



BFI

**Baccalauréat
Français
International**
American Section

Promu par



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE
ET DE LA JEUNESSE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

 **CollegeBoard**

 **AAMiS**
Association des Sections Internationales Américaines

American BFI World Schools Network

In 2023...
and growing!

116

schools

31

countries

5

continents

About the BFI

The American section of the Baccalauréat Français International (BFI) is a bilingual and bicultural program developed by the French Ministry of Education in partnership with College Board.

The American BFI is a demanding two-year diploma program chosen by academically ambitious and internationally minded global citizens, equally at ease in French and in English and determined to make a difference in the world.

The first BFI cohort will graduate in June 2024.

The American BFI has the most extensive international presence among the eighteen bilateral educational partnerships established by the French Ministry of Education.





The best of both worlds

The American BFI brings together the best of two distinct perspectives on education. It combines the rigor, breadth, and coherence of the French national curriculum – anchored in liberal arts, culture, and critical thinking – with the American tradition of inquiry-based experiential learning, initiative, and creativity.



Louis Chan/Lycée Français de New York©

“Global challenges require global solutions. The French bac and the Advanced Placement Program both bring a global perspective and a welcome rigor to important issues that are relevant to students’ lives. Our partnership will help students think broadly about the world, and that gives me great encouragement for our shared future.”

James Montoya
College Board
Chief of Membership, Governance,
and Global Higher Education
and Secretary of the Corporation

« Les élèves engagés dans le BFI section américaine pourront obtenir à la fois le BFI et deux ou trois Advanced Placements simultanément... Cette innovation de taille me semble être un pas nécessaire pour accompagner la croissance des sections américaines. »

Pap Ndiaye
Ministre de l’Éducation
nationale et de la Jeunesse

Inside the BFI

Over the two-year program, American BFI students follow a **core** curriculum, two **concentrations**, and three **BFI college-level courses**. This adds up to approximately 34 hours of instruction per week, with up to 40 percent taught in English.

The weight of each subject is shown in parentheses and totals 148 or 168.*

Core

- French Literature (10)
- Philosophy (8)
- Ethics and Civics (2)
- Research Presentation (10)
- Scientific Literacy (6)
- Modern Language B (6)
- Physical Education (6)

BFI-Specific Courses

- Advanced English Literature (20)
- History-Geography (20)
- Global Studies Research Seminar (20)

Concentrations*

Students choose three concentrations in 11th grade, and continue two of them in 12th grade. The 11th-grade concentration has a weight of 8, and the two 12th-grade concentrations have weights of 16 each. Courses offered vary by school from the following:

- History, Geography, Geopolitics and Political Science
- Humanities, Literature and Philosophy
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Biology and Earth Science
- Physics and Chemistry
- Economics and Social Sciences
- Classics
- Art
- Engineering
- Physical Education

* Concentration subjects can be taught partly in English. In such cases, students may elect to take an additional oral exam (20), bringing the share of exams in English to 48 percent of the total American BFI exam weights.

The American BFI validates written and oral communication skills in both languages, as well as initiative and self-directed, original research.

The American BFI features **five or six oral exams** (two in French and three or four in English), **six four-hour written exams**, and **two mentored research projects** (one in each language), promoting student agency while contributing to building the transdisciplinary research skillset essential to success at university.

Oral Exams

2 in French
3-4 in English

Written Exams

2 in English
4 in French

Research Projects

1 in English
1 in French
Oral Presentations



BFI Specific Courses

In addition to the core and concentration subjects of the classic French baccalaureate, the American BFI includes three 'advanced' courses that allow students to pursue college-level curricula. These BFI-specific courses are spread across 11th and 12th grades and culminate in externally graded papers and oral examinations.



1

Advanced English Literature

This course corresponds to 'advanced' or 'honors' courses in American high schools. The study of literature – rooted in a cultural context – aims to introduce students to great texts and the ideas they convey. The course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical literature analysis to understand how writers use language to provide meaning and impact.

2

History- Geography

Taught partly in French and partly in English, the history syllabus covers the 'long' 19th century - from the French Revolution to the Versailles Treaty in 11th grade, and reaches the early 21st century in 12th grade. Throughout, students explore American and French perspectives on significant themes and develop skills employed by historians: analyzing sources, making connections, and exploring comparison, causation, continuity, and change over time.

The human geography syllabus focuses on the patterns and processes that shape human understanding, use, alteration, and degradation of the Earth's surface. Students reflect upon urbanization, globalization and sustainability issues. They employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organizations and their environmental consequences.

3

Global Studies Research Seminar

The signature course of the American BFI, the Global Studies Research Seminar is taught in English and spans the two-year BFI program. Its curriculum probes the roots of our social compact, linking the history of ideas and political philosophy to contemporary global issues viewed from cross-cultural American and French perspectives. In parallel, students develop an original research project through a student-shaped partnership with an international institution, scholar, or NGO mentor.

This course aims to consolidate intercultural fluency; enable students to grasp the diversity of perspectives on contemporary global issues and how they shape our modern societies; develop their ability to use and evaluate sources, claims, and evidence; make independent, reasoned, evidence-based judgments; and hone a range of communication skills. The final exam is a twenty-minute oral presentation and discussion of the research findings and the partnership-building experience, conducted in English and assessed by a two-person jury.

Customizing the BFI

The American BFI offers further options that help students customize their academic journey.*

Advanced Placement (AP) Substitutions

Students may substitute two AP courses and exams for the History-Geography and Advanced English Literature BFI curriculum in 11th grade. Choices include AP U.S. History, European History, World History or Human Geography, and AP English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition. The AP exams substitute for the corresponding BFI written exams. The 12th-grade BFI curriculum and oral exam are unchanged.

Additional Language Options

Trilingual American BFI:

Students fluent in a third language may choose to take the Advanced Literature course in a language other than English. This option demonstrates quasi-native fluency in a third language – without compromising the English proficiency demonstrated through History-Geography and the Global Studies Research Seminar.

Math Electives

France has a proud tradition of excellence in mathematics. This legacy is reflected in two 12th-grade electives: *Mathématiques Expertes* for math concentrators or *Mathématiques Complémentaires* for students who are not concentrators but still want to continue studying math in 12th grade.

Alternatively, students may opt for the AP Calculus BC or AP Statistics curriculum as a math elective.

Quadrilingual American BFI:

Plurilingual students may study History-Geography and the Global Studies Research Seminar in English, Advanced Literature in Language B, a further three-hour elective Language C course, and a concentration partially taught in Language C.

*Subject to a school's course offering.

A tradition of French excellence



Fields Medals for Mathematics

14
France

14
USA

8
UK



Nobel Prizes for Literature

16
France

13
USA

12
UK



*16 is the highest number of laureates from any country



Ready to learn more about the American BFI?

Learn more – and find a
participating program near
you – at www.aamis.net

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