

Guide for Prospective Parents

CGB

Colegio Gran Bretaña

A Truly International School, Unrivalled in Colombia



Our School

Mission

Colegio Gran Bretaña is founded upon the values of a truly international school community. We work collaboratively to provide a holistic, inclusive and academically challenging educational experience through the medium of English.

At CGB we inspire and prepare our learners for an evolving world. Eight essential, and equally important, Foundation Blocks support the day-to-day life of our school and foster intellectually prepared students who discover and embrace the ideals of global citizenship. Through empathy, and progressive teaching and learning we empower everyone to act on their beliefs, thereby cultivating independent thinkers who are able to meet the demands of the twenty-first century.

Vision

By 2018 CGB is recognised as a leading educational force in Latin America. It is a unique, internationally minded community which supports learners as they strive for excellence and independence, promoting life-long learning in an evolving world. Whilst maintaining its unity and family-orientated values CGB will embrace the latest in technology and learning theory, ensuring a holistic, and progressive school culture that nurtures socially responsible, environmentally minded and respectful students and global citizens, combining high academic expectations and a commitment to the community. Through a stimulating, flexible, and holistic curriculum, CGB offers an inclusive, balanced and personalised approach to learning, providing opportunities of achievement to learners with different talents, needs and learning styles within a positive learning environment.

CGB's Foundation Blocks



From The Director

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is my absolute honour to be able to welcome you to the Academic Year 2017-18. You will know that it is an auspicious year in our history because CGB is turning 20, and we are embarking on our third decade of educating young people for an evolving world.

CGB is a very special place, filled with people who understand that what unites us is our diversity - and that we need each other and our differences in order to fully flourish. Our Mission, Vision, Enduring Goals and Foundation Blocks underpin everything we stand for and do on a daily basis - and were the creation of representatives of all stakeholders within our community during the most recent CIS and NEASC accreditation process. Our school is very democratic in how we make many decisions. This ensures that CGB does not change direction due to the opinion or personality of one person, or minority group. We listen to opinions from our students, staff and families, and I would like to assure you that our doors are always open should you wish to talk about what we do and how we do it.

CGB is a “No Bully Zone”. This does not mean that bullying does not take place, but when it does we follow our robust anti-bullying policy in order to restore the peace in our community. For this to function we need to work as a team and ensure that if we find out that someone is bullying, or being bullied, that the information is passed on to someone at school immediately.

CGB is a safe space where everyone is made to feel welcome, is treated with respect, and is accepted for who they are. This behavior must be modelled by all of our community members, not because it is a “rule” but because it is what we know to be right.

CGB is dynamic. Every year 25% of our population leaves to begin new adventures in other countries, while another 25% arrives to begin an adventure here with us in Colombia. Among the new faces this year you will meet Mrs. Frances Morton, our new Head of Secondary. Mrs. Suzanne McLean has also stepped up from being our Key Stage 2 Coordinator to being our new Head of Primary. In this year of transition your support and patience will be more welcome than ever.



CGB is ours. We need to protect what we have and share all of the amazing things that take place with each other. Please do follow us on Social Media, and use the hashtag #thisiscgb when you would like to highlight something amazing that your children do at school. (Remember that whatever you write online is permanent, so ensure what you are posting is factual, respectful, and that you have the appropriate permissions if you will post a photo - and never use someone’s full name). However, if you have a concern, please rather come and speak to someone at school directly and do not post it online.

Finally, CGB is our home. I hope you feel welcome, included, and that your children have the best learning experiences inside and outside of their classrooms.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of CGB’s story!

With warm wishes,

R Tomalin.
Robert Tomalin
Director

What makes our school special?

Because Colegio Gran Bretaña...

1. Believes in a personalised, holistic and international education for all of its students.

2. Offers a dynamic, evolving curriculum that is at the forefront of the latest developments in educational research, such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, which opens doors for many universities around the world. <http://www.ibo.org/>

3. Has a highly inclusive philosophy.

4. Offers a safe, caring and multicultural environment.

5. Has an average class size of 18 pupils.

6. Promotes national and international excursions.

7. Has a student:teacher ratio of 6:1

8. Is a No Bully Zone

9. Is the only school in Colombia with an ICELT (In-service Certificate in English Language Teaching) accreditation.

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/teaching-english/teaching-qualifications/icelt/>

10. Is the only truly international school in Colombia with 39 different nationalities

11. Is the only school in Colombia in which the medium of instruction is English as a first language, and the curriculum is delivered by qualified, foreign teachers who are first language English speakers.

12. Offers Spanish and Colombian Social studies at different levels, responding to pupils' diverse needs.

13. Holds double international accreditation with CIS (Council of International Schools) and NEASC (New England As-

sociation of Schools and Colleges)

<http://www.cois.org/>

<https://www.neasc.org/>

14. Offers an innovative, diverse, compulsory co-curricular programme that takes place during the school day.

15. Is a Round Square School. <https://www.roundsquare.org/>



Admissions Step by Step



Step 1: Getting to know CGB

Informative meetings & tours are usually held three times a week. Appointments to attend these meetings must be scheduled in advance through our web page www.cgb.edu.co or by calling (571) 6760391, (571) 6761847.

