



Candidate Information Pack
The British School in Tokyo

2024 - 2025

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An Introduction to BST

Since our foundation in 1989, The British School in Tokyo (BST) has established a strong reputation as a leading international school in Japan and Asia. Today, we provide world-class **holistic** education to over 1,300 students aged 3-18, representing 65 nationalities. Located on two campuses at the heart of one of the world's most vibrant, culturally rich and exciting cities, we are an **inclusive** school with an international outlook and a strong reputation for excellence and high standards. Proudly **non-selective** and **not-for-profit**, BST has a rich heritage and distinct identity as an established institution in Japan's changing international education landscape. Our considerable strengths were recognised in 2022 when BST became the first school in Japan to achieve the prestigious COBIS Patron's Accreditation. BST is also a

member of the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA).

Last year, we became a member of the Council of International Schools (CIS) and were recognised by CIS for "the exceptionally positive school culture and climate, the individual attention and support that students receive from their teachers, the demonstrated willingness to embrace change and innovation, and the strong focus on students' learning outcomes." We intend to start the CIS accreditation process later this year.



Guiding Statements

Vision

At BST, we look to nurture each student's unique potential and strive to help them create a strong sense of self, built around purpose and passion.

Mission

BST provides an inclusive and holistic education in English for the international community of Tokyo, with our modern British identity incorporating a distinctly international outlook. We are committed to the pursuit of excellence and lifelong learning. We pride ourselves on instilling a sense of integrity, and value our collective responsibility to positively impact the wider world.



Core Values

BST's core values act as a guide for students, families, alumni and staff, and underpin our community's decision-making and actions:

- We strive to achieve our personal best.
- We are honest and show kindness, compassion and respect for others.
- We are curious, creative and innovative in our thinking.
- We embrace diversity and celebrate individuality.
- We are internationally minded and culturally aware.
- We have a sense of social and environmental responsibility.





School Life

Innovative Teaching and Learning

BST provides a dynamic and inspiring learning environment. At the heart of our learning and teaching process is the [BST Learner Profile](#). Through this framework, our students learn transferable knowledge, skills and dispositions that lead to a better understanding of the world and themselves.

The English National Curriculum provides our students with a rigorous and contextualised learning framework. The curriculum is further enhanced increasingly through the application of concept-based enquiry methods of teaching.

BST is currently a candidate school* for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) for students in Years 12 and 13. The school aims to become an authorised IB World School,

with the last A-Level cohort running from 2024 to 2026. This strategic shift is part of the school's commitment to providing an educational experience that aligns with the evolving aspirations and needs of our diverse and dynamic student community.

As a non-selective school, we also intend to gain authorisation to offer the Career-related Programme (CP) and will begin this process next year. These significant changes to our curriculum are the product of a long period of careful consideration and planning.

**Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme, the Middle Years Programme, the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme. Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For*



School Life

Broader Curriculum Opportunities

We are committed to providing a holistic education valuing learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Opportunities for our students to develop their interests and talents are plentiful, and music, sport, art and drama are significant areas of strength for the School. Over 400 of our students play a musical instrument and we have 22 competitive Secondary teams representing our school in over 100 fixtures and tournaments. We run over 200 extra-curricular clubs and 30 outdoor residential trips yearly.

