

ACADEMIC CHOICES ENTERING 11th GRADE: BF/BFI PROGRAM

Q&A of the March 2, 2024 Presentation

With: Philippe Vanhille, Director of the Secondary; Karine Gaultier, Guidance & University Counselor; Sandra Percy, IB Coordinator.

Details are available in the slides of the presentation.

Q1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR US TO CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

- ✓ When do we have to make a decision?
- ✓ How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?
- ✓ What if I want to change my choices? Is there a deadline?

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- ✓ How many hours of languages are offered?
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- ✓ What are the levels of instruction in Math?

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✓ How important is the final assessment toward the diploma?

✓ What is the Grand Oral?

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✓ How do I choose?

✓ BF/BFI: open to all students? Requirements needed?

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Q1. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR US TO CHOOSE A PROGRAM?

✓ When do we have to make a decision?

The BF/BFI can be an option for you if your child is currently in **2nde/10th grade** as the program starts in 1ère/11th grade.

If your child *IS* currently enrolled at Rochambeau:

- You do not have to choose at the time of re-enrollment.
- You will receive by email a “*Fiche dialogue*” (Google form) before the conseils de classe of the second trimester (March). On this form, you will be able to select either the BF/BFI OR IB DP. This will not be a definitive choice.
- Before the conseils de classe of the third and last trimester (June), you will receive the same “*Fiche dialogue*” on which you will be able to confirm or change your choice.

If your child *IS NOT* enrolled at Rochambeau:

- You will be asked to express an interest in either the BF/BFI or the IB DP. Since the two programs entail different levels of fluency in English and French, we want to best advise you as soon as you start the application process.
- You will be able to confirm or revise your choice before the beginning of the summer.

✓ How will we find the information we need? Who can we speak with about our choices?

You can:

- ✓ visit our [school website](#) to find more information about the BF/BFI
- ✓ Attend an online information session with Mme Gaultier and Mrs. Percy
- ✓ Email your questions and/or schedule a meeting with either [Mme Gaultier](#), [Mrs. Percy](#) or [M. Vanhille](#).

✓ What if I want to change my choices? Is there a deadline?

Students will have to make their final choices in the third quarter wish list. However, a one-month trial period, after the start of the school year, will be implemented.

Q2. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS OFFERED AT ROCHAMBEAU?

✓ What programs are offered entering 11th grade?

At the end of 2nde, students can choose between two programs: the program leading to the French Baccalauréat and the IB leading to the IBDP: 2 Different organizations (respectively the **French Ministry of Education** and the **IBO**) for accreditation, supervision, and assessment. Students will take the exams of the chosen program. It is not possible to take both diplomas. The examination and diploma preparation cycle lasts two years (premiere and terminale). One of Rochambeau's advantages is offering the High School Diploma at the end of Première, which can be combined with one of the other two diplomas (BF-BFI/IB).

✓ What are the similarities and differences?

Different exams and diplomas

Different learning styles and academic experience

Different language experience

French <i>Baccalauréat</i>		International Baccalaureate	
French: ~70% English: ~30%	Language of Instruction	DP: English 60-90% French 10-40%	MYP: English 45% French 45%
Guided Argumentative Focus on analysis & memorization	Teaching and Learning Styles	Independent & Collaborative Conceptual & In global context Focus on investigation & metacognition	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core academic curriculum offering a wide range of subjects and 3 "spécialités". <i>French, Philosophy, SIA courses, and Bac spécialités are Honors courses.</i> 	Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DP: 3 core subjects + 6 courses selected by students with two levels (standard and higher). <i>IB DP higher level courses are Honors courses.</i> 	
<input type="checkbox"/> Exams at the end of 1ère & Terminale <input type="checkbox"/> Continued assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Final examinations	Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Exams at the end of Terminale on 2 years of content <input type="checkbox"/> 60-70% of external assessment <input type="checkbox"/> 30-40% of internal assessment (all moderated externally by the IB - no continued assessment).	
[Fulfilling community service time (not a requirement of the French Bac)]	Other Requirements	--CAS (Creativity/Activity/Service) --A 4,000-word, research-based Extended Essay (EE).	

Q3. AT THE END OF GRADE 12, WHAT DIPLOMA(S) MY CHILD WILL BE AWARDED?

✓ What diplomas are awarded at Rochambeau?

The **BF/BFI** and the **IB Diploma Program** are two different programs accredited, supervised, and assessed by two different organizations (respectively the **French Ministry of Education** and the **IBO**). These two programs last two years each, *Première* and *Terminale*, and lead, each, to a diploma: the BF/BFI or the IB. At the end of 2^{nde}, students must choose one of these two programs.

One of Rochambeau's advantages is offering the High School Diploma at the end of *Première*, which can be combined with one of the other two diplomas (BF-BFI/IB).