Step 2: Applying to CGB

Once you have decided you want to apply to CGB, please complete the APPLICATION FORM on our webpage. An appointment for student/parent interviews and testing at the school must be scheduled with the Admissions Office. All candidates are expected to take an admission test, and both parents must be interviewed by the school psychologist.

Step 3: Final Decision and Registration

The Admissions Committee meets every week and reviews the applications once forms and supporting documents have been submitted.

We offer an Internationally Recognised Curriculum



Section	Key Stage	Year Groups (Class)	Curriculum
Primary	Foundation Stage	Nursery and Reception	VESS Meaningful Life with Balance and Wisdom Model www.educationfirstinc.com/vess-curriculum/vess-curriculum-2
	Key Stage 1	Year 1–Year 2	IPC International Primary Curriculum www.greatlearning.com/ipc/
	Key Stage 2	Year 3 –Year 6	
Secondary	Key Stage 3	Year 7 –Year 9	IMYC International Middle Years Curriculum www.greatlearning.com/imyc/
	Key Stage 4	Year 10–Year 11	IGCSE International General Certificate of Secondary Education www.cie.org.uk/
	Key Stage 5	Year 12– Year 13	IBDP International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme www.ibo.org/

The curriculum also complies with the requirements of the Colombian Ministry of Education, offering Spanish and Colombian Social Studies at different levels in order to cater for the needs of our student population.

Advantages of Studying in an International School

“International schools are among the most successful in the world, with exceptional examination results and a high proportion of students going on to the universities across the globe. ¹”

INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM:

Expatriate families demand places for their children at international schools to ensure continuity of language, curriculum, examinations or orientation. Internationally-recognised curriculum, is accepted in almost all continents and facilitates University admission.

EXPOSURE TO GLOBAL CULTURE:

International schools have students from different nationalities and sometimes even faculty from across the globe. Students are therefore exposed to different cultures and lifestyles. This kind of global exposure is hard to come by in a national school.

EMPHASIS ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Most international schools place a great deal of emphasis on extra-curricular activities like sports, theatre and talent

shows. The curriculum promotes holistic development in which the child grows in self-confidence and acquires valuable skills related to competitiveness and sportsmanship.³

ENGLISH AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION:

There is a fast-moving worldwide shift from English being taught as a foreign language (EFL) to English being the medium of instruction (EMI) for academic subjects such as science, mathematics, and humanities. In some countries, EMI is thought to be a passport to a global world. To achieve a place at a university in the USA, Canada or UK, international students face increasingly tough competition and so seek more than just good grades from their local national school.²

¹ Anne Keeling, *Marketing & Media Relations, ISC.*

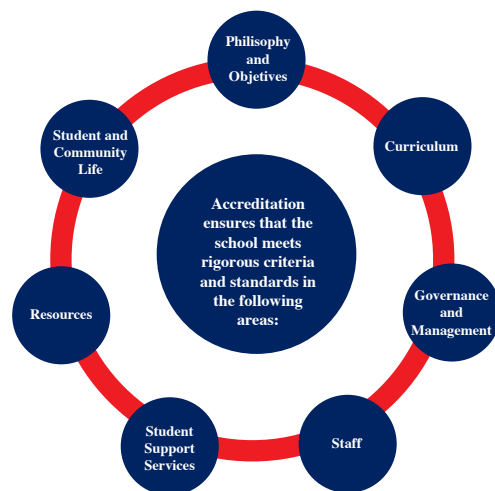
² Richard Gaskell, *Director, ISC.*

³ Bryan Smith, *Slideshare.net*



Accreditations & Affiliations

The accreditations were first awarded to Colegio Gran Bretaña in 2004. Ten years later CGB has been re-accredited. This demonstrates its commitment to international education and continual improvement. Colleges and universities acknowledge that an Accredited School meets globally recognised standards and promotes qualities and skills that they are seeking in students.



CIS School Evaluation and Accreditation is an evaluation process that drives a school's continuous improvement, through:



- rigorous evaluation against internationally-agreed standards;
- a blend of support and challenge, focused on a school's development; and
- a peer-based model that brings together international educators from across the world of CIS-accredited schools.

Our Second Accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Collages (NEASC) ensures compliance with United States standards and thus facilitates the transfer of US students back to their home country, as well as the admissions process into US Universities.



Round Square is a worldwide network of innovative schools in 40 countries that creates adventure opportunities through International Service for our students.

The mission of the LAHC is to bring together centres of educational excellence reflecting the best of British and international educational practice in order to share expertise for school improvement in a spirit of reciprocal altruism that benefits all parties.

The association caters specifically for schools which give special importance to the English language, both as a medium for communication and as a language of teaching and learning.



Outdoor Education

BEYOND THE SUMMIT

At CGB learning takes place beyond the confines of the traditional classroom. Students develop new perspectives through first-hand experiences, and acquire skills that cannot easily be attained through formal education.

