14-19 school for students wishing to complete an international education as a basis for Higher Education in the UK or abroad.

The Admissions policy sets out the criteria required for a student to enter and successfully complete a course of study at EF Academy. It endeavours to be as inclusive as possible but recognizes both the need for English Language capability and the importance of academic ability in correctly admitting a student.

EF Academy welcomes students both from overseas and from the UK.

The Admissions policy does not discriminate on grounds of race, gender or religion

Procedure

EF Academy operates a holistic admissions procedure. In order to join EF Academy programmes, students must demonstrate that:

- 1) They are mature enough to cope with the demands of the Academy programmes (including living in a foreign country and coping with the inevitable culture shock)
- 2) They are academically capable of dealing with the requirements of EF Academy programmes.
- 3) They are able to study at the high school level through the medium of the English language.
- 4) Individual interviews and testing take place in the home country. Further diagnostic testing, including Computer Adaptive Baseline Tests, take place upon arrival at school to enable Course Coordinators to develop Individual Learning Pathways in consultation with students and parents.



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Academic entry requirements

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and A-level programme represent the last two years of high school. Students wishing to join the course will therefore be expected to have successfully completed a minimum of two years of high school studies before being admitted into the A Level or IB Diploma Programme. In practice students should have achieved grades indicating a level of ability equivalent to 5 or more iGCSEs at grades A* to C (including Mathematics) but individual students of a lower ability may be accepted if provision for them can be made.

EF is highly experienced in dealing with classes of mixed abilities and appreciates that all students develop at different rates, especially students coming from such a diverse range of nationalities and cultures. Students who have not demonstrated iGCSE equivalency on paper, but who are deemed able to complete the Diploma or A level Programme successfully, may still be admitted to the course; this is only with the express permission of the Headteacher.

The EF Academy Preparation Programme provides excellent preparation for studying at senior high school level in an English-speaking environment. It should not be seen as a replacement for completing year 10 in a recognised school system, as there is a strong focus on building the academic English skills required to cope with our core programs- Grades 9 and 10, IGCSE, IBDP, and A Levels.

English proficiency entry requirements

As the programme is delivered through the medium of English, it is essential that students are able to function at a level which enables them to follow the EF Academy programmes successfully.

Students wishing to start direct into our Grade 9/10/IGCSE programmes must demonstrate a level of ability equivalent to IELTS 4.5, TOEFL IBT 34/CBT 103, SLEP 43.

Students wishing to start direct onto the IBDP or A-level programme should demonstrate a level of ability equivalent to IELTS 5.5, TOEFL IBT 71/CBT 194, SLEP 57.

If students fail to meet the minimum English requirement of their chosen programme, they will be asked to complete the Preparation Programme. In some cases, depending on the student and the level of language ability, it may be possible to provide sufficient language support as part of an academic course of study.

Students wishing to begin the Preparation Programme should demonstrate a level of ability equivalent to a maximum of One LEVEL below that required for their chosen course, if they intend to study for only one term. Otherwise students will be required to study for a

full academic year. If students fail to meet the minimum English requirement at the end of their Preparation Programme they will be asked to remain in the Preparation Programme for a longer period of time.



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Learning Difficulties/SEND.

Students with a recognised Learning Diversity (SEND) will only be admitted where the facility to support the SEN is available. Where supporting the SEND requires additional costs then parents will be informed and liable for such. Failure to agree to such costs may mean the student cannot be admitted to/continue the course of study

Accessibility

Through the Accessibility Policy the school sets out to provide an environment and curriculum which can be accessed by students with a disability

Age Requirements

Students wishing to join the IBDP or A-level programmes should be typically 16 years old at the time of their UK visa application. Students wishing to join the IGCSE programme must be at least 14 years old at the time of their UK visa application.

Scholarships.

EF Founder Scholarships are awarded annually at the discretion of the Director of International Admissions.

Admissions procedure

In the first instance, students should approach their local EF representative. The following documents need to be submitted to the Admissions Office (AdmissionsIA@ef.com)

- 1) Completed application form
- 2) All available high school transcripts, including English translation (from Grade 8 and up)
- 3) Evidence of English Language Proficiency
- 4) Completed statement of purpose
- 5) Copy of passport photo and information pages

The Admissions Office commits to answering enquiries within one working day. Once the student has been officially accepted, we will also require a completed health certificate, parental consent form, final school transcript (including English translation) and proof of insurance no later than 60 days prior to course start.



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Responsibility for Admissions

The Director of International Admissions is responsible for admissions and the operation of this policy in the student's home country. The Head Teacher is responsible for the operation of this policy in the EF Academy school.

Transfer Students

A-Level Year 2

Students wishing to join only the second year of the A-Level programme should first have followed a comparable AS-Level course within the British school system. In addition to the documentation outlined above, applicants will need to provide information on the subjects they sat at AS-Level, the official exam results, and details of the grades achieved. Every effort will be made to accommodate students into the second year where relevant subjects are offered and exam board syllabi are sufficiently complementary.

IBDP Year 2

Students wishing to join only the second year of the IBDP should first have followed a compatible programme at another IB World School. In order to ensure that the subjects offered and syllabi covered provide sufficient compatibility to enable students to be awarded the Diploma on successful completion of their studies, in addition to the documents outlined above, applicants should provide details of the subjects they have studied in the first year of their Diploma. It will also be necessary for the EF Academy admissions office or receiving school to contact the students' previous school for clarification.

Transfer between Campuses

Students may submit a request to transfer between campuses. Normally this happens at the end of a Preparation Programme or High School programme. However, it can occur in the middle of a programme but only where the subjects taken make such possible and only under the advice of the relevant Course Coordinators.



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Children Missing Education

EF Academy recognises that all children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education, which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. We will always help our local authority have a duty to make arrangements to be alert to children of compulsory school age who are missing education from our school through effective information sharing.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and such children are at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation. As a fully boarding school, our procedures for unauthorised absence are such that a student who cannot be located is treated as a missing person, students found to have absented themselves without proper cause are subject to disciplinary action and parents are alerted. In this way, we can help to identify any risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual or criminal exploitation, and help prevent the risks of going missing in future.

Deletions and Non-Standard Transitions

EF Academy recognises duty to help prevent children missing education by reporting to the local authority when a student is to be deleted from the admissions register if: they are to be home educated; the family have moved away; the student has been certified medically unfit to attend school; the student is in custody for more than four months; the student has been permanently excluded.

Equally important in preventing children missing education, we recognise the duty to inform the local authority of additions or deletions at non-standard transition points i.e. when a student of compulsory school age joins after the beginning of our first year or leaves prior to completing our final year. Our curriculum offer includes an English acquisition and high school preparation course, a two-year GCSE programme and a one-year 'accelerated' GCSE programme, each of which can constitute the first year of schooling at EF Academy, for that reason, we will notify the local authority of a non-standard transition when a student under the age of 16: joins one of our three 'first year' courses late in the year; joins directly onto our A level, IB or BTEC programme, regardless of time of year; leaves before completing their programme of study for any reason. Whilst we acknowledge the safeguarding risk inherent in children missing education, the majority of students that leave EF Academy Torbay do so to return to their home countries or to study in another country, for that reason we are often unable to inform other local authorities that these students are intending to study in their areas.