- **At Rochambeau, the FRENCH PROGRAM goes from Kindergarten to *Terminale*.**
- It includes the **SIA** (*Section Internationale Américaine*) and the **BFI** (*Baccalauréat Français International, bilingual or trilingual*) a bicultural version of the classic French curriculum with added hours in English and History/Geography (taught bilingually) and *Connaissance du Monde* (1^{ère} and Term) from 6^{ème} to *Terminale*.

- ❖ **Starting in Sept. 2023, our IB PROGRAM will go from 3^{ème} to *Terminale* (9th-12th grade).**
- ❖ In 11th grade (equiv. 1^{ère}) we offer the IB Diploma Program or **DP**. The DP is a two-year program (equiv. 1^{ère} & *Terminale*) that prepares students for the exams of the IB Diploma.
- ❖ In Sept. 2023, we started the IB **MYP**, offered in 9th and 10th grades (equiv. 3^{ème} & 2^{nde}).

✓ What are the specific criteria for the HSD?

The High School Diploma (HSD) corresponds to the American baccalaureate.

The HSD is an advantage offered at Rochambeau: students can obtain 2 diplomas when they graduate at the end of 12th grade: **HSD + BF/BFI** or **HSD + IB**.

The HSD is earned through the accumulation of credits corresponding to the subjects offered in our school curriculum since 8th grade.

In other words, all students attending Rochambeau since 8th grade will get their HSD at the end of 11th grade (considering they will always be at Rochambeau and pass all their subjects).

For students who joined Rochambeau after 8th grade, it is still possible to obtain the HSD diploma by making up credits. This credit calculation and the determination of the credits to be made up is done by Mme Bessaha, our registrar. Contact: bessahad@rochambeau.org

✓ **BF/BFI, IB, and HSD university recognition?**

The BF/BFI, as well as the IB diploma and HSD, open the doors to universities worldwide.

You can apply to any college/school/university with all three diplomas.

However, it is important to note that equivalencies are only sometimes automatic and that prerequisites (admission requirements) may vary from one university or program to another depending on the diploma presented.

Applications consider the academic results and the extracurricular skills and experiences developed by each student.

Therefore, being successful in your program is a prerequisite for success.

Students must choose a program based on their profile and how well they match the requirements of the program in question.

Q4. WHAT IS THE CURRICULUM IN EACH PROGRAM?

This section is exclusively about the BF/BFI. For information about the IBDP (International Baccalaureate), see the [Q&A about the IB](#).

✓ **What are the subjects offered in BF/BFI?**

The BF:

- Compulsory subjects: French/Philosophy, LVA, LVB, History Geography, EMC, EPS, Scientific and mathematical subjects
- Spécialité subjects: Math, SPC, SVT, SES, HGGSP, HLP, LLCER
- Electives: Visual Arts, Cinema, Theatre - Math US

If your child chooses the BFI track, the following subjects are added:

- Connaissance du Monde (English) (+2 hours/week)
- History-Geography (Bilingual English/French, 50-50) (+1 hour/week)
- LVA (bilingual BFI) or LVB (trilingual BFI) in cultural and linguistic deepening (+1 hour or +2 hours respectively in 11th grade and +2 hours for both in 12th grade)
- DNL Math: 2 hours of the spécialité Math taught in English (only for BFI Bilingual)

✓ **What are the subjects offered in IB?**

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Q5. WHAT WILL MY CHILD'S SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?

✓ How about personal work? How much work does the BF and the BFI require?

The BFI represents, due to the volume of subjects taught, a greater workload than the BF. It is important to take this criterion into account when making your choice of track.

Students consider that they have an average of 5 to 7 hours of additional work per week.

Hours /week	1ÈRE	TERMINALE	Personal work
BF	29.5 - 35.5	30.5 - 35.5	10-15
BFI BILINGUE	34.5 - 38.5	34.5 - 37.5	12-17
BFI TRILINGUE	35.5 - 37.5	36.5 - 38.5	12-17

Q6. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF LANGUAGE?

✓ What languages are offered?

The choice of the BFI is undeniably to emphasize languages, LVA (English) for the bilingual BFI and LVB for the trilingual BFI.

The volume of teaching hours is therefore higher in the BFI course than in the BF. As an example, you will have, in premiere class, 4 hours of English and 3 hours of LVB in BF versus 11 hours of classes taught in English and 3 hours of LVB for the bilingual track and 8 hours of LVA and 5 hours of LVB for the trilingual track.

The languages offered in the trilingual BFI for the LVB are Spanish and German.

