

Lycée-Collège International Honoré de Balzac
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School Profile 2011-2012

- **School Community**

The Lycée-Collège International Honoré de Balzac is a French state coeducational school in the north of Paris with around 1800 students, including students from 6th grade through to 12th grade in the general or international sections and high school graduates in 2-year post-baccalaureate classes preparing competitive examinations for France's highly selective engineering schools (Physics, Chemistry & Engineering Studies) or high-profile literary studies (Literature & Humanities) or national diplomas in the tertiary sector (Marketing & Business Management).

- **The International Section**

The international classes are open to bilingual students outside the local catchment area. The languages offered are Arabic, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. There are no tuition fees but there are selective criteria. Students have to pass an entrance exam in their specific language and need to show a good academic record. All the special-profile staff in the international section are native speakers.

All international students follow the complete French syllabus as well as their specific 1st - language courses in Language & Literature (6 hours a week until 9th grade, 4 hours a week in high school) and in History & Geography (2 hours a week).

Students prepare the *Option Internationale du Brevet des Collèges* at the end of 9th grade and the *Option Internationale du Baccalauréat (OIB)* at the end of 12th grade.

- **The OIB Option**

English section students prepare the British version of the OIB supervised by the Cambridge Board of International Examinations and coordinated by both Cambridge and French Ministry of Education inspectors.

The OIB requires students to take written and oral examinations in both English Literature and History & Geography. This accounts for a considerable portion of the overall marks as the OIB is heavily weighted, as much or more than any other honors subject in all three tracks of the French general baccalaureate, namely S (Sciences), ES (Economics & Social Sciences), L (Literature & Philosophy).

The British OIB enables students with a French baccalaureate to go on to further education in France or abroad and be able to follow either a French-language or an English-language

university or college cursus. International section students will have completed the most demanding academic program available within the frame of the French educational system and have proven their bilingual bicultural proficiency as well as their ability to take on such a considerable workload.

- **The French Baccalureate**

Following the national academic curriculum established by the French Ministry of Education, this exam has been in existence since the creation of French national state education. It serves a double purpose, namely as the graduation diploma for a successfully completed cursus in secondary education and as the required entrance qualification for admission into higher education.

The French general baccalureate has three specialist tracks compatible with the OIB. All weighted courses in a student's chosen concentration can be designated as Honors courses.

Literary series (L):

Literature, Philosophy, Modern Languages, Latin or Greek, Art, Film Studies

Economics & Social Sciences (ES):

Economics, Social & Political Sciences, Mathematics, History & Geography, Modern Languages

Scientific series (S):

Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry, Biology & Geology, Engineering Studies

The following categories of overall pass mark for the French Baccalureate are awarded. The first is simply a pass; the others are distinctions (*mentions*); the *mention Très Bien* with *Félicitations du jury* is quite exceptional:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Passable | from 10 to 11.99 out of 20 |
| Assez Bien | from 12 to 13.99 out of 20 |
| Bien | from 14 to 15.99 out of 20 |
| Très Bien | from 16 to 20 out of 20 |
| Félicitations du Jury | from 17 to 20 out of 20 |

- **The French Grading System**

The French grading system is numerical and ranges from 0 to 20. However, at high school level, where evaluations are usually based on the essay format, a score of 20 is considered practically unattainable as it would imply perfection. Even 19 and 18 are extremely rare. Hence grades of 17 or 16 out of 20 are considered quite outstanding.

The Franco-American (Fulbright) Commission for Educational Exchange, Paris, states that one may currently interpret the French 0 - 20 scale in terms of U.S. grading standards as follows:

| <u>French High School Grades :</u> | <u>6th to 9th</u> | <u>10th to 12th</u> | <u>American Equivalent</u> |
|------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| | 17-20 | 15.5-20 | A+ |
| | 15-16.5 | 13.5-15 | A |
| | 14-14.5 | 12-13 | A- |
| | 13-13.5 | 11-11.5 | B+ |
| | 12-12.5 | 10-10.5 | B |
| | 10.5-11.5 | 9-9.5 | B- |
| | 9.5-10 | 8.5 | C+ |
| | 8.5-9 | 7.5-8 | C |
| | 7.5-8 | 7 | C- |
| | 7 | 6.5 | D+ |
| | 6.5 | 6 | D |
| | 6 | 5.5 | D- |
| | 5 and under | 5 and under | F |

- **Class Rank**

We do not rank our students except for applications to CPGE (preparatory classes for the competitive entrance exams to highly-selective high-profile French colleges). This is not done until February or March in the second term of 12th grade.

- **The Anglophone Terminale Class 2010-2011**
(12th grade English Section OIB Honors class)

Baccalaureate Results 2011:

31 out of 33 students passed from the three tracks:

12 S Honors: 3 mention TB / 1 mention B / 3 mention AB / 3 passable

9 L Honors: 2 mention TB / 1 mention B / 4 mention AB / 2 passable

12 ES Honors: 3 mention B / 6 mention AB / 3 passable

Studies Overseas 2011/2012:

USA 2 students Pace, Rutgers

UK 10 students Courtauld Institute, Glasgow, Kings College (grad 2010),
Leicester (grad 2010), Nescot, Royal Holloway,
Sheffield Hallam (grad 2010), York (3 students)

Canada 1 student HEC Montreal

Belgium 1 student Brussels

- **Accreditation**

The French Ministry of Education
The Cambridge Board of Examinations for the British OIB

Colleges and Universities attended by Lycee Balzac students 2005-2011

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|--|--|
| <p>UNITED STATES</p> <p>Assumption College Binghamton University Boston University California Institute of the Arts California State University, Northridge Columbia University Emory University Georgetown University Hampshire College Haverford College Kent State University Michigan State University New York University Pace University Rutgers University University of Delaware</p> | <p>UNITED KINGDOM</p> <p>Imperial College London Kings College London Kingston College London College of Commerce Nescot College Newcastle University Royal Holloway University of London Sheffield Hallam University SOAS (The School of Oriental and African Studies) The Courtauld Institute of Art University of Brighton University of Bristol University of Cambridge University College London University of Edinburgh University of Essex University of Glasgow University of Leicester University of Manchester University of Southampton University of Sussex University of Warwick University of West of England University of York</p> |
| <p>CANADA</p> <p>Concordia University McGill University HEC Montréal University of Waterloo</p> | <p>IRELAND</p> <p>Trinity College</p> |
| <p>ITALY</p> <p>University of Turin</p> | <p>NETHERLANDS</p> <p>University of Rotterdam</p> |
| <p>BELGIUM</p> <p>University of Brussels University of Louvain</p> | |