

# Collège Les Renardières

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## SECTION INTERNATIONALE AMERICAINE

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*America is so vast that almost everything said about it is likely to be true, and the opposite is probably equally true.*

*-James T. Farrell*

## 1. An Overview of the International Section

### *A bilingual and bi-cultural learning environment*

International sections are the result of a bilateral cooperation between the French Ministry of Education and the partner countries specific to the language of study. This unique setup consists of blending not only a language, but also the culture and teaching methods of the relevant partner countries with the French educational system.

IS students are French and foreign students that benefit from a learning environment that is therefore both bilingual and bi-cultural. Throughout their academic career, they will learn to fluently code switch from one language to the other, from one culture to the other, and will cross the border dividing two different educational systems on a daily basis.

The American International Section in Courbevoie is a new section that began in 2018 and is comprised of:

- 24 preschool students
- X elementary school students
- A sixth grade class (*6ème*) and a future seventh grade class (*5ème* – opening in 2019) at the middle school
- 3 specialized teachers (including native language speakers)

The international section gives bilingual and bi-cultural children living in France the opportunity to continue their education in their mother tongue while being completely integrated in the French educational system.

It simultaneously allows French children who lived abroad or who possess the necessary motivation and linguistic abilities to further develop these skills while benefiting from a bilingual and bi-cultural environment.

The level required by students in the American International Section of Courbevoie:

- Beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade: The Section is open to students with a B1 (Intermediate) level in written and spoken English
- A C1 (Effective Operational Proficiency) level or above is expected of students by the end of high school as defined by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) which goes from A1-A2 (Beginner or Breakthrough) levels to C1-C2 (EOP and Mastery) levels.

## 2. Admission and Enrollment

To be considered for a place in the international section, students must send in an application, take a written test, and be interviewed in English to ensure that they have the appropriate skills to succeed.

All of the applications will be reviewed by a committee who will then determine who will be accepted into the program.

### **Stipulations of Admission to the American International Section of Courbevoie**

Recruitment is based on:

- A student's academic performance (past grades)
- The linguistic level of the candidate
- A candidate and their family's motivation and future plans

To apply:

- Send in the application by **March 11<sup>th</sup> 2019**
- Be present for the test and interview when notified of the date (**late April-early May**)

## 3. Curriculum and Diplomas

The academic level required in International Sections demands rigor and dedication. IS students must complete all required courses in France while taking additional courses designed to give them an academic level of

American English (language and literature).

*Our Objectives:*

- To contribute to the intellectual growth and cultural enrichment of students including a deep understanding of both the cultures and literature of English-speaking countries specifically the United States
- To offer students the experience of teaching methods unique to the American system which will prepare students at the middle school to continue their studies in the American sections in high school
- To awaken a love of reading while generating real sensitivity to literary works and developing students' speaking abilities with precision, idiomaticity, and fluency.

*Curriculum and Hours of Instruction:*

The curriculum states that students in the International Section should have four hours of applied instruction in American language, literature, and civilization as well as two hours taught in English out of the four habitual hours of History and Geography required by the French Ministry of Education. These hours are added to the general hours of Foreign Language instruction (*LVI*) required in the French system. The goal of these subjects is to prepare students to sit the International Option of the Baccalauréat (*l'option internationale du baccalauréat* or *OIB*)

*Exams and Diplomas:*

International schools in France have been offering bi-cultural programs of study for over forty years, but now, because of International Sections in many public schools, even more students can benefit from this unique education.

Students in the American International Section in Courbevoie gain in-depth knowledge of American culture, language, and literature while preparing to sit additional exams as part of the *Diplôme National du Brevet* (DNB) in middle school as well as the *Option Internationale du Baccalauréat* (OIB) at the end of high school.

*The DNB*

The International Option of the DNB is comprised of:

- the totality of all the papers and tests of the general exam
- two additional specialized oral tests, one in Language and Literature as well as one in History and Geography. These tests represent 100 points out of a total of 900 points and are given in English.

*The OIB*

The international options of the French *Baccalauréat* possess two important characteristics:

- They have the same status and validity as all the mainstream Bac (Bac général); and
- The “option” subjects are taught and examined in the relevant language, to a standard comparable to that of the equivalent examination in the home country (A levels in the UK, AP in the USA).

American Section OIB exams are administered by the College Entrance Examination Board (Advanced Placement Program) and the Franco-American Commission (Fulbright office) in Paris, in cooperation with the French Inspection Générale. In the current version of the Baccalauréat, the International Option count for nearly 40% of students' final results. While the weight of the final exams may change beginning in 2021, a combination of a student's results in class and at their exams will certainly carry the same importance.

*The OIB isn't:*

- a double diploma. Instead, it's a specific part of the French *Baccalauréat* that heavily weighs a candidate's skills and understanding of the language, the culture, and the teaching environment of the United States. The partner educational authorities play an essential role in the creation and administering of the OIB exams. They also ensure that the OIB is recognized by the most prestigious of American universities.

- An option simply added to the other tests and papers of the Baccalauréat. The OIB exams are taken in place of some of the general tests and, despite the term “Option”, play a significant role in a student's obtaining their French high school diploma

#### 4. Additional Information

- International Section students form an integral part of the middle school. This means that, apart from the hours of study in the section, they are enrolled in a class along with other French students and attend all other school subjects with their class. They are expected to follow the rules of the school including the *Règlement Intérieur*.
- Students and their parents will have access to an online platform and email address ([www.enc92.fr](http://www.enc92.fr)) so as to access information pertinent to their child's schooling (class schedule, grades, homework, etc.)

Official websites:

<http://www.clg-renardieres-courbevoie.ac-versailles.fr/>

<http://www.ac-versailles.fr/pid34372/accueil.html>

<http://www.ac-versailles.fr/dsden92/pid35439/accueil.html>

<http://www.education.gouv.fr/>

<http://eduscol.education.fr/sections-internationales>