✓ **How many hours of languages are offered?**



	BF	BFI BIL.	BFI TRI.
TOTAL HOURS Première	4 English; 3 LVB	9 (+2) English; 3 LVB	8 English; 5 LVB
TOTAL HOURS Terminale	3 English; 3 LVB	9 (+2) English; 3 LVB	7 English; 5 LVB

✓ **What is the minimum level required in each language?**

There are no specific prerequisites. However, we advise students wishing to follow the bilingual or trilingual pathway to discuss their project with their language teachers, given the greater time commitment.

The advance and honors groups are recommended.

Q7. WHAT IS THE PLACE OF MATH?

✓ **What is the Math offer?**

With the latest reform, mathematics is offered to all Première students. They will have the opportunity to choose the level of this subject based on their academic performance, their interest, and their higher education plans.

For example, a student with a more scientific project will probably choose to pursue the mathematics spécialité, while a student with a more literary project may follow the common core mathematics module.

Students who wish to deepen their knowledge of mathematics through different methods and pedagogy can take the elective US math course.

The “Math Experte” is reserved for students following the math spécialité Mathématique in Terminale.

✓ What are the levels of instruction in Math?

The offer of mathematics is consistent with levels that can suit all student profiles:

- Enseignements scientifique et mathématique (common core for students who have not chosen to follow the Spécialité course): intermediate level (applied math)
- Spécialité Mathématiques: advanced level
- Maths complémentaires: intermediate level (for students who drop the Math Spécialité at the end of 1ère/11th grade; for students who took the core math course in 1ère/11th grade and would like to continue with math classes in Terminale)
- Maths Expertes: high level (only offered for students in spécialité Maths)

- US Math (does not count for the French baccalaureat diploma): discovery of a different method and pedagogy

Q8. HOW IS THE FRENCH BAC (BF) AWARDED?

✓ How important is the final assessment toward the diploma?

The subjects of the BF/BFI are assessed in two ways:

- Continuous assessment: grades based on the results obtained in class during the two years of the final cycle (11th & 12th grade)
- Final exams: written and/or oral exam

BF:

Subjects counted as **continuous assessment** are the following (40%):

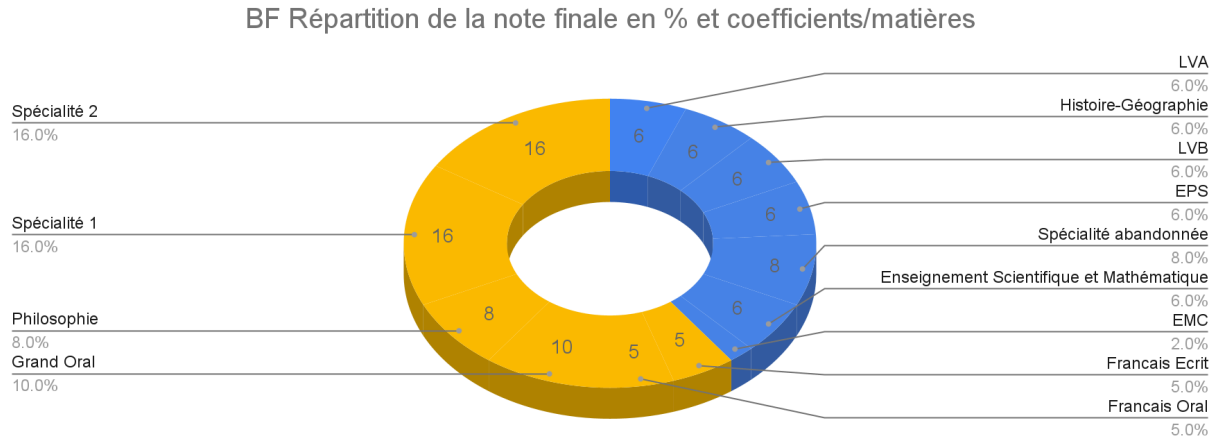
- Histoire-Géographie (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- EMC (coefficient 1 in 1ère and 1 in Terminale)
- LVA (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- LVB (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- Enseignements scientifique et mathématique (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- EPS (coefficient 6 in Terminale)
- Spécialité dropped at the end 1ère/11th Grade (coefficient 8)

Subjects counted in the **final exams** are the following (60%)

- Written French (coefficient 5)
- Oral French (coefficient 5)
- Philosophy (coefficient 8)
- Spécialité 1 (coefficient 16)
- Spécialité 2 (coefficient 16)

- Grand oral (coefficient 10)

Each option has a coefficient of 2 per year.



BFI Bilingue:

Subjects counted as **continuous assessment** are the following (19%):

- EMC (coefficient 1 in 1ère and 1 in Terminale)
- LVB (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- Enseignements scientifique et mathématique (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- EPS (coefficient 6 in Terminale)
- Spécialité dropped at the end of 1ère/11th Grade (coefficient 8)

Subjects counted in the **final exams** are the following (40.5%)

- Written French (coefficient 5)
- Oral French (coefficient 5)
- Philosophy (coefficient 8)
- Spécialité 1 (coefficient 16)
- Spécialité 2 (coefficient 16)
- Grand oral (coefficient 10)

Specific exams for the bilingual BFI (40.5%):

- Connaissance du Monde (coefficient 20 oral)
- LVA approfondissement culturel et linguistique (coefficient 10 written + 10 oral)
- Histoire-Géographie (coefficient 10 written + 10 oral)
- DNL Math (with Spécialité math) (coefficient 20 oral)

Each elective has a coefficient of 2 per year.