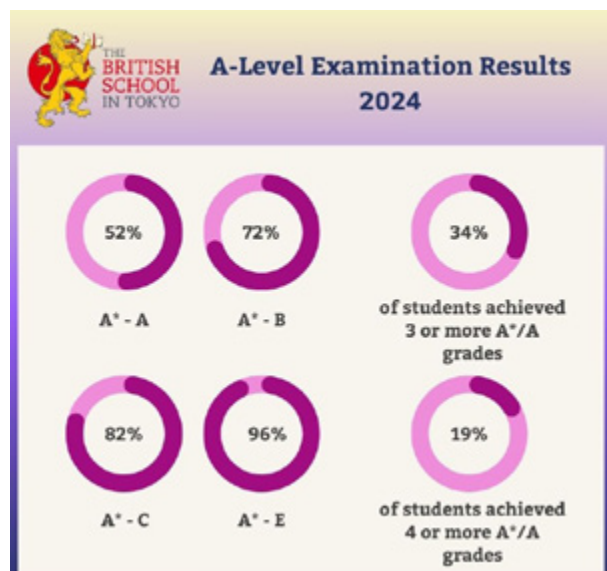
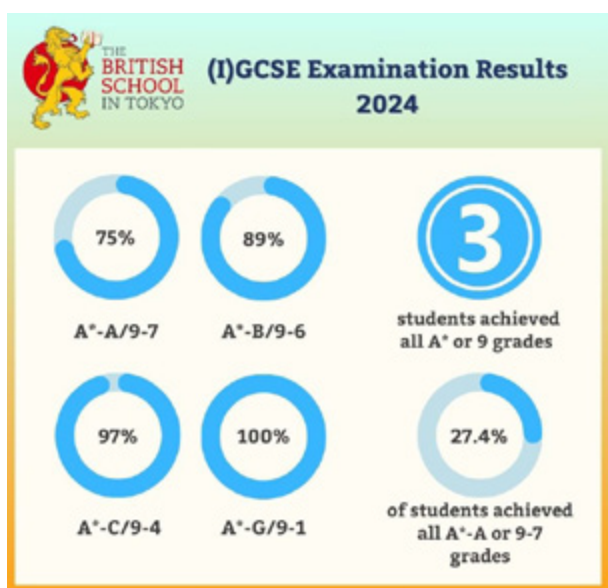




School Life

Academic Results

In 2024, we celebrated another year of excellent public examination results.



As a non-selective school, of course we are equally proud of our students who may not have attained the highest grades on the scale but managed to attain or surpass their own personal targets and challenges.



