

# SPIRAL Placement Guide Brighton

**SPIRAL**

*School-teacher Professionalisation:  
Intercultural Resources And Languages*

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# I. The educational system in England

In the UK, the Education System has been through significant changes in structure and content during the last 10 years. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have devolved responsibility for their education system. In England, the Department for Education oversees initial teacher training and the schools system. This mobility guide provides an overview of schooling in England.

## 1. General information

In England children are required to have a full-time education at school or at home between the ages of 5 and 16. Young people aged 16-18 must either continue with academic education at school or college, or undertake vocational training.

The two main phases of school education up to age 16 are Primary and Secondary.

## 2. Primary: Age 5 - 11 years

Many primary age schools are divided into Infant (Key Stage 1) and Junior (Key Stage 2) schools. Before attending a primary school, many children attend a nursery school. Nursery schools teach children between the ages of 3 and 5 years and may or may not be attached to an infant or primary school.

The primary age educational phases are as follows:

**Foundation Stage:** Reception/Year R (age 4-5)

**Key Stage 1:** Year 1 (age 5-6), Year 2 (age 6-7)

**Key Stage 2:** Year 3 (age 7-8), Year 4 (age 8-9), Year 5 (age 9-10), Year 6 (age 10-11)

## 3. School Organisation

All children in England between the ages of 5 and 16 are entitled to a free place at a state school – this means a school funded by the government. Most state schools have to follow the National Curriculum although some schools have more choice about the curriculum they choose to teach. There are four main types of state schools:

- community schools, controlled by the local council
- foundation schools and voluntary schools, which have more freedom to change the way they do things than community schools
- academies, run by academy trusts, independent from the local council – these schools do not have to follow the national curriculum
- grammar schools, run by the council, a foundation body or a trust - they select all or most of their pupils based on academic ability: pupils usually pass an exam to gain entry

### Special schools

Special schools with pupils aged 11 and older can specialise in 1 of the 4 areas of special educational needs:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- social, emotional and mental health
- sensory and physical needs

Schools can further specialise within these categories to reflect the special needs they help with: Autistic spectrum disorders, visual impairment, or speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) for example.

### The National Curriculum

The 'basic' school curriculum includes the 'national curriculum', as well as religious education and sex education. The national curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools so children learn the same things. It covers what subjects are taught and the standards

children should reach in each subject. Compulsory national curriculum subjects at primary school are:

- English
- maths
- science
- design and technology
- history
- geography
- art and design
- music
- physical education (PE), including swimming
- computing
- ancient and modern foreign languages (at key stage 2)

Schools must provide religious education (RE) but parents can ask for their children to be taken out of the whole lesson or part of it. Local councils are responsible for deciding the RE syllabus, but faith schools and academies can set their own religious curriculum.

Schools often also teach:

- personal, social and health education (PSHE)
- citizenship
- modern foreign languages (at key stage 1)

### **Key stage 2: Foreign language**

Teaching may be of any modern or ancient foreign language and should focus on enabling pupils to make substantial progress in one language. The teaching should provide an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and should lay the foundations for further foreign language teaching at key stage 3. It should enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing, focused on familiar and routine matters, using their knowledge of phonology, grammatical structures and vocabulary. The focus of study in modern languages will be on practical communication. The most common languages taught in England at primary school are French, German and Spanish.

## **II. Practical information**

### **1. Daily life**

#### **a. Where will I be based?**

You will be hosted by the University of Brighton where you will have a Lead Tutor who is responsible for you during your training placement in the UK. The Lead Tutor will meet you at the University and provide an induction programme which will give you an overview on the English education system, the work you will be undertaking and practical hints on your stay. You will be English student teachers and have the opportunity to ask initial questions.

#### **b. School Placements**

You will be located at a primary school (aged 4-11) in Brighton. All of the placement schools work in partnership with the University and have a good established track record in teacher training. Each School will provide you with a mentor who will work with you to support you through your stay. They will be a senior teacher within the School that you're based in. They will normally not be the class teacher who you will be working with so you can have an independent person to help you through your class placement experience. The School Day will be approx. 9 – 3.30pm.

#### **c. Where will I stay?**

You will stay with a host family. You will be provided with breakfast and an evening cooked meal plus food to make your own pack lunch. The host family will be able to help support you with general questions about life in Brighton. You do not need to bring sheets or towels.

