

2020  
2021

# SCHOOL PROFILE



Lycée International  
AMERICAN SECTION



## AT A GLANCE

**Established:** The Lycée International was founded in 1952 to educate the children of NATO officers, stationed at the nearby headquarters in Rocquencourt.

**Location:** About 20 km outside Paris in the historic chateau town of St. Germain en Laye.

**Type of school:** Co-educational day school for children ages 4 to 18. The American Section is a private section within a public school.

**School Structure:** There are more than 4,000 students (300 in the senior class) in the Lycée network today, spread across eight local public schools. All students are enrolled in one of 14 national 'Sections': American, British, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

**Number of American Section students:** 690. Almost all are French citizens, and 50% hold US passports, often as dual nationals. More than 40 other nationalities are represented within the American Section alone.

**Curriculum:** All students follow the French curriculum as defined by the Ministère de L'Education Nationale. In addition, they have 6-8 hours per week of native-level instruction in the language of their section.

**Diploma:** All American Section students pass the International Option (American) of the French Baccalaureate. They also receive a US high school diploma. Certified by the College Board and the French Ministry of Education, the American Option is taken annually by 1,200 students at 30+ schools around the world.

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## A Unique Private-Public Bilingual Partnership

The American Section operates on three public school campuses. Many primary-age children are externs, attending a local school, and coming to the Lycée campus for Section classes. From 10th grade on, all students are at the Lycée International campus, one of France's top-ranked public schools.

Our students are thus able to excel at high academic standards, in two distinct pedagogies, amidst an extraordinary multicultural community of 70+ nationalities.



## Curriculum

All students follow the full French curriculum, including two foreign languages begun in middle school. In parallel, they have 6-8 per week of class taught in English, in Language- Literature and Social Studies. Our teachers are all native speakers with North American university degrees.

Starting in 2021, students in 11th grade choose three 'specialties': Mathematics; Economics - Sociology; Physics-Chemistry; Biology - Geology; Computer Science; History, Geopolitics & Political Science, Humanities; Advanced Foreign Language and Culture (English or Spanish only). They will keep two of these classes in their final year. They may also add electives in Applied Math or Advanced Math in their senior year.

The core curriculum includes French, philosophy, sciences, civics, history-geography in French, and foreign languages, with electives in art and theatre also on offer.

This intensive multi-lingual curriculum means that Upper School students have 40+ hours of class per week, with 20 hours of homework a week.

## Français Spécial

Children who do not speak French may enroll through an intensive one-year French course, known as *Français Spécial*.

The significant linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical challenges of this transition, particularly for older 'FS' students, should be considered when evaluating their school grades.

## Upper School Co-Curricular Activities

While our students have longer school days than in North America, we offer a rich array of co-curricular activities: theatre, art, community service, soccer, rugby, student council, human rights, Model United Nations, *a capella*, literary magazine, economics club, and Yearbook.

The French Upper School hosts neuroscience and aeronautics clubs, a UNICEF ambassadorship program, and student council. Class representatives are elected each year, and students can join badminton, rock climbing, choir, or volleyball after-school programs, depending on the campus.

Though French schools do not offer varsity sports programs, students compete on our school rugby, soccer, or basketball teams, or train with municipal clubs. Rowing, dance, judo, gymnastics, and fencing are popular among our students. The Paris-St. Germain youth soccer teams are among the best in the country.

We run a service-learning trip to India, overnight trips to Amsterdam and the D-Day beaches, and an Upper School theater trip to London. We also send an annual delegation to the MUN conference in The Hague.



A UNESCO school, the Lycée International participates in humanitarian missions to Togo and Cambodia.

Students may also go on homestay exchanges to Spain, Germany, Russia, China, or Italy to practice their foreign languages.





## Diploma/Qualifications

Starting in 2021, the French Baccalaureate includes coursework and standardized in-house exams alongside five national exams: French, philosophy, the specialties, and an interdisciplinary 'Grand Oral.'

