

## Cambridge and bilingual education in Europe

Cambridge International Examinations has been involved in bilingual education projects for many years, supporting initiatives in countries such as Germany, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

Recently, there has been significant growth in the number of state and independent schools in Europe offering Cambridge programmes in a bilingual context. We are now collaborating with schools on bilingual education projects in Bosnia, Croatia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, and interest from schools in other European countries is rising. In every instance, we work in partnership with the school to ensure that Cambridge programmes fit in with national requirements.

### What is bilingual education?

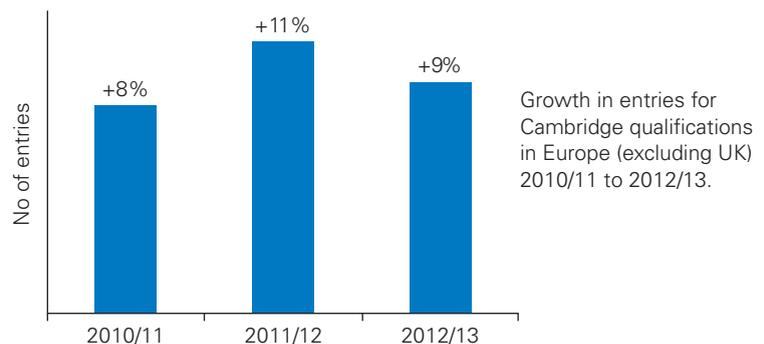
For Cambridge, 'bilingual education' refers to the practice of studying typical school subjects – like Geography and Maths – through a second or additional language. This understanding of bilingual education is linked to other educational concepts such as Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) and dual-language education.

On a bilingual programme, students may study some subjects in their first language and other subjects in an additional language, or the same subject may be studied in two languages. Bilingual teaching methods can vary, but the flexibility of the Cambridge approach means that students can work towards a Cambridge qualification while following their own national curriculum.

### About Cambridge International Examinations

We are the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds. We offer an international curriculum for schools and a broad range of qualifications including Cambridge IGCSE® and Cambridge International A Level. Cambridge qualifications are recognised by universities and employers worldwide.

We work in partnership with over 30 ministries of education, and with schools in over 160 countries. We are part of Cambridge Assessment, a not-for-profit organisation, and a department of the University of Cambridge.



Growth in entries for Cambridge qualifications in Europe (excluding UK) 2010/11 to 2012/13.

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Students at Internationella Engelska Skolan, Sweden's fastest growing network of independent schools, study Cambridge IGCSE courses alongside the Swedish curriculum.



## Why choose Cambridge?

- **Flexibility.** Schools can easily adapt the Cambridge curriculum to suit their needs. This means that schools with bilingual programmes can integrate Cambridge programmes alongside their national curricula.
- **International standards.** Cambridge qualifications are internationally benchmarked and recognised by universities and employers worldwide. They are regularly reviewed to reflect current thinking in education.
- **External assessment.** A variety of assessment options is available at different stages of the curriculum. This formal assessment helps direct students' learning, providing a record of attainment and a recognised passport for progression.
- **Global outlook.** Cambridge programmes develop global awareness whilst increasing language proficiency.

## In the spotlight: Cambridge programmes in bilingual schools

There is more than one way to integrate Cambridge programmes into a bilingual curriculum. Here are some examples of the different approaches taken by schools in Europe:

### Cambridge Secondary 1 and Cambridge Checkpoint

TTO schools in the Netherlands

TTO schools are a network of bilingual state schools in the Netherlands. Several TTO schools are following the Cambridge Secondary 1 programme and using Cambridge Checkpoint – a diagnostic testing service, which provides feedback in English, Maths and Science. Teachers say that the tests support learning.

Mr A Piketh, Bilingual Education Coordinator, Stedelijk College, Eindhoven, said: *'The Cambridge Checkpoint tests, together with the progress tests, give schools, teachers, parents and learners an educational diagnostic tool to monitor the educational progress of our Dutch bilingual learners in multiple subjects. The statements of achievements are also a formal way to end the first three years of bilingual education.'*

### Cambridge IGCSE

Ministerio de Educación and British Council, Spain

The British Council has been working on a bilingual schools project with the Ministry of Education in Spain since 1996. More than 80,000 young people in Spanish state schools are now receiving a bilingual education.

Schools follow the national curriculum for subjects taught in Spanish, and an integrated curriculum for subjects taught in English. At secondary level, students can take Cambridge IGCSE examinations in subjects including English, Geography, History and Biology.

Speaking about her experience of Cambridge IGCSE, Carmen García, Head of English at Manuel de Falla School in Coslada, Madrid says: *'These exams test pupils' understanding of the effects of words. For the first time, I felt I was really teaching English, not just the grammar.'*

### Cambridge IGCSE

Liceo Luigi Galvani, Bologna, Italy

In 1997, Liceo Luigi Galvani became the first state secondary school in Italy to offer an integrated Cambridge IGCSE curriculum. Students can study seven Cambridge IGCSEs over three years, including Geography, Biology, Physics and Maths. English Teacher, Paola Noli, believes that Cambridge IGCSE widens students' learning experiences beyond the Italian education system, and offers a more interactive style of learning that complements the Italian curriculum.

Student, Beatrice Scocchera said: *'The way English subjects are taught is amazing. There are lots of topics and definitions that you can't find in the Italian programme. After a few months of our Cambridge IGCSE course, three quarters of my class were able to speak English fluently and were able to go through a Mathematics, Science or Geography lesson in English using technical words.'*

**Learn more!** If you would like to learn more about Cambridge and bilingual education in Europe, please email [info@cie.org.uk](mailto:info@cie.org.uk) or go to [www.cie.org.uk](http://www.cie.org.uk)