#### d. Cultural Information

Brighton is a multi-cultural city, 60 miles south of London located by the Sea. It is a place where there is something for everyone to do. There are theatres, museums, galleries, restaurants and cafes. There is a good mixture of independent shops and chain stores. It is primarily a safe place to be but we advise that you take the practical steps that you would take in any large city in relation to personal safety.

#### e. Funding

Brighton will charge your University a fee of £260 to pay for your accommodation and food detailed above. You will need to allow for expenses at the weekend where you may want to explore Brighton or the surrounding area more fully either on your own or with your student colleagues.

#### f. Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced Disclosure

Child Protection policies for schools in the UK require a *Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)* check to be made on you to ensure you are suitable for working with children.

The *DBS* provides access to this information through an *Enhanced Disclosure*. *Security Watchdog*, part of *Capita plc*, will assist you in obtaining your *Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)* check. *Security Watchdog* provides expertise and administrative support to guide you through the *DBS* application process and ensures that the *DBS Policy* and *Codes of Practice* are strictly adhered to.

**Stage One** and **Stage Two** of the application process must be followed. Start **Stage One** as soon as possible.

#### Stage One: online application

- Go to this link: <https://disclosure.capitarvs.co.uk/cheqs/rbLogin.do>
- Click **Start Application**
- Enter the following **Organisation Reference** but leave the **Password** blank, like this:

<b>Organisation Reference:</b>	<b>BRIGHTONUNIINTERNAL</b>
<b>Password</b>	

- Now follow the 5-step on-screen instructions
- You must give an answer for boxes marked with an asterisk like this (\*) You can leave other boxes blank.

#### Stage Two: verifying your identification

The *University of Brighton Admissions Team* must check and certify **3 forms of acceptable identification** against *DBS* requirements. We will ask you to show us your identification documents when you arrive at the University of Brighton, as part your induction process. If you fail to show the appropriate identification we will not be able to process your application.

Please bring with you **3** of the following **IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**. At least 1 document must come from **GROUP 1** and at least 1 document **MUST** confirm your **CURRENT ADDRESS** in your **HOME** country:

Group 1 <b>Proof of your identity</b> (Group 1 primary document)	Valid <b>Passport</b> and/or <b>EU Identity Card</b> and/or <b>Driving Licence photocard</b> . If one of these documents has your address on it you can use this as your ' <b>proof of address</b> ' document.	You must bring the original documents. Photocopies and scans are not acceptable.  <b>You must also show us your own Police Check certificate.</b>
Group 2 <b>Proof of your address</b> in your home country	A <b>letter from your University</b> confirming your home address in your country.  or a <b>Bank Statement</b> or <b>Credit Card</b> statement confirming your home address	

More information about the **DBS List of Acceptable Identification** documentation is available here: <http://dbsdirect.co.uk/resources/List%20of%20Valid%20ID%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>

For Further advice please contact University of Brighton Admissions Office on 01273 643528

## 2. Contacts

### a. Embassies

#### FRANCE:

58 Knightsbridge  
London SW1X 7JT  
+44 20 7073 1200

#### SPAIN

39 Chesham Place  
London SW1X 8SB  
+44 20 7235 5555

#### GERMANY

23 Belgrave Square/ Chesham Place  
London SW1X 8PZ  
+44 20 7824 1300

#### THE NETHERLANDS

38 Hyde Park Gate  
London SW7 5DP  
+44 20 7590 3200

### b. Cultural centres

#### CERVANTES INSTITUTE

15-19 Devereux Court,  
London WC2R 3JJ  
+44 (0)207 201 0750

#### THE GOETHE INSTITUTE

50 Princes Gate  
Exhibition Road  
London SW7 2PH  
+44 20 7596 4000

#### FRENCH INSTITUTE

17 Queensberry Place,  
London, SW7 2DT  
+44 20 7871 3515

### c. SPIRAL partners

#### At the University of Brighton

Daryl Bailey (Academic 01273 641014)  
Kat Sat Smatova (Support Staff 01273 643386)

### d. Emergency numbers

Your placement school, your host family and the University of Brighton can assist you in case of any problems. The emergency number for the Police, Fire or Ambulance Service is 999 or 112.