2026
2027

SCHOOL PROFILE

Lycée International
AMERICAN · SECTION



AT A GLANCE

Established: The Lycée International was founded by General Dwight D. Eisenhower 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 Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Type of School: Co-educational day school for children ages 4 to 18. The American Section is a highly selective private section within a public school. Admitted students must be bilingual in both French and English.

School Structure: The Lycée network enrolls more than 4,000 students (about 350 seniors), spread across eight local public schools. All students are enrolled in one of 14 sections: American, British, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, or Swedish.

American Section Enrollment: Appoximately 700, with about 60 in each graduating class. Most are French citizens, and about half hold US passports, often as dual nationals. More than 50 other nationalities are represented within the American Section alone.

Curriculum and Instruction: All students follow the French curriculum as defined by the French Ministry of Education. In addition, they have 6-8 hours/week of native-level instruction in the language of their section. All American Section teachers are native-level English speakers with degrees from North American universities.

Diploma: All American Section students take the International French Baccalaureate (American Option). Certified by the College Board and the French Ministry of Education, the American Option is taken annually by thousands of students 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 attend a local school and come to the Lycée campus for Section classes. From 10th grade on, all students are at the Lycée International campus, **ranked the #3 public school in France in 2026**.



Curriculum

Standard French Baccalaureate

Core Curriculum (*14 hours/week total, in French*):
French, Math, Philosophy, Interdisciplinary Science, Civics, History-Geography, first Foreign Language, Physical Ed.

Specialities (*12 hours/week total, in French; three in Grade 11, two in Grade 12*): Math, Biology-Earth Science, Computer Science, Economics-Social Sciences, History-Geopolitics-Political Science, Humanities-Literature-Philosophy, Physics-Chemistry, Visual Arts

Electives (*3 hours/week total, in French*):
Additional/Expert Math (Grade 12 only), Art, Music, Theater, Latin, second Foreign Language, Global Contemporary Issues

American Option (*8 hours/week total, in English*):
English Language-Literature, US History-Geography, Global Issues Research Project

BFI American Option

All students follow the full French Baccalaureate curriculum, with an additional 6-8 hours per week of class taught in English. The demands of this dual curriculum mean that students learn to manage a heavy workload and acquire different approaches to learning and thinking in (at least) two languages. This intellectual and cultural flexibility enables them to become highly successful undergraduates.

Français Spécial

Children who do not speak French may enroll in an intensive one-year French program, known as *Français Spécial*. Students in this program follow a modified schedule that allows them to learn French at the same time they study subjects like math, science, and history/geography entirely in French. The rigor of this program cannot be overstated, and the significant linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical challenges of this transition, particularly for older 'FS' students, should be considered when evaluating their grades.

Upper School Co-Curricular Activities

While our students are typically in school from 8am to 5pm, we offer a rich array of co-curricular activities: theater, soccer, community service, student council, dance, 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, volleyball, and many other activities.

Though French schools do not offer varsity sports, many 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.



Grading

French grading is on a scale of 0-20. Grades are reflective of what students can expect to earn on their BFI exams. Grades above 16 reflect truly outstanding work. Class rankings are forbidden by French law. American Section students are consistently among the highest performing students in our school on the BFI exams.

Diploma/Qualifications

The French Baccalaureate combines course-work and six national exams: French, math, philosophy, two specialities, and an inter-disciplinary 'Grand Oral.' American Section students take the American Option of the International French Baccalaureate, or BFI.

Developed in the 1980s, the Baccalaureate's international options are run in partnership with educational authorities in 16 countries. Certified by the College Board and the French Ministry of Education, the American Option is taken annually by thousands of students around the world.

Students who complete the BFI American Option have a C1-C2 level of English according to the European Common Framework on Languages and analyze texts ranging from Shakespearean drama to contemporary novels by Margaret Atwood and Ken Kesey.

American Section exam results are much higher than the national average. About 50% of our students earn *mention très bien* or high honors (16/20 or higher) on the BFI, compared to 13% nationwide on the French Baccalaureate.

We also offer one AP exam - AP English Literature & Composition - which students can elect to take in 11th Grade.

Further Education

The BFI'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 American Section graduates to embrace new experiences and meet new challenges, at home or abroad. Many of our graduates pursue careers in public policy, sustainable development, and health professions.

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



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 choose to participate in after-school workshops to prepare for the AP English exam - the only AP exam that we offer. Finally, the Section sponsors scholarships for summer study and global service to encourage students to explore their interests.

Our school does not offer any SAT preparation. Students who choose to take the SAT must study for it on their own. Moreover, our students study math exclusively in French, so their scores may not be reflective of their true abilities in numerical reasoning. Please take this into consideration when evaluating their applications.

Evolution of honors rates in the American Section

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Très Bien	47%	57%	53%	36%	60%	58%
Bien	35%	34%	33%	48%	28%	38%
Assez Bien	15%	7%	14%	15%	12%	5%
No *mention*	3%	2%	0%	2%	0%	0%

National Ranking

The Lycée International was ranked the #3 public school in France in 2026, and 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.

Student Destinations, 2023 - 2026

North America:

Bishop's University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brown University
Concordia University
Dartmouth College
Deep Springs College
Duke University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Harvard University
HEC Montreal
Ithaca College
Johns Hopkins University
McGill University
Penn State University
Purdue University
Queens University
Rice University
SUNY Binghamton
University of Alabama
University of California Berkeley
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California San Diego
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Notre Dame
University of Texas at Austin
University of Toronto
University of Waterloo
US Naval Academy

Continental Europe :

Amsterdam University College
Bard College Berlin
Bocconi University
CEU Cardinal Herrera University
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Eindhoven Institute of Technology
Erasmus University Rotterdam
ESADE Business School
Hanze School of Applied Sciences
IE University
Twente School of Applied Sciences
University of Leiden
University of Nicosia
University of Utrecht
University of Valencia

Asia & Oceania:

Duke University Kunshan
Ecole Centrale de Pékin
ESSEC Singapore
Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

France:

Centrale Supélec
ECE Paris
Ecole Polytechnique
EFREI
ESCP
ESILV
ESSEC
European School of Psychology
Ferrandi Paris
IESEG
INSA Lyon
Institut Catholique de Lille
Lycée Chaptal
Lycée Charlemagne
Lycée Henri IV
Lycée Hoche
Lycée Janson de Sailly
Lycée Michelet
Lycée Jean-Baptiste Say
Lycée Pasteur
Lycée Sainte Geneviève
Lycée Saint Louis
Lycée Sainte Marie de Neuilly
Paris School of Business
Prépa Diagonale
Sciences Po - Hong Kong University
Sciences Po Lille
Sciences Po Reims
Sorbonne University
Université Clermont Auvergne
Université de Paris Assas
Université de Paris Cité
University de Paris Saclay
Université de Paris Sciences & Lettres
Université de Technologie de Troyes
Université de Versailles - St. Quentin

UK & Ireland:

Aberystwyth University
Durham University
Imperial College London
King's College London
London School of Economics
University College Dublin
University College London
University of Bath
University of Bristol
University of Cork
University of Edinburgh
University of Oxford
University of Saint Andrews
University of Surrey
University of Warwick

boldface indicates a student matriculated in 2026