School Life

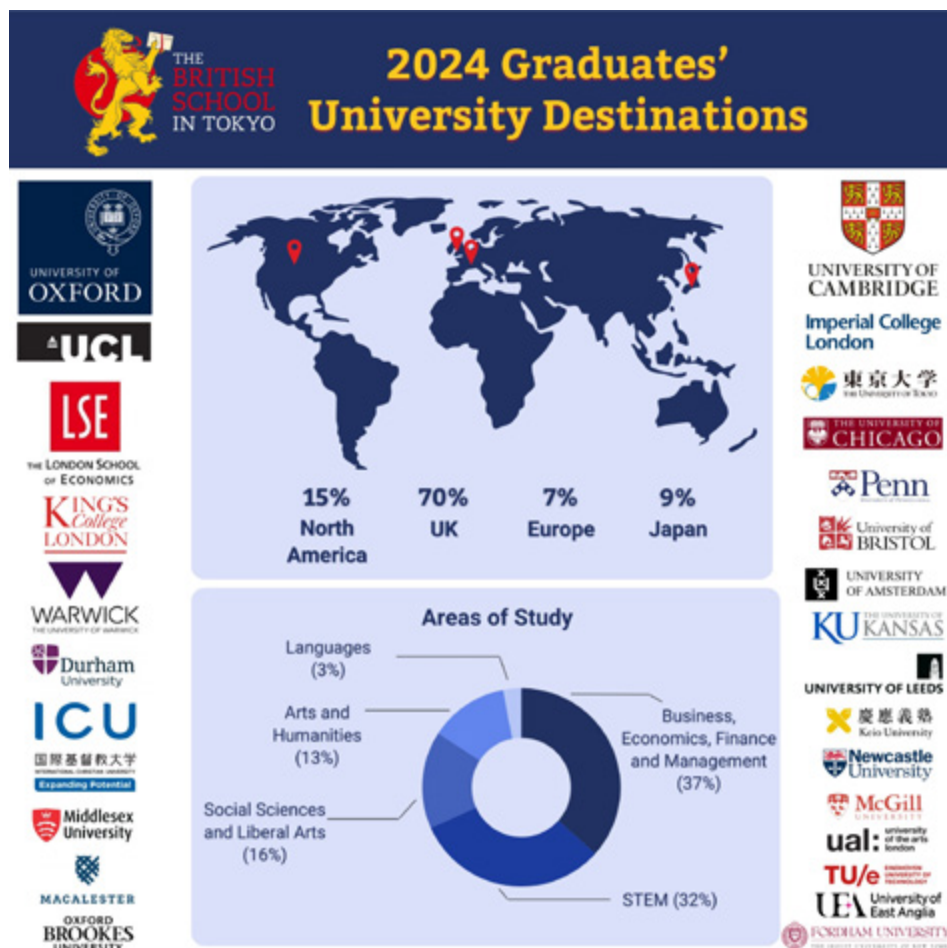
University Destinations

Our 2024 graduates secured places at some of the world's most prestigious universities, demonstrating their exceptional academic abilities and dedication to their studies.

A significant proportion of our students (24%) have chosen to take a gap year before commencing their university studies. This decision

reflects their desire to gain valuable experiences, explore different cultures, and develop their personal and professional skills.

Of the students who have opted to proceed directly to university, a remarkable 79% have secured their firm or insurance choice of university. These placements reflect the high quality of education and support provided by BST, as well as the individual guidance and mentorship our students receive.





Central Tokyo Campuses

The location of our campuses in central Tokyo is a distinctive feature of BST. It is one of the factors that distinguishes us from the new entrants into the international schools market in Tokyo. Our dynamic city provides an extraordinary backdrop, and our students benefit considerably from easy access to Tokyo's museums, parks and cultural institutions. BST currently operates across two campuses: Azabudai Hills and Showa. In August 2023, our state-of-the-art new Primary School campus opened at Azabudai Hills, a step away from Tokyo Tower.

Azabudai Hills Campus - Primary

As the only international school located in this prestigious new development, we are proud to partner with the Mori Building Corporation in the regeneration of Azabudai Hills - the biggest residential, commercial and educational project in central Tokyo for more than a generation.

Our students will grow and develop in an inspiring learning environment complete with two libraries, a suite of music studios, an art studio and a digital technology studio, two sports pitches, a dance studio, a sports hall and an indoor swimming pool. The Azabudai Hills campus opened with 720 students and has a capacity of 900.





Central Tokyo Campuses



Showa Campus - Secondary

The BST Showa Women's University (SWU) campus opened in 2006. Over the years, student numbers have increased, and additional year groups have been added. The Showa campus now houses 550 students from Year 7 to Year 13. From this year onwards, the Secondary School will experience significant growth and move from 4 form entry to 5 forms. The capacity of our Showa campus will increase to 770 over the next 2 years.

Our students benefit considerably from being on a university campus for Secondary School. The extensive facilities include two art studios, specialist science and computer science laboratories, two sports halls, three sports pitches and a swimming pool.

In 2022, we invested further in our Showa campus by opening a new Senior School Study Centre,

providing our students with independent and collaborative study spaces.

Renovations of this campus are planned, and the space will be gradually remodelled to ensure our Secondary students benefit from an exceptional learning environment. Our Secondary School will need to grow to accommodate increased demand from our enlarged Primary School.





An Ambitious and Exciting Future

In 2023, BST embarked upon the process of defining the future of the school for the next 10 years. The process, which was orchestrated by an outside consultant, involved voices of all stakeholders and culminated in our 10-year strategic plan. The 2025–2035 strategic plan built on the strengths of the previous plan and also leveraged the massive advantages of campus change in the Primary School with the move to Azabudai, and curriculum change in the Secondary School, with the proposed move to the IBDP.

