



## Information sheet: Transferring from a Baccalaureate school in another canton or another country to a cantonal Baccalaureate school in the Canton of Bern due to a move

### 1 Scope

This information sheet sets out the rules regarding transferring to a cantonal Baccalaureate school (Gymnasium/gymnase) due to a move. Should you wish to transfer to a private Baccalaureate school, please contact the private school directly regarding admission requirements and school fees. If you are planning a move somewhere outside of the Canton of Bern, you should contact the competent education department in the canton in which you plan to live ([www.edk.ch/en](http://www.edk.ch/en) > Education System > Websites of the cantons).

### 2 Information on the academic Baccalaureate programme and the school system in the Canton of Bern

Baccalaureate schools provide upper secondary schooling to students aged 15 and older who earn very good grades. Students normally begin the four-year academic Baccalaureate programme after completing the second year of secondary school (year 8). The academic Baccalaureate programme provides them with a general education of greater depth and breadth and concludes with the award of the nationally recognised academic Baccalaureate certificate. Holders of this certificate are eligible for admission without examination to a Swiss university, Federal Institute of Technology or teacher-training university or, subject to additional requirements, university of applied sciences. Approximately 20 per cent of pupils in the Canton of Bern attend a Baccalaureate school. Students attending Baccalaureate school have German or French as the language of instruction.

#### School system in the German-speaking part of the canton

In the German-speaking part of the canton, pupils are assigned to one of two different requirements levels after the first six years of schooling (primary school). *Realschule* represents the lower of these requirements levels and secondary school and the special secondary classes correspond to the higher level. Students from either requirements level who wish to enter an academic Baccalaureate programme can qualify for the programme by obtaining a recommendation from their school or on by passing the admissions examination for the academic Baccalaureate programme. They then begin the first (GYM1) of their four years at Baccalaureate school.

#### School system in the French-speaking part of the canton

In the French-speaking part of the canton, students completing their eighth year of schooling (two years of «*école enfantine*» and six years of the «*dégré primaire*») are assigned to one of three different requirements levels for their last three years of compulsory schooling:

- the «*section générale (section g)*» for pupils with average school performance,
  - the «*section moderne (section m)*» for pupils with good school performance and
  - the «*section préparant aux écoles de maturité (section p)*» for pupils with very good school performance.
- The final year in «*section p*» also constitutes the first of the four years of the academic Baccalaureate programme. After this year, students normally enter the three-year programme at a Baccalaureate school.

### 3 Costs of Baccalaureate school

Students attending a cantonal Baccalaureate school do not normally pay school fees if their parents are residents of Canton of Bern. Otherwise, they must pay school fees amounting to about CHF 20'000 per year. They should also expect to have to pay additional charges of about CHF 1'000–3'000 per year for costs for project weeks, excursions etc.

## 4 Admission requirements

### 4.1 Qualifying for the Baccalaureate programme

Students in one of the following groups who have recently moved to the Canton of Bern can be admitted to the Baccalaureate programme without having to sit the examination:

- Students coming from another canton who hold a certificate qualifying them to enter a public Baccalaureate school (final admission during a probationary semester) or who have already been attending a school that awards a Baccalaureate certificate recognised in Switzerland (decision on advancement issued by previous school is accepted).
- Students coming from a Swiss school abroad that awards a Baccalaureate certificate recognised in Switzerland (decision on advancement issued by the Swiss school abroad is accepted).
- Students coming from another country who are eligible to enter a programme that prepares young people for university in their country of origin or country of current residence or who have already been attending such a programme and are eligible to continue to do so based on their performance there (final admission during a probationary semester).

**Admissions examination:** Students who do not meet the conditions described above can register (age limit applies!) for the admissions examination: [www.be.ch/gym-aufnahme](http://www.be.ch/gym-aufnahme)

### 4.2 German and French language skills

There are no fixed language proficiency requirements with respect to the language of instruction for transfer students entering the academic Baccalaureate programme. What matters is that the student is capable of understanding the lessons. Since instruction in the second language (German in the French-speaking part of the canton and French in the German speaking part of the canton) also occurs at a relatively advanced level, students are advised to acquire basic language skills by attending an intensive course before they move. Agreements on individualised learning targets can be reached in the case of students with weaker German or French language skills once they have moved to the Canton of Bern.

## 5 Procedure for admission to a Baccalaureate school in the Canton of Bern

- 1) Familiarise yourself early on about the academic Baccalaureate programme in the Canton of Bern and about the offerings of the individual Baccalaureate schools ([www.be.ch/gymnasien](http://www.be.ch/gymnasien)). Students are usually free to choose the Baccalaureate school they wish to attend.
- 2) If possible, get in touch with the head of the Baccalaureate school you wish to attend before you move.
- 3) To establish eligibility for admission, provide the following materials to the Baccalaureate school: confirmation of current residency issued by your new commune (local authority), a document attesting to your qualification for an academic Baccalaureate programme and copies of your end-of-term or interim school reports from the past years.
- 4) Decisions on whether a student can be admitted and to which year are taken by the head of the school in question based on the student's age, number of years of school attended and subjects studied.

### Do you have more questions?

Please address any questions you may have concerning admission directly to the Baccalaureate school you wish to attend ([www.be.ch/gymnasien](http://www.be.ch/gymnasien) > Die Gymnasien im Kanton Bern) or the competent cantonal authority (unit responsible for secondary schools: [www.be.ch/mittelschulen](http://www.be.ch/mittelschulen) > Kontakt).

If you are unsure whether the academic Baccalaureate programme is the right education programme for you, you can find out about other options at the career guidance and information centres: [www.be.ch/biz](http://www.be.ch/biz)