

SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

Lycée Français de Barcelone (Barcelona, Spain)

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Bosch i Gimpera 6-10 08034 BARCELONA (SPAIN)

CEEB Code: 792159

Graduation date: June 30th, 2024

Graduating Class Size: 235

School phone number: (+34) 93-203-79-50

website: <http://www.lfb.es>

The French School of Barcelona, Spain (Lycée Français de Barcelone, or LFB) is an establishment run directly by the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE) within the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which educates more than 390,000 students worldwide in 566 schools. AEFE provides pedagogical continuity worldwide, allowing easy transfers between AEFE schools for students.

The LFB has been operating in Barcelona since 1924 and contributes to the promotion of the French language and culture by educating French, Spanish, and foreign pupils. There are about 1,000 French students, 1,000 Spanish students, 850 Franco-Spanish students, and about twenty-five nationalities represented in our school. It truly is an international school.

The LFB registers 2850 students from kindergarten through high school (3 to 18 years old) and follows the French National Curriculum. The LFB also aims to consolidate the bonds of cooperation between the educational systems of France and Spain and is recognized and authorized by the Spanish government: it integrates an additional curriculum, in compliance with the cultural agreements between both countries, which allows our students to master four languages and entitles them to study in Spanish universities.

Since 2022, the school has implemented **various high level language programs**.

- an English European language section in which students are given an extra class of a subject taught in English.
- a Spanish European language section in which students are taught an extra class of History & Geography in Spanish
- The Baccalauréat Français International (BFI), where students may be enrolled in a **trilingual** BFI (French + Spanish + English) or a **quadrilingual** BFI (French + Spanish + English + Catalan), to allow students to make the most of their linguistic skills. The addition of further “BFI Subjects” (Literature, Language & Culture, History-Geography and Global Issues) taught in another language is an important facilitator of international mobility.

<https://qips.ucas.com/qip/france-baccalaureat-francais-international-bfi-assessed-from-2024>

The school's mission:

- Promoting foreign languages, exchanges and intercultural development
- Ensuring all pupils academic success and access to further education
- Helping our pupils to become citizens of the 21st century

The LFB highlights:

- An education based on reasoning and analysis
- Four languages (French, Spanish, Catalan, English)
- An education adapted to each pupil's needs
- The enhancement of scientific education
- An artistic education (arts, drama, dance)
- Official French and Spanish degrees
- Worldwide access to universities and colleges

Facts and figures in 2023-2024:

- Graduating class of 261 students - 2890 pupils overall
- 100% in 2021, 2022 and 2023 achieved by pupils sitting the official French *Baccalauréat*.

Four schools in one:

Kindergarten (3-5 years old)

The Kindergarten aims to

- Give the child the basic skills required at primary school
- Enable the child to use and develop its academic, social and motor skills.
- Help the child to become independent

The main emphasis of our kindergarten is to promote the acquisition of communication skills in the French, Spanish and Catalan languages.

Primary school (6-10 yrs old)

Primary school is divided into cycles, so as to ensure the pupils' personal achievement and progress, while respecting their diversity: cycle 2 (from 6 to 8 years old) during which the pupils develop their reading, writing and arithmetic skills and cycle 3 which aim is to firstly consolidate the skills previously developed and secondly to develop the pupils' independence as they start secondary school. Pupils also start learning English in Primary School, in first grade, along with French, Spanish and Catalan.

Middle School (11 to 14 yrs old)

The aim of Middle School is to enforce the pupils' progress in independence and responsibility, as well as the acquisition of reasoning and analytical skills.

High School (15 to 18 yrs old) - THE NEW FRENCH BACCALAUREAT

Students currently in grade 12 are preparing for the new version of the French Baccalaureate. Indeed, from 2021 on, there is a complete overhaul of the leaving exams of the French educational system.

It is now organized with three then two majors or 'specialties', rather than streams.

The new French General Baccalaureate includes six mandatory core subjects: French, History-Geography, two (or three) foreign languages, Physical Education, and a new subject called 'scientific and digital humanities', which covers general knowledge in science and technology.

In their junior year, students are able to choose three specialty subjects from a wide-ranging list: Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, Earth and Life Sciences, History-Geography, Geopolitics and Political sciences, Humanities, literature and philosophy, Digital and computer science, or Literature in a foreign language (Spanish or English). These subjects account for 12 hours of teaching per week, with the core subjects accounting for 16 hours (often the specialty will cross over with a core subject, accumulating hours dedicated to one subject). At the end of their junior year, students sit an oral and written French literature exam.