The plan identified four strategic priorities:

- One School - We are one school, united by our values, our curriculum and our innovative approach to learning.
- Learning focused - We offer inclusive, innovative learning opportunities that enable our students to excel as individuals and to serve others.
- People focused - We are a community that thrives through collaboration, strong

relationships and a common purpose.

- Future focused - We are committed to the long term sustainability of our school, our community and our world.

Significant progress has been made in each of these four areas. The introduction of the IBDP and IBCP and the opening of a state-of-the-art new Primary campus to rival the best in the world herald the beginning of an important chapter in our remarkable story. We remain committed to building on our distinctive history in Japan and harnessing our strengths to shape the next successful phase of BST's development.





Governance, Leadership and Partnerships

Trustees

The Board of Trustees currently consists of 16 members, including the Principal. The Board seeks an appropriate balance of parents and other members of the international community with specific skills and experience that will benefit the School. Trustees may serve in office for a standard term of four years, with two further extensions of two years each on re-election by the Board. The Chair of the Board is Comino Tamura. The Board includes an ex-officio Trustee from the British Embassy in Japan, currently the Deputy Head of Mission and the CEO of COBIS.

The role of Trustees is primarily a strategic one. The Trustees decide the purpose and overall goals of the School and set a framework for their implementation and achievement. The Trustees act individually and as a group as critical friends to the SLT, providing support and challenge.

There are 5 regular meetings of the full Board during the year. Committee meetings are held before each regular full Board meeting.

Leadership

Senior leadership team members have a wealth of varied experience drawn from the commercial and educational sectors in Japan, the UK and internationally.

Although split over two campuses, the senior leadership team is committed to a one-school approach to ensure coordinated consistency in

the school's education and a continuum of learning for students as they progress seamlessly from Primary School to Secondary School.

Partnerships

BST operates in relationship with multiple stakeholders and maintains strong relationships with our partners. SWU is the umbrella sponsoring institution for our Secondary School and Shibuya Kyoiku Gakuen (SKG), a Japanese private school, is our umbrella organisation for our previous Shibuya campus. SKG is also our sponsoring organisation for the new Azabudai Hills campus. SWU and SKG are our legal entities and BST has grown and developed with the strong support of these partner organisations. Our Board of Trustees is independent of SWU and SKG.

In addition to our Japanese partners, BST enjoys a strong and well-established relationship with the British Embassy and associated organisations such as the British Council and the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan.



Living in Tokyo

A vibrant metropolis of over 13 million people, Tokyo is famed for its rich culture, incredible cuisine, efficient public transportation system and friendly people. Tokyo is a city of modern delights and old-world charms. Its small districts have their own local flavour, and the large expatriate community is welcomed and integrated.

Japan is one of the safest countries in the world and levels of crime are very low. It is safe to walk alone at night and common to see very young children travelling to school unaccompanied on public transport. Collectivism is central to Japanese culture and this very safe environment is maintained by high levels of public trust and collective responsibility. Japan has four very distinct seasons; summers are hot and humid whilst winters are dry and cold, with sunny blue skies the norm. Spring and autumn are usually warm and pleasant. With Nagano only about one hour from Tokyo, winter skiing and summer hiking are popular pastimes.

Tokyo has more 3-starred Michelin restaurants than any other city in the world, yet it also has some of the cheapest local noodle shops you can find – and, of course, everything in between! Tokyo has excellent dental and medical facilities, including a number dedicated to serving the expatriate population. Major hospitals have English speaking staff and most signs are bi-lingual. Western medicines are generally available, though it is a good idea to check before arrival; prescription medicines can be brought into Japan with the appropriate documentation.



BST Community

The British School in Tokyo celebrates its 35th birthday this year. Over the past 35 years, BST has thrived and expanded, establishing itself as a leading institution dedicated to providing a holistic education. The school focuses on nurturing both academic excellence and personal growth, embracing the diversity of Tokyo's international community. Through its commitment to **holistic** development, it has become a vibrant hub for students from around the world, fostering an environment where cultural diversity and learning flourish together.





BST Community





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