



Bordeaux
International
School

depuis 1987
since 1987

INTERNATIONAL IGCSE PROGRAMME



Cambridge Assessment
International Education





International GCSEs at Bordeaux International School

BIS offers a unique educational experience, ensuring our students develop to their full potential.

With students from over twenty five different nationalities, the school offers the opportunity to flourish in a truly international environment.

Studying at Bordeaux International School combines the benefits of high quality teaching in English, with the experience of living in France, enjoying the culture, learning the French language, and gaining an international diploma (Cambridge International GCSE examinations).

There are three elements to the International GCSE Programme at Bordeaux International School:

- Academic Study
- PSGS (Personal, Social, Global Skills)
- Extra-curricular activities





Why come to Bordeaux?

Bordeaux International School is situated in the heart of the city and has been in existence for over 30 years. Bordeaux is an historic town renowned for its architecture and its connection with the wine industry. It has a modern public tramway system and a reputation for being one of the safest cities in France. With an excellent climate and vast range of cultural activities, it is also listed as the world's largest urban UNESCO World heritage site.

Bordeaux is considered one of the best places to live in France for quality of life - named European City 2015 - and has been voted third in the ranking for the most appealing city in France. Bordeaux is close to fantastic beaches, beautiful countryside, and benefits from a 2-hour high-speed train link with Paris.

BIS has been a fully accredited member of the Council of International Schools (CIS) since 2000, is recognised by the French Ministry of Education, and a registered examination centre with The University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate.





Why Cambridge International Examinations?

Cambridge International Examinations is the world's largest provider of international education programmes and qualifications for 5 to 19 year olds.

More than 9000 schools in over 160 countries are part of the Cambridge learning community. They are committed to providing qualifications that are relevant, accurate, reliable, affordable and recognised by universities and employers worldwide.

Cambridge programmes and qualifications develop not only content but also skills. They help learners to bridge the gap to the next stage of education and the world of work. Cambridge learners are encouraged to be:

- confident in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- responsible for themselves and respectful of others
- reflective as learners
- innovative and equipped for new and future challenges
- engaged intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.





Why Cambridge International Examinations?

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds. It is recognised by leading universities and employers worldwide, and is an international passport to progression and success. Developed over 25 years ago, it is tried, tested and trusted by schools worldwide.

Cambridge IGCSE helps improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving. It is the perfect springboard to advanced study. It develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:

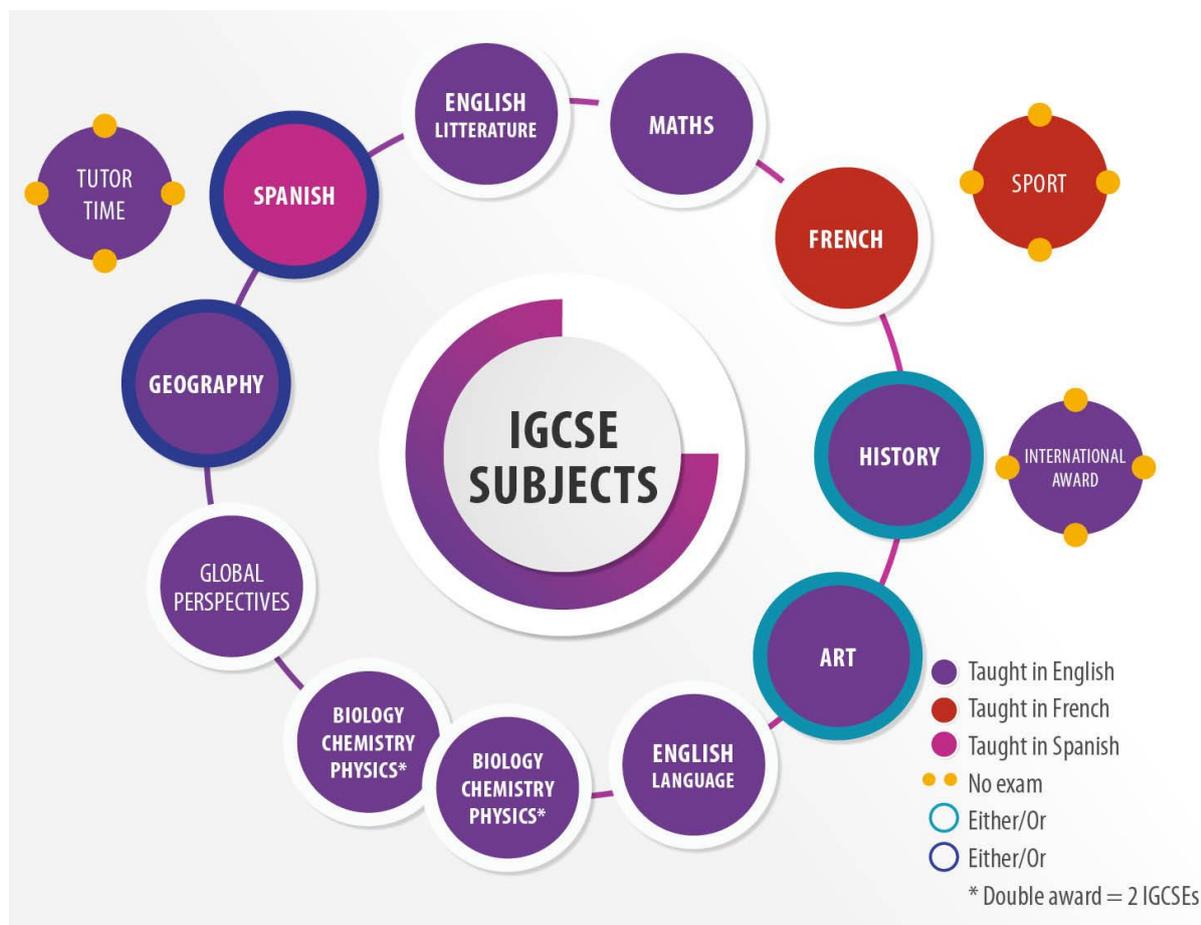
- Applying knowledge and understanding to new as well as unfamiliar situations
- Intellectual enquiry
- Flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Working and communicating in English
- Influencing outcomes
- Cultural awareness

Schools worldwide have been involved in the development of Cambridge IGCSE. The syllabi are international in outlook, but retain a local relevance. They have been created specifically for an international student body and avoid cultural bias.



The Programme

The IGCSE programme is designed to encourage high academic standards through two year courses in specific subjects, each leading to a final external examinations usually at 16 years of age. A student would normally take between 7 and 8 IGCSE exams, from the following subjects:



N.B.: Second Language English Students will be given extra English support lessons in place of English Literature. English as a Second Language is also offered at IGCSE at exam level. This may be converted to IGCSE First Language English after a year of further tuition. Students choose either History or Art and either Geography or Spanish.

Work schedule

Students attend 4-7 sessions of teaching per week per subject and are expected to spend about 1.5 hours per week on homework assignments for each subject taken.



Guidance

Personal Tutor

All students are assigned a tutor who will personally guide them to achieve their full potential.

They will also have individual interviews on a regular basis with the Head of Secondary School to help them with their academic progress.

Guidance

BIS offers a dedicated higher education and orientation counselor, ensuring that students have the information, support and coaching needed to get on the right path towards achieving their ambitions. Students will also enjoy visits from leading international universities.

Career Orientation

Students benefit from inspirational talks from professionals in key fields.



This section of the Senior School is open to all 14-16 year-olds wishing to take courses leading to IGCSE exam subjects. We have no statutory educational entrance requirement, however a detailed written report from the student's previous school is required and assessment in key subjects is carried out at the start of the year to determine correct level of entry.