In their senior year, students continue with two specialties, still accounting for 12 hours per week. In March 2024, they will sit four exams which will account for 60% of the overall mark: philosophy, their two specialties, and a 'grand' oral exam. Continued assessment will account for 40% (term grades over their junior and senior years).

All our pupils acquire the general background and intellectual skills necessary for a good start in Higher Education, and most take extra coursework (optional modules taught in Spanish) such as Technical drawing, Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, or Spanish Literature to enhance their grades for their Spanish university accreditation. They receive personal advice in terms of careers, pedagogical guidance and methodology, mostly for the French and Spanish higher education system.

Extra-curricular activities and school clubs

In order to consolidate its international and cultural vocation, the Lycée Français de Barcelone offers educational trips – UN models, museums, performances, and others.

In addition to compulsory classes, the LFB offers varied extra-curricular activities. These are organized in cooperation with different associations and are open to pupils of varying ages.

- Sports association: Hand-ball, basket-ball, volleyball, climbing, rugby, badminton, soccer, etc.
- Drama club: a workshop with pupils and members of our staff
- A Charity club organized by pupils
- The School Choir
- A Debating Club, with a Political Science club and model UN clubs (*Ambassadeurs en herbe* – sponsored by UNESCO in middle school; CopVal, Valencia; NUMAD – United Nations Madrid; FerMUN, UN Geneva; DiaMED, with the UfM, and other events)

The Covid Crisis

Students of the Lycée Français de Barcelone have been deeply impacted in their studies by the current Covid crisis, since schools closed between March and September 2020 in Spain. The third trimester in 2020 was entirely taught remotely and even though most students adapted and worked hard, no grades obtained were finally taken into account, so our seniors this year do not have any grades for their last term of grade 9.

Catalonia, and especially Barcelona, has been hit hard by the sanitary and economic crises, and many students have met with personal difficulties. Children were absolutely forbidden to exit their

homes from mid-March until mid-May 2021, many parents are struggling financially, and many students have suffered from anxiety or depression.

Students were able to go back to school normally on September 4, 2020, but from the beginning of November 2020 until June 2021 they were studying 50% at school and 50% remotely. In September 2021 schools resumed 100% face-to-face.

Marking Scale

The Lycée Français de Barcelone does not report class rank nor does it report an American-style GPA.

Teachers evaluate their students throughout the year on a **scale of 20 points** and the latter receive a report card with their trimester's average three times a year. The table used by our school as an approximate equivalence to the A-F scale commonly used in the United States is as follows:

French grade	Letter grade	Passing	Honors
16 to 20	A +	Yes	Highest Honors
15 to 15,9	A	Yes	High Honors
14 to 14,9	A -	Yes	High Honors
13 to 13,9	B +	Yes	Honors
12 to 12,9	B	Yes	Honors
11 to 11,9	B -	Yes	
10 to 10,9	C to C+	Yes	
9 to 9,9	C-	No	
5 to 8,9	D	No	
0 to 4,9	F	No	

French Baccalaureate: Marking Scale and Honors

All the students of the Lycée Français de Barcelone conclude their studies with standard leaving examinations given by the French leaving examinations board at the end of junior year in French, and in five subjects at the end of senior year. To pass the French Baccalaureate, students must obtain at least a general average of 10/20 (depending on the specialties they have chosen, different subjects weigh more or less).

Academic honors can be received by the students for their French baccalaureate depending on their Grade point Average:

- **16/20** and above: **mention très bien** (*very good*) – **SUMMA CUM LAUDE** (31% of our students)
- **14/20** to 15.99/20: **mention bien** (*Good*) – **MAGNA CUM LAUDE** (25% of our students)
- **12/20** to 13.99/20: **mention assez bien** (*fair*) – **CUM LAUDE** (25% of our students)

Most of our students also obtain the Spanish high school diploma (**Títol de Batxillerat** in Catalan/**Bachillerato** in Spanish) if they have followed native level classes of Spanish and Catalan language and literature, as well as History-Geography in Spanish, and many also add to their workload modules of subjects taught in Spanish, such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Technical Drawing or Literary History in their final two years of high school.