

# Upper Secondary School





## Welcome to Upper Secondary

Today we have about 100 students from the different Nordic countries. Because of the small scale of our school with small teaching groups, there is a good and friendly learning atmosphere at SSB. Our focus on the individual and our high demands on both students and teachers give our students a great opportunity to fulfill their own potential. Each student meets with his/her tutor weekly to follow up on their academic as well as social development.

We provide a challenging language programme with French, English, Spanish and German, where most teachers are native or bilingual speakers. Study visits to France, England, Spain and Germany complement our programme. All our students' study French and the students are divided into groups depending on their level. Bilingual education is a natural part of education at SSB, where English is used as the teaching language in subject such as Biology and History, and French is used in Sports.

We want our students to develop many areas of interest and as a complement to the more academics subjects we offer a comprehensive Sports and Aesthetics programme.

We have a well equipped Mediatec, with a full time librarian, where students can work on their different research projects and assignments. Education at SSB is supported by a computer network complete with e-mail addresses for all students and staff.

At the start of the school year we take all classes on a three day class trip to different places in Belgium which provide a team-building opportunity for new and old students. We also have a second class trip during the year which is based on cross-curricula projects and is organized by the students.

Project work is important at SSB. We see this as an opportunity to broaden the students' learning process and give them a better opportunity to get a more holistic view of their education. During the year the students work on different projects. One example is the Berlin Model United Nations, where students in Upper Secondary get involved in how the United Nations works. The project presentation is a role play where the students get to represent different member nations and follow the procedures of the United Nations. The students also organize our own SSB version of this role play.

We are here to help you become acquainted with SSB so if you have any questions or comments feel free to contact us.

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**National Education with an International perspective**  
Our Upper Secondary programme caters for students who want to retain their national identity, while expanding their international perspective.

Our Swedish *Gymnasium* curriculum offers the Natural and Social Science programmes; and the Norwegian *Videregående* offers *Studieretning for allmenne, økonomiske og administrative fag*. Our programmes are all approved by the authorities in Sweden and Norway. The *International Baccalaureate Diploma* is also available for students from all Nordic countries.

All SSB programmes prepare students for higher education, whether it be in their home country or abroad. Bilingual education is a natural part of teaching in Upper Secondary, where for certain subjects, English and French are the teaching languages. Our students all choose French as their second/third foreign language, and Spanish and German are available as an optional extra language. Our teaching staff also adds to our international approach: we have teachers from approximately 10 different countries, providing a multicultural learning environment.

#### **Studying at SSB**

Our focus is on the individual student. We place high demands on our students, giving everyone the opportunity to realise their full potential. Teaching groups are generally small and all students are given an individual schedule that meets their individual needs. Each student has a tutor, who also teaches him/her. It is the tutor's responsibility, together with the student and parents, to help plan and monitor the student's academic and social development. The tutor is in constant contact with the student and their parents, and arranges development discussions once every term.

In addition to theory-based subjects, various practical courses are also available in our Art and Music departments, inspiring students to discover their creative talents. Our popular sports programme encourages students to keep fit and improve their health, through exercise and healthy eating.

The international aspect of SSB is not limited to the language department. Each school year, all students go on study trips abroad with their class, integrating cross-curricula activities with social activities, such as sports and culture. Our course about Belgium provides the students with a wealth of useful local knowledge. We frequently visit places such as the EU Parliament, World War sights and other places of cultural and historical importance. We also invite expert speakers to our school on a regular basis to lecture on politics, business and culture.

#### **Norwegian Programmes**

In the Norwegian *Videregående*, we offer *Allmenne, økonomiske og administrative fag*. The programme consists of a foundation year in GK, followed by two years of more specialised course work in VK 1 and VK 2. The student can then choose a number of optional subjects. Exams are held during the spring of each year. The school has adapted to the new curriculum "Kunnskapsløftet" that will start for Gym 1 students in August 2006.

#### **Swedish Programmes**

The Swedish *Gymnasium* offers students the Natural and Social Science programmes. The Social Science programme offers four different areas of specialisation: Social Sciences, Aesthetics, Business Studies, and Languages. Students also have a number of subjects to choose from for their individual choice (IV). Natural



Science students are also offered different subjects for their individual choice (IV) but we only offer the Natural Science profile without specialisation. All Swedish students take national tests in the following subjects: Swedish, English, Mathematics and Foreign Languages.

#### International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

In line with our European Profile and our aim to promote international understanding SSB offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. This programme is taught in more than 1700 schools in over 120 countries.

Why choose the IB Diploma Programme at SSB?

- Individualised teaching in small groups
- Fewer subjects but with more depth
- Best possible preparation for university studies
- External examiners enables the teacher to work as a coach
- Internationally recognized baccalaureate facilitates acceptance at universities all over the world.

SSB has been an IB school since 1985 and the teaching and examination language is English. The programme runs over three years where the first year is an introductory year (Pre-IB). The two Diploma years are finished off by the final exams in May of year 2.

During the two Diploma years the students study six subjects, one from each group.

#### Group 1. Mother tongue

Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish

#### Group 2. Foreign languages

English, French, German, Spanish

#### Group 3. Individuals and Society

Business & Management, History

#### Group 4. Experimental Sciences

Biology SL, Chemistry SL, Physics SL

#### Group 5. Mathematics

Math Studies SL, Mathematics SL

#### Group 6. Arts and Electives

Visual Art or any subject from group 2-4

Besides these subjects all students have to fulfill the following three requirements:

**The Extended Essay (EE)** provides the students with the opportunity to conduct research in an area of special interest and acquaints students with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected at university level.

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** challenges the students to question the basis of knowledge and to develop a critical thinking.

**In Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)** students bring the world outside the school into their studies. CAS should encourage new skills and interests and inspire a sense of responsibility towards all members of the community.

For further information: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).



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