Lycée Français International Marguerite Duras

ÉTABLISSEMENT EN GESTION DIRECTE

aefe Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger

FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# The British International Section

A bilingual, bicultural pathway from primary school to the baccalauréat


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THE PATHWAY

# One pathway, three stages

The SIB brings, within the French system, enhanced teaching of literature and history-geography with a British approach, in partnership with the United Kingdom.

1

## Primary

**CE1 – CM2** *(year 3 to year 6)*

Bilingual and bicultural. Language and literature lessons (1.5h a week), in addition to CLIL (EMILE) lessons and regular ESL lessons.

2

## Collège & Seconde

**6e – 2nde** *(year 7 to year 11)*

Language and literature lessons (4h/week) and History-Geography partly in English (2h English + 2h French). In 3e: two extra oral exams, in addition to the Brevet.

3

## Final cycle (BFI)

**Première – Terminale** *(year 12+13)*

Preparation for the French International Baccalaureate: Literature (4h30, then 4h/week), History-Geography (2h + 2h) and Global Issues (2h).

A pathway of excellence for English-speaking, bilingual or keen students of English. It is a demanding pathway: it requires strong academic skills and the commitment of the whole family.

IN PREMIÈRE AND TERMINALE

# The BFI: three exams

The international version of the baccalauréat: a bilingual qualification, equivalent to British A-Levels and prepared in partnership with Oxford AQA.

**4 A-Levels**
equivalent recognition in the UK

**C1 / C2**
target English level at the end of the pathway

**148**
total coefficient in the baccalauréat (standard: 100)

## Literature

ACL: Approfondissement Culturel et Linguistique

6 complete works (prose, drama, poetry including Shakespeare): 3 for the written exam, 3 for the oral.

**Written 4h · Oral 15 min**

## History-Geography

DNL: non-language subject taught in English

Ministry / Oxford AQA programme: essay writing and document study, plus an oral on a problem question.

**Written 4h · Oral 15 min**

## Global Issues

CDM: Connaissance du Monde

An individual project developed with an international partner, presented and discussed with the examiners.

**Oral 20 min (10 + 10)**

EXPECTATIONS

# The English level, step by step

Only level B2 at the end of 3e is officially set by the French Ministry of Education; the other levels are indicative benchmarks. The target at the end of the pathway is C1 / C2.

**6e**

## B1

Follow the section's lessons entirely in English.

**5e**

## B1–B1+

Develop reading and fluent expression.

**4e**

## B1+

More complex texts, structured written work, debates.

**3e**

## B2

Advanced comprehension and expression; C1 possible for the strongest students.

**Première / Terminale**

## C1 / C2

Close reading of complete works, timed essays, oral defence of an analysis.

EXPECTATIONS

# What is expected of students

| | Collège (6e – 3e) | Lycée (Première – Terminale) |
|---|---|---|
| **Read** | Understand novels, short stories, poetry and drama in depth; study a complete Shakespeare play. | Analyse complete works in depth (language, structure, imagery, viewpoint) and compare them across texts. |
| **Write** | Produce structured texts (analyses, argumentative essays, summaries) with rich, precise vocabulary. | Write 3 structured, argued literary essays in a 4-hour exam, 1 essay per set text. |
| **Speak** | Take part in debates and presentations; argue with clarity and spontaneity. | Present and defend an analysis orally after 20 minutes of preparation, then answer the examiners. |
| **Work with documents** | Follow lessons entirely in English; analyse historical documents (DNL History-Geography). | Study historical and geographical documents in English; write essays and document studies. |
| **Culture and autonomy** | Know the English-speaking world in depth, not only the language. | Lead an individual project with an international partner; read the set works in full and manage a demanding workload. |

GETTING READY

# How to prepare

A student ready for the SIB follows a lesson in English, reads literature, argues orally and writes with precision.

Reading ideas: see the ***Suggested Readings*** section of our website.

## Listen and speak

- Watch series and films in original English
- Listen to podcasts; join a debate or drama club in English
- Lycée: explain a text aloud for 5 minutes, without notes

## Read widely

- Before 6e: Dahl, Morpurgo, Walliams. 6e–5e: Narnia, Holes, Wonder
- 4e–3e: Animal Farm, The Giver, The Outsiders
- Lycée: the set works in full, never summaries

## Write

- Summarise a chapter in 5–10 lines; describe a character or a place
- Explain a theme; write a mini-essay: Do you agree? Why?
- Lycée: plan an essay in 10 minutes, then write it in full

## Follow the world

- Discover British traditions, institutions and major authors (Shakespeare, Dickens, Orwell)
- Read historical documents in English; describe a map
- Lycée: follow news and documentaries in English

ADMISSION

# How to join the section

## 1 Application file

Download it from the school website at enrolment or re-enrolment. Do not forget to tick the "*International Section*" box on Eduka.

## 2 Entrance test

Compulsory for all applicants. The content varies with the level applied for.

## 3 Language Committee

The Language Committee reviews the file and the entrance test.

## 4 Result

Families are informed of the Committee's decision by email.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Level B1 is required for entry into 6e SIB.
- **A solid command of the French language is essential to join the section.**
- Exact dates (*registration, test, results*) are published each year by the school.

ADMISSION

# Entrance tests and what we look for

| Level | Test | Duration |
|---|---|---|
| **Primary** | Oral interview, then questions on a short text | 5–10 min |
| **6e / 5e** | Reading comprehension, language and grammar, short guided composition | 60 min |
| **4e / 3e** | In-depth reading, guided literary analysis, writing task | 90 min |
| **Seconde** | Critical analysis of an unseen text (prose or poetry) | 90 min |
| **Première BFI** | Written analysis of an unseen text, then an individual oral interview in English | 90 + 10 min |

*The text changes every year: this table shows the general structure of each test, not its content.*

### WHAT WE LOOK FOR

- A curious student who reads
- A student who is comfortable speaking
- A student able to follow a lesson in English without translation
- A motivated student, not just “good at English”

RESOURCES

# Going further

Three reference sites for families who would like to know more about the BFI and the British International Sections.

## ASIBA

The association in charge of the British International Sections and the BFI.

asiba.fr

## BFI Central (FR / EN)

General information site on the BFI.

bficentral.org

## UCAS — Qualification Information Profile

Information profile for the BFI qualification.

qips.ucas.com