

Information note – BISS

This note is intended to inform all families enrolled in Le Gymnase’s BISS program, both those wishing to enroll their child for the first time and those who already have a child enrolled in the institution. It is particularly aimed at families who are not familiar with the French school system: it explains the implications of education provided “outside contract” (hors contrat) with the French Ministry of National Education.

How is education organized in France?

In France, schools are organized into three different systems:

Public schools. They are administered by the Ministry of National Education and strictly follow the French national curriculum, its teaching methods, and organizational guidelines. Teachers and staff are civil servants or equivalent and recruited through competitive exams. These schools also receive funding from local authorities to support their operations. Education in these schools is free. However, families cannot choose which school their child attends; this is determined by academic authorities, primarily based on the family’s place of residence.

Private schools under contract with the state. These schools are managed by a local or national organization but fully adhere to the National Education curriculum. Families may choose the school they want for their child. Since the teaching and pedagogical practices are identical to public schools, students may transfer to a public school at any time at the same academic level. Exam preparation is also the same as in public schools, and diplomas are obtained under the same conditions. Teachers are civil servants or equivalent. Although these schools receive some public funding, administrative staff and building management are the responsibility of the school, and therefore tuition fees apply.

Private schools outside contract. In these schools, the curriculum, pedagogical methods, and teacher training are freely defined. These institutions are not required to follow the National Education program. As such, they cannot receive any public funding; all operational costs are borne entirely by families. Furthermore, students wishing to transfer to a public school must complete administrative procedures and have their academic level validated.

Some private schools outside contract may choose to prepare their students for national exams. However, since they are not part of the national system, students must sit these exams as independent candidates, which may alter the conditions for obtaining a diploma (for example, continuous assessment is not taken into account).

What is “Le Gymnase”?

Le Gymnase is a school located in the center of Strasbourg. It welcomes students on two campuses: Lucie Berger for students from kindergarten (age 3) to the equivalent of 7th grade (age 12–13), and Jean Sturm for students from the equivalent of 8th grade (age 13–14) to the final year of high school (age 17–18).

Le Gymnase offers two types of education:

- A private program **under contract with the state**, from kindergarten (3 classes) to the final year of high school (8 classes), with more than 1,900 students. As in all private schools under contract, teaching and organization strictly follow the National Education curriculum. Diplomas (Brevet and Baccalauréat) are prepared under the same conditions as in public schools. Students may transfer to a public school at any time without needing any academic evaluation.
- A private program **outside contract within the BISS stream**. This program includes one class per level from the equivalent of 6th grade to 9th grade. Overall, the curriculum corresponds to that of the National Education program.

What is the BISS Program?

The BISS program, short for “Bilingual International School of Strasbourg,” is a bilingual French-English program. Admission is based on an English language assessment.

At Le Gymnase, BISS classes exist in primary and middle school. The high school continuation leads to the **Section Internationale Américaine - SIA** (10th grade), and then to the **Baccalauréat Français International – BFI** (11th and 12th grades).

Below is a summary table comparing the National Education levels and the Gymnase naming system.

Primary school (under contract)		
Educ. Nat.	BISS	Age
CP	BISS 1	6-7 y.o
CE 1	BISS 2	7-8 y.o
CE 2	BISS 3	8-9 y.o
CM 1	BISS 4	9-10 y.o
CM 2	BISS 5	10-11 y.o

Middle School (MYP) (not under contract)			
Educ. Nat.	IB	BISS	Age
6ème	MYP 1	6°4	11-12 y.o
5ème	MYP 2	5°4	12-13 y.o
4ème	MYP 3	4°4	13-14 y.o
3ème	MYP 4	3°4	14-15 y.o

2026-2027 International program Fees
(French-English)
- Grade 1 to 9 -

One-time fees <i>(per student, charged once at initial enrollment)</i>		
APPLICATION FEE	100 €	
ENROLLMENT FEE	500 €	
FAMILY ENTRY FEE	250 €	
[or] COMPANY ENTRY FEE	12 000 €	
Primary School tuition fees <i>(per student, per year)</i>		Middle School tuition fees <i>(per student, per year)</i>
BISS Standard fee	4 000 €	BISS Standard fee
No reduced fee in Primary School		8 200 €
[or] Reduced fee (upon application)		5 200 €
Le Gymnase fee	890 €	Le Gymnase fee
		890 €
Additional mandatory fees <i>(per student, per year)</i>		
No additional fee in Primary School	One-time school kit	5 €
	School transportation	85 €
	Sport package	70 €
	Sport Association	10 €
	Remote platform access	100 €
Mandatory fees for ALL GRADES		
API Cotisation (parent's association) <i>(per family, per year)</i>	20 €	
Supervision costs (school life, nurses, psychologist, activity leaders, etc) <i>(per student, per year)</i>	60 €	
Français Langue d'Acquisition (FLA) Français Langue Scolaire (FLSco) <i>- Mandatory for French absolute beginner -</i> <i>(per student, per year)</i>	2 500€ (3-4h/week)	
Aide Personnalisée en Français (APF) <i>- Mandatory for French basic user -</i> <i>(per student, per year)</i>	1 250€ (1-2h/week)	
Optional fees <i>(per student, per year)</i>		
Wednesday morning workshops (Grade 2 to 5 only)	800 €	
Aide aux devoirs en français uniquement, tarif pour un atelier (Grade 4 and 5 only)	280 €	
Odyssey of the Mind (Grade 7 and 8 only)	Free of charge	
Brevet d'Initiation à l'Aéronautique (BIA) (Grade 9 only)	350 €	
Sibling discount <i>(per year)</i>		
2 nd child	-1 000 €	
3 rd and subsequent children	-1 500 €	

Highschool tuition fees <i>(per student, per year)</i>	
SIA / BFI fee	1 000 €
Le Gymnase fee	890 €

Primary School

In primary school, the BISS program stands out from other classes through equal exposure to French and English.