Examination results

BIS IGCSE Exam Results	UK National Average		BIS			Cambridge World Average				Cambridge World Average
	2015	2015	2016	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
% students achieving grades A-C	93%	69%	96%	66,90%	92%	82,70%	86%	79%	86%	82.4%

BIS AS & A-Level Exam Results	UK national average		BIS			Cambridge World Average				Cambridge World Average
	2015	2015	2016	2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019
% students achieving grades A-C	90%	77.3%	80%	77.6%	55%	52%	81%	62%	69%	62%





Learning platform

Edupage

All students and parents are registered with our online platform "Edupage". This secure portal provides a range of tools for both parents and students to keep informed of daily school life, to help with daily organisation and to monitor student progress. Information such as timetables, homework activities and assignment deadlines can be found here.

The platform is also used as a means of constant communication between students, parents and teachers, including information relating to absences, grades, weekly emails concerning a child's general progress, school events and termly reports.





Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

Young people need experiences outside the classroom to become committed, responsible and fulfilled citizens of the world. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, also known as DofE, is available to all at BIS students aged 14 and above. It equips young people for life regardless of their background, culture, physical ability, skills and interests. The Award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others; it pushes young people to their limits, recognises their achievements, provides opportunities to develop skills, get physically active, give service and experience adventure.

The Award Framework

The Award is comprised of three levels (Bronze, Silver & Gold) and four sections. Participants complete all four sections at each level in order to achieve their Award. At Gold level, participants also complete a Residential Project.

The four sections comprise:

- Learning a skill
- Taking part in a service for the community
- Involvement with a sport
- Taking part in an expedition involving hiking and overnight camping

It is a programme of personal development recognised by universities and employers worldwide.



Mathematics

An essential subject for all learners, Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics encourages the development of mathematical knowledge as a key life skill, and as a basis for more advanced study. The syllabus aims to build learners' confidence by helping them develop a feel for numbers, patterns and relationships, and places a strong emphasis on solving problems and presenting and interpreting results. Learners also gain an understanding of how to communicate and reason using mathematical concepts.

The Sciences

Cambridge IGCSE Co-ordinated Science gives learners the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a cross-referenced, scientifically coherent syllabus. It is a double award, earning two grades. Learners gain an understanding of the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, whilst also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. They learn how science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus helps learners to understand the technological world in which they live, and take an informed interest in science and scientific developments.



