

Welcome to the British International School of Casablanca

Aspire . Act . Achieve



Morocco,

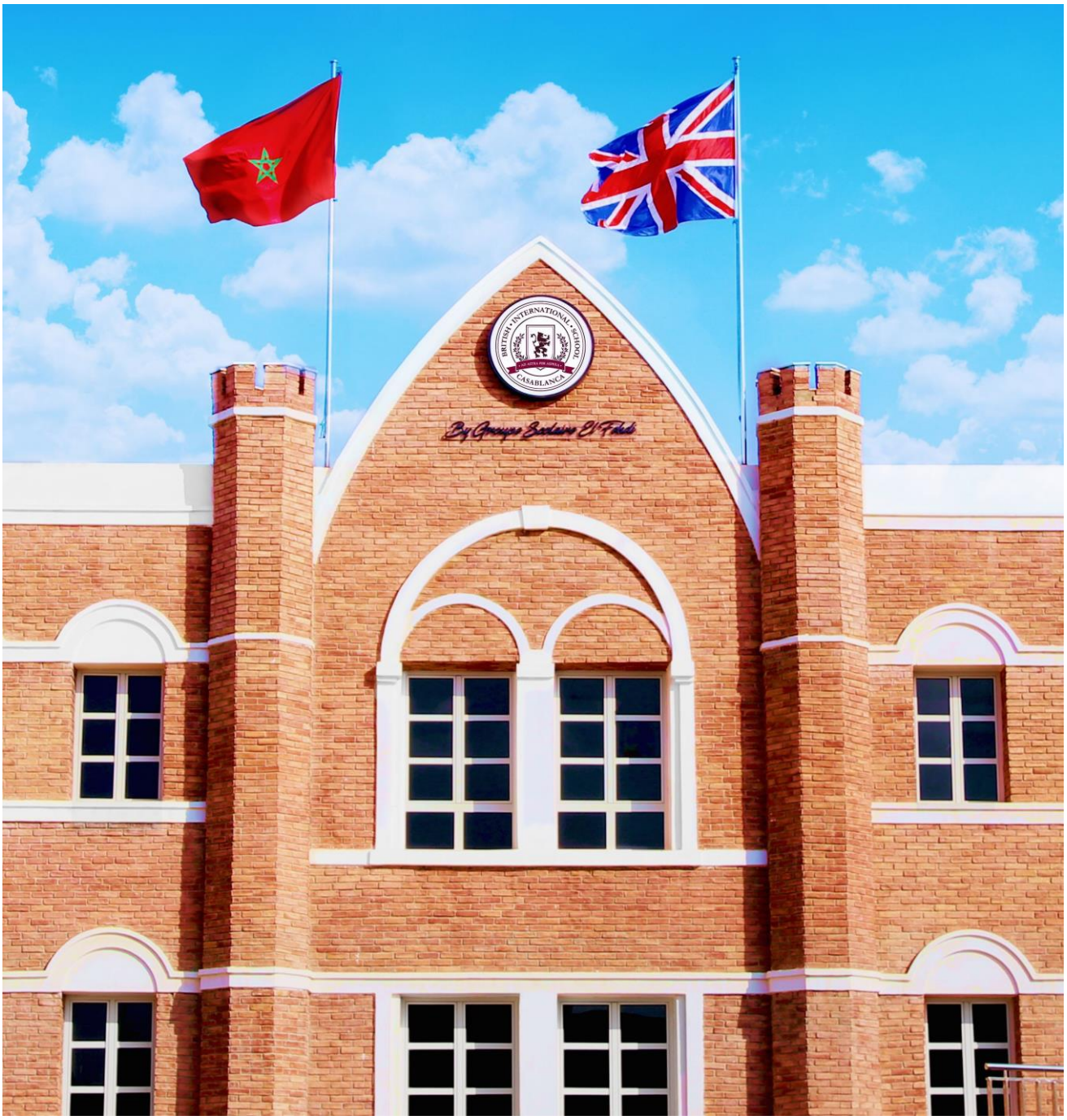
a melting pot of dynasties & cultures

- Morocco, a North African country bordering the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, is distinguished by its Berber, Arabian and European cultural influences.
- Morocco is known for its uniquely rich culture centered on religion and tradition and abundance of beaches, mountain ranges and deserts.
- With several dynasties that have followed one another over several years: the Idrissi dynasty, the Almoravid dynasty, the Almohad dynasty and the Alaouite dynasty, Morocco is considered an internationally recognised multicultural country, with several types of heritage recognised as Unesco world heritage.

Where are we?