American Section students take the International Option of the French Baccalauréat, most often called 'the OIB.'

Developed in the 1980s, the International Options are run in cooperation with educational authorities in 16 countries. Today there are 480 International Sections, based in nearly 300 schools in France and abroad.

The 'OIB' enables bilingual students to study at native level, culminating in oral and written final-year examinations in two subjects (literature and history/geography for American Option students).

Certified by the College Board and the French Ministry of Education, the American Option is taken annually by 1,200 students at 30+ schools in seven countries around the world.

American Section exam results are significantly higher than the national average. Roughly 50% of our students earn *mention très bien* (16/20 or higher), compared to 10% nationwide.



## National Ranking

The Lycée International is regularly ranked among the top ten schools in the country by specialized news outlets. These rankings take into account the pass rate on the French Baccalaureate, the school's rate of retention, and in some cases, the students' socio-economic status.



## College Guidance

The Section has a dedicated university counselor who begins working with students in the 10th grade. Families are invited to participate in group information sessions, one-on-one meetings, and campus visits from university representatives. Students also have access to a French advisor, and we work in collaboration with other Sections and local bilingual schools to expand the opportunities available to our students. All students take the PSAT and many prepare for the AP English exam. Finally, the Section sponsors scholarships for summer study and global service to encourage students to explore their interests and strengthen their university applications.

### Evolution of honors rates in the American Section

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<i>Très Bien</i>	67%	56%	59%	40%	41%	40%
<i>Bien</i>	24%	29%	20%	40%	41%	47%
<i>Assez Bien</i>	9%	14%	15%	20%	15%	11%
<i>No mention</i>	0%	2%	6%	0%	3%	2%

## Further Education

The OIB's academic rigor and extraordinary breadth prepares students for the most competitive higher education programs in French or English.

Our school culture fosters the autonomy, adaptability, self-confidence, and organizational skills that enable our graduates to embrace new experiences and meet new challenges, at home or abroad.

Our commitment to global citizenship inspires many of our graduates to pursue careers in public policy, sustainable development, and health professions.

A third of our graduates typically attend universities in North America, a third stay in France, and a third enroll at Anglophone programs or universities in the UK, Ireland, and continental Europe.

# Student Destinations, 2017 - 2020

## North America:

Bishop's University, Quebec  
UBC - Sciences Po  
Brown University  
University of California - San Diego  
California Institute of Technology  
University of Chicago  
Colby College  
Columbia -Sciences Po  
Concordia University, Quebec  
Cornell University  
HEC Montreal  
Emory University  
McGill University  
Middlebury College  
University of Montreal  
New York University  
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill  
Notre Dame University  
Northeastern University  
Penn State University  
University of Richmond  
University of Toronto  
Wake Forest University  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
Yale University

## Europe :

University of Amsterdam  
Delft Institute of Technology  
Ecole Hôtelière Lausanne  
EPFL Lausanne  
ESADE Business School  
University of Leiden  
University of Maastricht  
Queen Mary U. of London Medical School, Malta  
Technical University Denmark  
University of Utrecht

## Asia & Oceania:

University of Melbourne  
Sydney University  
University of Tokyo

## UK & Ireland:

University of Bath  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bristol  
Brighton Sussex Med School  
University of Cambridge  
University of Durham  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
King's College London  
Imperial College London  
London School of Economics  
University of Manchester  
University of Newcastle  
University of Oxford  
Queen Mary University  
Queens University Belfast  
Royal College of Surgeons  
Royal Veterinary College  
Trinity College Dublin  
University of St. Andrews  
St. Martin's College of Art  
University of Surrey  
University of Sussex  
University College Dublin  
University College London  
University of Warwick`

## France:

EDHEC Lille BBA  
ESCP Europe BBA  
INSA Rouen  
Institut Catholique de Lille  
Lycée Henri IV  
Lycée Hoche  
Lycée Louis le Grand  
Lycée Saint Geneviève  
Sciences Po Reims  
Université de Paris Assas  
Sorbonne University  
UTC Compiègne