BFI Trilingue:

Subjects counted as **continuous assessment** are the following (19%):

- EMC (coefficient 1 in 1ère and 1 in Terminale)
- LVA (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- Enseignements scientifique et mathématique (coefficient 3 in 1ère and 3 in Terminale)
- EPS (coefficient 6 in Terminale)
- Spécialité dropped at the end of 1ère/11th Grade (coefficient 8)

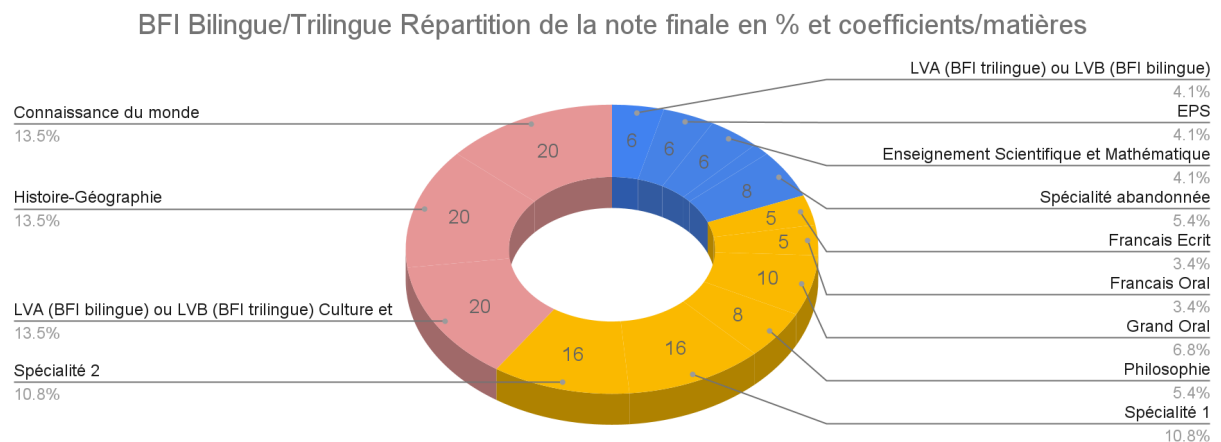
Subjects counted in the **final exams** are the following (40.5%)

- Written French (coefficient 5)
- Oral French (coefficient 5)
- Philosophy (coefficient 8)
- Spécialité 1 (coefficient 16)
- Spécialité 2 (coefficient 16)
- Grand oral (coefficient 10)

Specific exams for the bilingual BFI (40.5%):

- Connaissance du Monde (coefficient 20 oral)
- LVB approfondissement culturel et linguistique (coefficient 10 written + 10 oral)
- Histoire-Géographie (coefficient 10 written + 10 oral)

Each option taken is counted with a coefficient of 2 per year.



✓ What is the Grand Oral?

The Grand Oral exam requires each student to define two questions based on the two spécialités subjects and to prepare a reasoned response to these two questions.

The Grand Oral will train students to speak in public clearly and convincingly. This test also allows you to use your knowledge (those related to your spécialités) to create an argument.



Q9. HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST PROGRAM FOR ME?

✓ How do I choose?

Inquiring about courses offered in each track involves asking questions about the content of the courses, the programs they are a part of, the expectations for the students taking them, the grading system, and any exams that are a part of the course.

To gather information, it's recommended to discuss it with your teachers, guidance counselors, juniors, and seniors who have taken similar courses. This can provide valuable insight and help you make informed decisions.

It's also important to reflect on your plans for the future and consider your profile and academic results. This can help you determine which courses are best suited for you and your goals.

✓ BF/BFI: open to all students? Requirements needed?

When making choices for a program, factors such as proficiency in LVA & LVB for the BFI track, recommendation of the Conseil de classe (BF & BFI), motivation, academic results, and professional project (post-bac) are all taken into consideration. In the BFI track, the ability to manage a workload and the desire to build a bilingual or trilingual career are important considerations to take into account. The

development of critical thinking, humanistic values, and a methodical approach, as well as the transmission of cultural and linguistic content and awareness of major contemporary issues, are crucial components of the BFI curriculum. Both teachers and staff provide valuable advice for students in helping students make decisions.

✓ **IB: open to all students? Requirements needed?**

See the [IB DP Q&A](#).