The campus is 8 km south-east of the city centre. It is a beautiful purpose-built campus that is nine years old. We are on the edge of the city, so the school is surrounded by a mixture of open space, fields, new developments and light – lots of natural light.

https://www.bisc.ma/en/



Weather

- Morocco is a land of contrast.
- Bathed to the north by the waters of the Mediterranean, to the west by those of the Atlantic Ocean, it is also crisscrossed by the Rif and Atlas Mountains and is subject to all kinds of climatic influences.
- Winter, from December to February, is mild: The average maximum temperature in January is 17c. There are many sunny periods interspersed with cold snaps.





- Spring, from March to mid-June, is mild or pleasantly warm, and often sunny.
- Summer, from mid-June to September, is pleasantly warm. The weather is nice and it hardly ever rains.
- Autumn, in October and November, is pleasantly warm and sunny at first, then it gradually becomes cooler.
- Morocco is often described as being 'a cold country with a hot sun' – in Casablanca temperatures rarely go below 10 degrees and in the height of Summer not more than 35 degrees.



Living in Casablanca

- Avenues bordered by palm trees, large business buildings and the Atlantic that opens up to the world: Casablanca is the economic heart of Morocco, a bustling metropolis constantly changing.

- Modern infrastructures mingle with charming neighborhoods, between Arab-Muslim heritage and the legacy of the colonial period.

- Discover all its nuances: Stroll through the traditional medina, walk past its art-deco buildings and see the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, a marvel of architecture built on water. In Morocco, golf, horse riding, tennis and surfing are all popular and very competitively priced compared to Europe.

- Outdoor sports are numerous and there are a multitude of gyms and sport complexes offering a wide range of activities.

- From a leisure point of view, Casablanca is full of places to go out, especially at night. You can dine on classic Moroccan dishes, the freshest seafood, French pastries and so much more.

Monetary unit

- **1 pound sterling = 12.50 MAD | All prices as of January 2025**
- The official monetary unit of Morocco is the Moroccan **dirham (dh), the abbreviation is MAD.**
- In Morocco, like most countries in the world, you can pay cash or via credit card.
- When paying by credit card, the exchange rate applied corresponds to that of the moment.
- The maximum commission depends on each issuing establishment, it is generally 1%.



Accommodation:

The neighbourhoods of Casablanca



Most teachers choose to live in Prestigia Golf City in Bouskoura. It is a large, gated community built around a golf course. There is a mixture of villas and 2/3-bedroom apartments. A typical apartment block is three stories with 3 or 4 apartments per floor. They are modern and have everything you need to live.

- Kitchen (fridge, washing machine, gas hob, kettle, microwave and cooking utensils)
- Living room (sofa, dining table and chairs, TV)
- Master bedroom (double bed, wardrobes and en- suite)
- Spare bedroom (2 single beds, wardrobe)
- Balcony on 1st/2nd floor and small garden on ground floor)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXc5cjvB7KA

Some teachers do live in the city or by the beach at Dar Bouazza. Rent is cheaper in both places (7000 MAD) but you will need to arrange your own transport.

The average monthly rental is 10 000 MAD for a 2-bedroom apartment in Prestigia and the school will assist with the moving in process.

Utilities

- Large gas bottle 50 MAD (lasts about 5 months) but this often paid by the landlord.
- Electricity 300 MAD per month (using heating and air con will increase this)
- Water 50 MAD per month
- Home internet 250 MAD per month
- Mobile 5 GB 50 MAD per month

In the middle of the complex is a small shopping area. This comprises of:

- Marjane supermarket / Carrefour Supermarket
- CIH bank with cashpoint
- Tobacconist & Stationery shop
- Chemist
- Several cafes and restaurants
- Dry cleaners
- Butchers
- Bakery
- Gym

Next to Prestigia is the Bouskoura forest which has many marked trails for walking/cycling. You can spend 40 mins to 4 hours walking around. Tortoises and chameleons can be seen and occasionally wild boar. There is also a children's play area and numerous picnic benches.

Getting Around Casablanca

- The school transport collects teachers at 0715 from Prestigia at the start of the day and leaves BISC at 1615 at the end of the day. (If you choose to live in town or by the beach then you need to make your own arrangements for transport to arrive at the school by 0730)
- There is an hourly public bus from Prestigia into the city centre
- Most teachers use taxi apps like "Careem" or 'In driver' which cost about 90 MAD one way into city from Prestigia, or around 45 MAD from the school
- Within Casablanca there is an excellent tram system (8 MAD per journey) and red 'petite" taxis which cost 20 MAD to get across town.

