

University Counseling, Higher Education & Careers

Programme



To prepare our students as global citizens in a competitive world, we run a dedicated higher education counseling and careers programme. Completing the International A Levels diploma means access to world class institutions worldwide: France, the UK, USA, and Canada, are popular choices. We prepare, train and advise students extensively whilst supporting them through their application process. In terms of career orientation, we run a range of events, involving inspiration speakers, training and workshops.

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We know that our students need to be ready for a changing world that is more competitive than ever. Our programme of support, advice and training aims to help our students choose what's right for them, and to prepare them as fully as possible for life after BIS.

Higher Education

There is a world of choice out there, and studying for International A Levels means that their qualifications will be recognised both in France and internationally. In early September, students attend a presentation outlining their options for study, the requirements and application processes. Popular destinations for our students include the UK, France, Canada (especially Québec), anglophone programmes in continental Europe, and the USA. BIS welcomes tens of visits each year from higher education institutions both in France around the world. Students are informed regularly of orientation events. We encourage them to develop autonomy in their research, whilst being there with advice and support every step of the way. To make sure that each student achieves their goals, they must communicate in a timely fashion with our university counselor on all choices, decisions, deadlines, and specific requirements.

UCAS & the UK

Many BIS students wish to apply to British universities through the UCAS application system. We provide full support during the process, as well as preparing a letter of reference and predicted grades. Support for UCAS includes:

- The BIS UCAS Guide
- Guidance on their choices of institution and entry requirements
- A presentation on how to correctly complete the UCAS application
- Personal statements: "dos and don'ts", training and guidance during drafting.

France

Students wishing to study at a French public university must now apply through ParcoursSup, an online application largely carried out by the student. The school provides any documents requested. Applications to private universities are carried out on an individual 'dossier' basis, often involving a reference, school reports, an interview, and in some cases an exam, or portfolio. For additional advice, including advice on courses such as BTS, we recommend that students with their parents make an appointment at one of the "centres d'information et d'orientation" (CIO) in Bordeaux.



The USA

Offering an inarguably world-class education, applying to the USA is an attractive, if demanding, option. Applications are made through the CommonApp online system, which requires much preparation from both the student and the school. For this reason, students should begin during their AS year and inform the school of their intentions as soon as possible. SATs (Standardized Aptitude Tests) are required by many American universities. These tests require a great deal of preparation and practice, for which we recommend the student engages a tutor and uses online practice facilities. BIS is an SAT examination centre, meaning that exams can be taken at the school. For any questions concerning this, please contact bis@bordeaux-school.com.

Canada

BIS has excellent links with Canadian universities, many of which (especially in Quebec) are a great choice for our students. These links are strengthened every two years when BIS runs a trip to Canada, which includes university visits for older students. Applications are largely carried out online to individual universities, and BIS provides a reference.

Personal Statements and Application Essays

One of the most important parts of some application processes, we train students in the planning and writing of a successful personal statement or application essay, offering one-on-one follow-up advice during the drafting stage.

Career Preparation

In order to inspire and prepare students for the world after studies, each year we run a programme of external speakers and events, covering:

- Interview skills, CVs, letters of motivation, and the hiring process
- Speakers from different industries
- Entrepreneurial Startup Challenge and Workshop

