

# ESM: A unique school with 50 nationalities

**The European School of Mol (ESM) is the only school of its kind in Flanders. What makes ESM so different? It has students and teachers from all over the world. Some come from Mol itself, others from places as far away as Africa, North and South America, Japan, Korea, Cambodia and China. Everyone enjoys the multicultural atmosphere.**



The forest is a large playground for the children of the primary school.

**Able to speak at least three European languages fluently**

Students at ESM can choose the language of their lessons: English, French, Dutch or German. A few subjects, such as Geography and History, are taught in the student's second language chosen by the student. By the time students complete their secondary schooling, they are able to speak at least three European languages fluently.

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The science labs are well equipped.

Impressive surroundings and sports facilities: an indoor swimming pool, two gyms, tennis courts, a rugby and soccer field, basketball courts and an athletics track.



On Thursday there are long queues in the canteen for the students' favourite: French fries.



Dessy Ivanova, a final-year student, catches one of the school buses from Antwerp every morning. 'Going to a European school is an ideal way to learn new languages. I was born in Bulgaria and moved to Belgium eight years ago. ESM opens so many doors. Now, I am not only fluent in Bulgarian, but also in French and English. My Dutch and Spanish aren't too bad either.'

DESSY IVANOVA



Milly Sebudde was born in Uganda but has lived in many different countries. 'I love the differences each individual student offers. I don't understand why some people are so closed-minded about other cultures. I think we can learn from every culture to become better people.' Her Dutch friend Judith Muijzers adds: 'The fact that people are different doesn't bother me. In fact, I don't even notice it at ESM.'

MILLY SEBUDDE



Many teachers are sent by their home countries to spend a few years teaching at ESM. Frederik Lewy was sent from Germany: 'I find it more challenging to teach German to students from different cultures and backgrounds. It forces me to stay young, flexible and to constantly develop myself further as a teacher.' Another advantage of ESM is the size of the classes. 'Some of the classes are as small as 4 or 5 students. This means I get to know my students very well and I can offer them more personal support.'

FREDERIK LEWY

**Did you know?**

- ESM was built in 1960 for children of the European Commission, but anyone can attend.
- There are 14 European schools in total, with four in Brussels.
- They are located in 7 countries: Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and Luxembourg
- Students graduate with a European Baccalaureate.
- With this European Baccalaureate they can go to all European, American and Canadian universities.
- In total there are 800 students in the nursery, primary and secondary schools at ESM.
- Students can stay with host families or in the nearby boarding school during the week.