



St Margaret's School

Exeter

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OVERSEAS STUDENT ADMISSIONS AND EFL POLICY

Introduction

St Margaret's School is committed to the development of the full potential of each individual pupil. International students enrich our school community through the diversity of culture and experience that they bring. In providing for international pupils for whom English is a second, or foreign, language the school has to balance the needs of the individual against those of the whole community. Pupils who attend the school will need to be able to undertake an academic curriculum and work independently, even if they are receiving some additional support.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that pupils and prospective pupils are not treated less favourably than others and sets out the steps that the school takes to ensure that they receive appropriate support to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their education in the school.

Admissions Standards

International students for whom English is a foreign language will take the St Margaret's English Language and Mathematics entry exams to gain admission. If Science 'A' levels are selected then the relevant science examination will also be taken.

Applicants must supply details of previous education and a report from their present school.

Admission is based on our expectation that pupils should be capable of managing the following courses if they study at St Margaret's:

14 Years - Year 9

(Pre-GCSE exams) Preliminary English Test

16 Years – Year 11

(GCSE Exams) First Certificate

18 Years – Year 13

(A level Exams) Advanced Certificate

IELTS: level 6 or above

Specific Aims for International Students

In addition to the school's aims for all its pupils, we set out to create an environment in which our International students may:

- improve their English Language skills in order to enable them to make progress in their other subjects
- gain an internationally recognised English Language qualification
- gain an understanding of English culture and heritage

Provision for International students

Whilst St Margaret's remains an English school, it acknowledges that for international students to gain the very best from the opportunities that it offers, it must make those opportunities easily available to international students.

International student induction

International students who are new to the St Margaret's in September are invited to arrive at the St Margaret's one day before other students. This enables them to meet many of their teachers and to be shown around the St Margaret's.

Senior students will help them familiarise themselves with the layout of the school and the names of the places in the school. The school rules are explained so that all students know what is expected of them. They will also be helped to buy any uniform they need and shown some of the local area.

There is a social programme during these two days. At the end of this period, they will know each other, their staff and how to find their way around school ready for the start of term.

English language assessment

During the induction period, all new international students will undertake a further English language test. We expect to be able to determine their level of English from St Margaret's school English Language entry exam and the reference supplied; therefore this is a check of that process and an opportunity to confirm each student's requirements. English as a Foreign Language tuition is included in the fees for non-EU students and charged to EU students at the prevailing rate.

EFL teaching

The school employs specialist EFL teachers and provides specific EFL lessons for international students for whom English is a foreign language. Classes are small, typically 6 students and taught in dedicated facilities. The curriculum followed has three specific aims:

1. To develop conversational language to enable students communicate in their daily lives
2. To develop academic language skills to enable them to access the curriculum
3. To prepare them for the appropriate EFL exam. This may be:
 - Cambridge Key English Test
 - Cambridge Preliminary English Test
 - Cambridge First Certificate in English
 - Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English
 - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English
 - 'A' level students are also prepared for the IELTS university entrance exams.

EFL support in lessons

Non-specialist teachers will provide for international students in their teaching, either by use of differentiated material, glossaries of technical words or individual attention.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Whilst we are an English school and we offer many English sports such as hockey, netball and tennis, we recognise that many international students have never played these sports before and have different interests. Therefore, for sixth form students we also offer a selection of other sports.

Parents' visits and international communications

Parents of international students who are able to visit the school will be able to see their child's teachers when they visit, providing we have prior notice of their intention to visit.

English and International university applications

Our curriculum has been designed to allow students to choose a range of subjects that will allow them access to all major universities in the UK, Europe and America.

The balance of the curriculum is particularly important in some European countries which require quite specific combinations of subjects to gain entry to university.

Students should familiarise themselves with these requirements and communicate them to us in advance of starting their course if they wish to study at such a university.