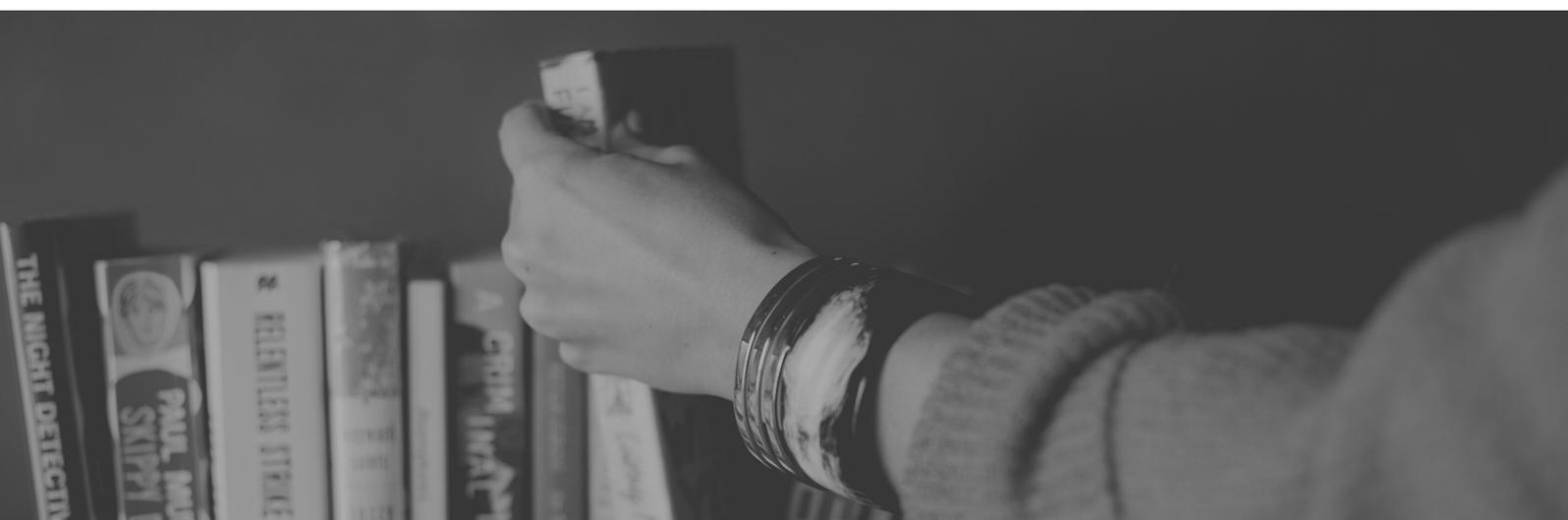
English Language

This course is designed for learners whose first language is English. Learners develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively in both speech and writing. They learn how to employ a wide-ranging vocabulary, use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, as well as developing a personal style and an awareness of their audience.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

English Literature

The syllabus enables learners to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Learners develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.



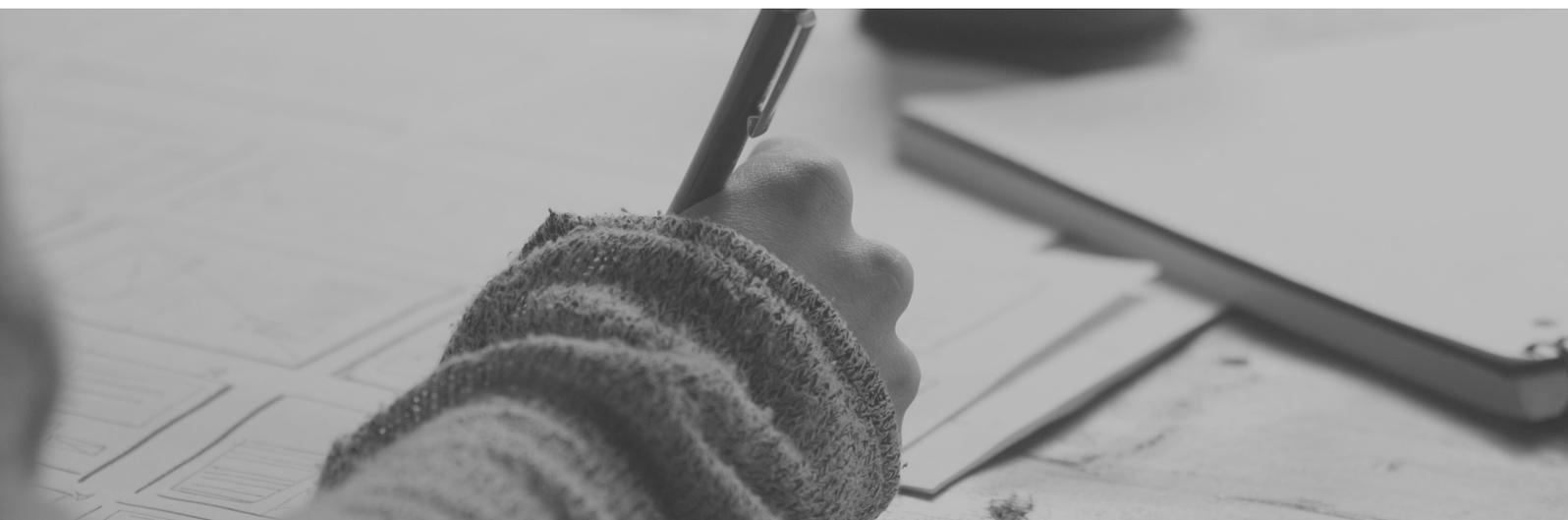
English - second language

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their academic or professional career. The qualification reflects the widespread use of English in education and commerce, and also in entertainment. The aim is to achieve a level of practical communication ideal for everyday use, which can also form the basis for further, more in-depth language study.

French

This syllabus is designed for learners who are learning French as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication. The course is based on the linked language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and these are built on as learners progress through their studies.

The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of countries where French is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and towards speakers of foreign languages.