We feel strongly that the field trips have a positive impact on our students by affirming leadership and social skills, teamwork, self-awareness, independence, and self-confidence, amongst others.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

Through the Co-Curricular programme, balance is promoted, students are encouraged to move out of their comfort zone, experiment with something unknown and develop new interests. Wall climbing, swimming, SCUBA diving, photography, French cooking and robotics are just a few of the activities on offer.



HOUSES & OTHER SPORT ACTIVITIES

CGB regularly competes in league sports tournaments against other schools.

All students belong to one of the four CGB Houses, which offer a range of events and opportunities for intra-school integration and competition.

CGB has a strong tradition in rugby and is a leader in school rugby competition both in locally and nationally.

Colegio Gran Bretaña by numbers

Total Student Enrolment: 559 students



**Student - Teacher
ratio**



**34 different
nationalities**



14 different languages



**99% University
Acceptance worldwide**



**22 Different
Co-Curricular Activities**



**18 different Performing
Art options**



**Our alumni are in many
of the world's most
renowned universities**



**83% of the curriculum is
delivered in English by native
English-speaking teachers**

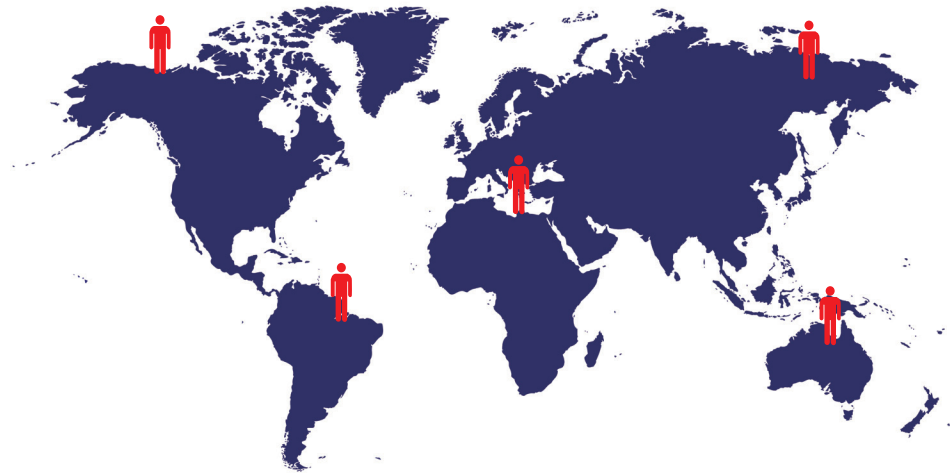


**89% of students received
the International
Baccalaureate Diploma in 2017**

Demographics

Staff

95 members of staff in total
 93 full time; 2 part time
 3 Psychologists
 1 Occupational Therapist
 1 Speech Therapist
 10 Language Specialists
 2 Librarians
 15 Teaching Assistants
 39 Expats (23 British)
 56 Colombians
 10 nationalities represented amongst
 the CGB Staff



Students

American	14,13%	Colombian	34,39%	Israeli	2,42%	Peruvian	0,74%
Argentinian	5,39%	Costa Rican	0,56%	Italian	1,67%	Portuguese	1,12%
Australian	0,74%	Czech	0,19%	Japanese	1,49%	Salvadoran	0,37%
Bolivian	0,74%	Dominican		Korean	2,79%	South African	0,37%
Brazilian	5,95%	Republic	0,37%	Mexican	4,65%	Spanish	5,20%
British	4,46%	Ecuadorian	0,74%	Netherlands	0,56%	Swedish	1,67%
Canadian	2,04%	French	0,56%	Nicaraguan	0,37%	Turkish	0,19%
Chilean	2,23%	German	0,37%	Norwegian	0,37%	Venezuelan	2,60%
Chinese	0,19%	Guatemalan	0,19%	Panamanian	0,19%		

University Acceptance

ARGENTINA

Universidad de Buenos Aires
 Universidad Torcuato di Tella

AUSTRIA

University of Applied Arts

BRASIL

Centro Universitário São Camilo

CANADA

University of British Columbia
 University of Waterloo
 University of Toronto
 Loyola Toronto University

CHILE

Universidad de Chile

SWITZERLAND

Franklin College

ESPAÑA

ESADE Barcelona
 IED, Barcelona

COLOMBIA

Universidad de los Andes
 Universidad Javeriana
 Universidad del Rosario
 Universidad Nacional
 Universidad de la Sabana
 Universidad del Bosque

ENGLAND

Arts Institute of Boumemouth
 City University London
 Kingston University
 Oxford University
 University of Sheffield

MEXICO

TEC Monterrey
 Universidad Anahuac
 Universidad de las Américas

UNITED STATES

Parsons School of Design
 Duquense University

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
 Florida International
 Hofstra University
 Miami Dade University
 Michigan State University
 Northeastern University
 Savannah College of Art & Design
 Texas A&M
 Trinity University
 University of Miami
 University of North Florida
 University of South Florida
 Vanderbilt University
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 American University
 Pratt Institute

**Percentage of students with
 college offerings = 100%**



Colegio Gran Bretaña

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations



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INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS

