

2024
2025

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 French Baccalauréat (American Option). 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 70+ schools around the world.

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Lycée International
de Saint-Germain-en-Laye**
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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 hours per week of class taught in English, both Language/Literature and Social Studies. They also complete an independent research project, *Connaissance du Monde*, which culminates in an oral presentation for the Baccalauréat (or bac). The core curriculum includes French, math, philosophy, sciences, civics, history-geography in French, and two foreign languages, with electives in art, music, and theatre also on offer.

Students in 11th grade choose three 'specialties': Mathematics; Economics - Sociology; Physics-Chemistry; Biology - Geology; Computer Science; History, Geopolitics & Political Science, or Humanities. 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. This intensive multi-lingual curriculum means that Upper School students have 32+ hours of class per week, (compared to 24 hours per week for the typical bac student), accompanied by approximately 20 hours of homework.

Over 90% of our faculty hold advanced degrees. In keeping with our statutes, their degrees are from North American universities, and they are citizens of either the United States or Canada. The average tenure of the Section's faculty and staff is over 11 years.

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: theater, soccer, community service, student council, Model United Nations, *a capella*, literary magazine, economics club, poetry club, and yearbook.

The French Upper School hosts a UNICEF ambassadorship program, a sustainable development club, and student council. Class representatives are elected each year, and students can join after school programs in badminton, rock climbing, choir, rugby, or volleyball.

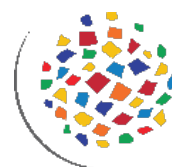
Though French schools do not offer varsity sports, students compete on our club teams or train with municipal clubs. Rowing, judo, dance, horseback riding, gymnastics, swimming, and fencing are popular among our students. The Paris-Saint Germain youth soccer teams are among the best in the country.

We run a service-learning trip to India, overnight trips to Amsterdam and the Somme battlegrounds, a theater trip to London, and host an MUN conference.



A UNESCO school, the Lycée International has participated in humanitarian missions to India, Togo, and Cambodia.

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



Diploma/Qualifications

The French Baccalaureate combines coursework and five national exams: French, philosophy, the two specialties, and an interdisciplinary 'Grand Oral.'

American Section students take the American Option of the International French Baccalauréat, or BFI, which replaces the Option International du Baccalauréat (OIB) as of 2024.

Developed in the 1980s, the bac's International Options are run in cooperation with educational authorities in 16 countries. Today there are over 500 International Sections, based in nearly 300 schools in France and abroad.

The BFI enables multilingual 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) as well as an oral presentation on an individual research topic (Connaissance du Monde).

Certified by the College Board and the French Ministry of Education, the American Option is taken annually by 1,200 students at 50+ schools around the world: 25 in France and 26 abroad.

American Section exam results are much higher than the national average. 30% of our students earn *mention très bien* (16/20 or higher), compared to 9% 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. Students may 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.

Evolution of honors rates in the American Section

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2019	2018
<i>Très Bien</i>	53%	36%	60%	58%	56%	59%
<i>Bien</i>	33%	48%	28%	38%	29%	20%
<i>Assez Bien</i>	14%	15%	12%	5%	14%	15%
<i>no mention</i>	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	6%

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, 2021 - 2024

North America:

Barnard College
Boston College
Boston University
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Carnegie Mellon University
University of California Los Angeles
University of California San Diego
University of California Santa Barbara
California Institute of Technology
University of Chicago
Columbia University - Sciences Po
Columbia University - Trinity College Dublin
Concordia University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Eckerd College
Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal
Harvard University
HEC Montreal
Huron University College, Western University
Loyola Marymount University
McGill University
Middlebury College
University of Montreal
New York University
University of Notre Dame
Northeastern University
Penn State University
University of Pennsylvania
Queens University
Rice University
University of Richmond
SUNY Binghamton
University of Toronto
Wake Forest University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan College
York University

France:

Ecole Polytechnique
EDHEC Lille BBA
EFREI
ESCP Europe BBA
ESSEC BBA
INSA Lyon
INSA Rouen
Institut Catholique de Lille
Lycée Chaptal
Lycée Danilou
Lycée Henri IV
Lycée Hoche

Lycée Louis le Grand
Lycée Saint Geneviève
Sciences Po Reims
Université de Paris Assas
Université de Paris Cité
University of Paris Saclay
Sorbonne University
UTC Compiègne
Université de Versailles - St. Quentin

UK & Ireland:

University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University College Dublin
University College London
University of Edinburgh
Imperial College London
King's College London
London School of Economics
University of Loughborough
University of Newcastle
University of Oxford
Queens University Belfast
Royal Veterinary College
University of Saint Andrews
University of Surrey
Trinity College Dublin/Columbia University
University of Warwick

Continental Europe :

University of Amsterdam
Bard College Berlin
Bocconi University
CEU Cardinal Herrera University, Spain
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Eindhoven Institute of Technology
Erasmus University Rotterdam
ESADE Business School, Barcelona
University of Florence - Sorbonne
Hanze School of Applied Sciences, NL
IE University Madrid
University of Leiden
LUISS School of Social Sciences, Rome
University of Maastricht
Queen Mary School of Medicine, Malta
Technical University of Denmark
Twente School of Applied Sciences
University of Utrecht
Wageningen Institute of Technology

Asia & Oceania:

Ecole Centrale de Pékin
University of Hong Kong
Sydney University