History

The Cambridge IGCSE History syllabus looks at some of the major international issues of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as covering the history of particular regions in more depth. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research.

Learners develop an understanding of the nature of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference and find out how to use and understand historical evidence as part of their studies. Cambridge IGCSE History will stimulate any learner already interested in the past, providing a basis for further study, and also encouraging a lifelong interest in the subject.

Geography

Through the Cambridge IGCSE Geography syllabus, learners will develop a 'sense of place' by looking at the world around them on a local, regional and global scale. Learners will examine a range of natural and man-made environments, and study some of the processes which affected their development. They will also look at the ways in which people interact with their environment, and the opportunities and challenges an environment can present, thereby gaining a deeper insight into the different communities and cultures that exist around the world.



Art

The Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design syllabus aims to encourage a personal response by stimulating imagination, sensitivity, conceptual thinking, powers of observation and analytical ability.

Learners gain confidence and enthusiasm as they develop technical skills in two and three dimensional form and composition, and are able to identify and solve problems in visual and tactile forms. They also learn how to develop ideas from initial attempts to final solutions. An ideal foundation for further study, Cambridge IGCSE Art and Design also develops a greater awareness of the role played by the visual arts in society and in history, broadening cultural horizons and individual experience.

Spanish

This syllabus is designed for those learning Spanish as a foreign language. The aim is to develop an ability to use the language effectively for practical communication. The course is based on the linked skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, which are built upon as students progress through their studies. The syllabus also aims to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of the countries where the language is spoken, thus encouraging positive attitudes towards language learning and speakers of foreign languages.



Personal, Social & Global Skills (PSGS)

An obligatory part of A-Level study at BIS includes a personalised PSGS programme which aims to:

- Increase student awareness of strengths and areas for growth
- Undertake new challenges
- Plan and initiate activities
- Work collaboratively with others
- Show perseverance and commitment
- Engage with issues of global importance
- Consider ethical implications
- Develop new skills





Other information

Leisure and Social Activities

As well as sport being part of the curriculum, students have the possibility to take part in local sports teams. Various after school clubs offer a range of extracurricular activities, such as Debate Club and School Band.

Bordeaux International School is located in the city centre. We want our students, and particularly our older students, to involve themselves fully in French life and culture, not to feel that they are attending an 'English' School in France. Bordeaux is a beautiful city with many museums, art galleries, restaurants and cafés: we encourage students to get to know the city, to experience its ambiance, and to enjoy its festivals and artistic events, so that they gain the maximum from living in a vibrant French city – an experience they will remember for life.

Bordeaux is lucky to be within easy reach of world-class beaches, the Dordogne, and the Basque Country. Spain is just a short hop away and Paris can be reached by TGV in two hours!

School Trips and excursions

Students are involved in regular outings and visits, both locally and further afield. Each year pupils have the opportunity to take part in extended regional and international trips, including a biannual trip to Canada.





Other information

Accommodation - homestay

BIS offers accommodation for students living away from home in carefully selected French families living close to the school. This is an ideal arrangement for students whose parents live a long way from the school and is also the most effective way to gain fluency and absorb the French language and culture.

Host families are carefully vetted by the school coordinator, who is available on a 24/7 basis. We consult the student's parents and introduce both families before the student moves in. It is vital that the student is happy in their host family and we devote great care to their wellbeing.





Why come to Bordeaux International School?

- IGCSE level classes are typically **groups of between eight and fifteen students** which allows us to offer differentiated teaching and work with individual students on a one-to-one basis when necessary.
- We **follow the students' academic progress closely** and report to parents on a weekly basis, with more detailed reports and assessment grades at the end of each term.
- Newly **extended and renovated premises**, including a media centre and science lab.
- Wide range of **extra-curricular activities** are available, as well as access to top sports facilities.
- A **personal tutor** and dedicated **higher education and orientation counseling** that guarantees all motivated students access to higher education.
- A **friendly working environment**.
- Living in one of the world's safest and most **beautiful cities**.
- **Excellent exam results** with a 100% pass rate