Getting Around Morocco

- Car Hire is somewhat expensive (5000-5500 MAD per month)
- Weekend car hire is about 350 MAD per day
- Petrol / Diesel prices are relatively cheap at 12-13 MAD per litre
- Excellent train network: Marrakech 3 hours and 173 MAD one way
- TGV fast train to Tangier 2 hours 10 mins 220 MAD one way
- Fast ferry from Tangier to Tarifa 45 mins at 35 Euros
- Excellent inter-city bus network

Highlights of Morocco

Marrakech:

The medina, wrapped within powder-pink (rammed earth) ramparts, is a show stopping muddle of crowded souqs, ochre dusted lanes, old mosques, donkeys and the vast square of Djemaa el-Fna where it's carnival every night with musicians, acrobats and acting troupes. It will dazzle, frazzle and enchant.

3 hours by train / 2 hours by car





Essaouira:

A beautiful medina of spice scented lanes and palm lined avenues. There are many galleries and a flourishing art scene, excellent restaurants and stylish hotels.

5 hours by bus / 3.5 hours by car

Oualidia:

A delightful resort town spread around a gorgeous crescent shaped lagoon fringed with golden sand. A good selection of accommodation and great fish restaurants.

2 hours by car





Atlas Mountains:

Beautiful Imlil nestled in the High Atlas Mountains is the gateway for the 2 day climb to Jebel Toubkal (4167m). In spring the flowers are sublime and in winter snow covers the mountains.

4.5 hours by car



Desert:

Once you have driven over the Tizi n Test pass (2092m) you drive through the Draa valley and finally reach the oasis town of MHamid which is where the Sahara really starts. An ocean of golden sea sand awaits.

2-day car journey/organised trip



Beaches:

Morocco's coastline stretches from the Mediterranean to the Sahara. It has beaches for every taste and the Atlantic coast is perfect for surfing and relaxing.

40 minutes taxi to Tamaris beach

5 hours by bus to Agadir

Cost of Living:

Morocco is much cheaper than the UK. Prices have risen post covid but are still favourable compared to Europe and the Middle East. Here are some current prices:

Potatoes per Kg	11 MAD	Chicken breast per Kg	60 MAD
Carrots per Kg	8 MAD	Beef per Kg	145 MAD
Onions per Kg	6 MAD	Salmon steak per Kg	200 MAD
Tomatoes per Kg	6 MAD	Whole fish from	90-300 MAD
Oranges per Kg	13 MAD	Small whole chicken	56 MAD
Bananas per Kg	20 MAD	Olive Oil (ExV) 500ml	78 MAD

*Seasonality is big thing in Morocco - so prices will vary depending on which vegetables / fruit are in season.

1 litre milk	12 MAD	Pringles	20 MAD
6 eggs	14 MAD	Kellogg's corn flakes	40 MAD
Small yoghurt pot	2 MAD	Hobnobs biscuits	32 MAD
Edam cheese 240g	25 MAD	English Breakfast 20 teabags	30 MAD
French baguette	5 MAD	Nescafe Gold coffee 100g	60 MAD

Bottle of wine	90-300 MAD
Tobacco (Per Packet)	25 - 40 MAD
Lager 500ml can	25 MAD

Childcare / Housekeepers:

The cost of in-home support is much cheaper than the UK, with full-time nannies / maids ranging from 3000-5000 MAD per month (depending on whether they are live-in or not).

Going Out:

Coffee in a café	**20 MAD**
Sandwich in café	**40 MAD**
Glass of wine	**60-80 MAD**
Draught beer pint	**70 MAD**
Breakfast is about	**70 MAD**
Brunch is about	**100 MAD**

Dinner ranges from 150+ MAD for a two-course meal

Bars, Beach Clubs & Nightlife

Casablanca has a wide range of hospitality venues available. In the Ain Diab area, there are many bars and clubs open well into the early hours. In the French colonial Gauthier district, there is a range of smaller bars frequented by expats and locals alike, as well as an Irish bar. There are many beach clubs with pools and private beach access which host DJs and music events, most of which open fully throughout the spring and summer seasons. These beach clubs are most prevalent in the Tamaris, Dar Bouazza and Ain Diab areas of Casablanca. Alcohol can be easily purchased in liquor stores throughout the city and some Carrefour supermarkets also have alcohol sections.

There are also many wonderful restaurants to enjoy in the city itself – the original 'Rick's Café' for the fine dining & cocktails experience ('Play it again Sam'); Dar Dada for exquisite Moroccan food & amazing live entertainment; La Sqala simply because of their amazing Veal chops that would make most Italian restauranters weep in admiration.

Finally, for those who also crave a taste of home – we also have 3 fabulous Curry Houses (Clay Oven, India Palace and Bollywood) but would suggest you opt for the spicier dishes to gain the true authentic 'Brick Lane' / 'Balti-Triangle' experience.