

Specialisation: School Preparation 1.0.

The benefits and features of School Preparation Programs

SUMMARY

Ana Bratkovic is interviewing School Preparation experts Michael Bos and Jakki Postlethwaite

1. Familiarisation with mainstream school settings in both primary (PSP) and high schools (HSP)

- Provides expectations of both students and teachers
- Critical thinking and open discussions in classroom
- Australian lifestyle and culture
- Increased student confidence and ultimate success
- Students are more likely to practise the target language (English)
- Safe environment for language learning
- Provides skills for life both academic and living in another culture

2. Curriculum and academic skills

- Text types, integrated skills, grammar, theme-based learning, linguistic structures
- Assessment of and for learning
- 21st century skills, autonomy, independent learners, critical thinking and analytical skills
- Positive psychology and positive education
- Wholistic curriculum including subjects such as social sciences, Maths, Science, Arts
- Skills in subjects are transferrable to English skills
- Art for example encourages creative and independent thought which assists students in all aspects of familiarisation

3. Teacher qualifications needed to teach on PSP and HSP

- At least 50% of teachers are registered teachers
- A diverse mixture of experience, backgrounds and qualifications
- Teachers have interests and passions in subjects other than English
- The teaching week includes 20 hours of EAL + additional subjects