Students follow the National Education curriculum.

BISS students receive instruction in French from National Education teachers and instruction in English from teachers employed by the school.

Middle School (MYP – Middle Years Programme)

In middle school, the BISS MYP program is entirely outside contract.

It is based on an IB-defined educational framework whose content aligns with the National Education curriculum. Like in primary school, teaching is bilingual and organized by subjects within a weekly timetable.

At the end of the four middle school years, students in the 9th grade BISS class may take the DNB (Diplôme National du Brevet). Because they are enrolled in an outside-contract program, they must take the exam as independent candidates. However, they are prepared and supported throughout the year by their teachers.

High School (SIA and BFI – American International Section and French International Baccalaureate)

For high school, Le Gymnase offers a state-certified French curriculum under contract. This program leads to the French “Baccalauréat” with an international linguistic orientation.

The program consists of one year in the American International Section (10th grade), followed by the two-year BFI curriculum (11th and 12th grades), which includes specific instruction in English (Content and Language Integrated Learning in History-Geography, 2 hours/week in English, global awareness, methodology, cultural and linguistic enrichment).

The American BFI is supported by the College Board, a key player in access to higher education in the United States. It is an important asset for higher-education applications, both in France and in English-speaking countries, and it facilitates admission to many international programs.

The American BFI results from a partnership between the French Ministry of National Education and the American College Board (SAT, AP program, etc.). The global network of American international sections is coordinated by AAMIS in Paris, of which Le Gymnase is a member.

This demanding pathway is intended for students with a strong academic level, particularly in English, history-geography, and French. It requires autonomy, rigor, and perseverance. Beyond academic excellence, the BFI attests to strong intercultural skills and genuine global awareness—qualities highly valued in today’s academic and professional world.

Important: Application period opens between September & December for the following September intake, but the updated fee information is only approved by our School Board in April. Please refer to the current year's fees as an estimate only; final fees will be confirmed in April/May at the time of final enrollment. Thank you for your understanding.

GENERAL FEES AND INFORMATION

BISS MEANS BILINGUAL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF STRASBOURG

ONE-TIME FEE

Have to be paid on the first application only.

APPLICATION FEE

Administration fees, non-refundable.

ENTRY FEE

Non-refundable.

COMPANY ENTRY FEE

Applicable to families whose tuition fees are covered by their employer.

ENROLLMENT FEE

Refundable deposit to be paid once a place at the school has been offered to guarantee the place.

These fees will be deducted from the first invoice of the upcoming school year but non-refundable in case of withdrawal.

Please note that Le Gymnase tuition fees are included in the BISS program tuition fees and cannot be separated.

PAYMENT METHOD

Fees should be paid **in Euros only**. By electronically signing this document at the time of enrollment/re-enrollment, families acknowledge that they have read this information and agree to pay the fees.

An annual invoice is issued in September based on the information provided, validated, and signed by the families during (re)enrollment. The deposit requested from new families at the time of admission is deducted from the September invoice.

Interim invoices are issued in January and April in the event of any new items (purchases, trips, etc.).

Payment is made exclusively by monthly direct debit on the 10th or the 20th of each month from October to July (i.e., over 10 months). The direct debit authorization and submission of bank details (RIB/IBAN) are completed during the same registration process and via your *Ecole Directe* account.

Most bank accounts within the European Union are eligible for direct debit.

Our school reserves the right to refuse re-enrollment or admission of the child in the event of outstanding payments.

VOLUNTARY DONATION

This contribution supports students' well-being and enhances the quality of their education. It helps fund educational resources and improvements to school facilities that benefit every student. As public funding is legally limited, each family is invited to determine its level of support according to its income.

As a donation to a public-interest organization, **it is tax-deductible: 66% of your gift may be deducted from your income tax, up to 20% of taxable income** (subject to current tax law). **Tax deduction applies only to families who are French tax residents.**

MID-YEAR ENROLLMENT

In case of enrolment during the academic year, tuition fees are payable pro rata based on the time spent in the school.

Please note that the **pro-rata applies only to tuition fees; optional or mandatory additional fees are flat-rate.**

MID-YEAR WITHDRAWN

If a student leaves the School during the academic year (or absent at the beginning of the school year) for reasons that are imputable to them (voluntary departure, dismissal for disciplinary reasons), the School **shall not be liable for the reimbursement of any school fees.**

However, the school will reimburse a part of the annual Tuition Fee in case of relocation for work outside of France.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

The school does not provide its own dedicated school transportation service. However, it is well served by public transportation. For more information on available routes and schedules, families can visit the following website: <https://www.cts-strasbourg.eu/fr/>

SCHOOL AFTER-CARE

The school has an after-school care provider (garderie "Le Croisillon") and there are also some on-site activities that the children can register for, such as chess or choir. However, most of the activities (sports, crafts, arts...) are done outside school time on Wednesdays and Saturdays which are not school days at Lucie Berger.

Families can visit the following website: <https://croisillon.org/>

BOARDING FACILITIES

Please note that the school does not have boarding facilities.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FEES

FRANÇAIS LANGUE SCOLAIRE (FLSCO)

Students who do not yet have sufficient command of French will follow 4 hours of French per week as part of the FLSCO programme (1 hour per day during English class). This support is designed to help them integrate smoothly into the bilingual learning environment.

To help us plan our classes effectively, you may select this option in the enrollment form if you anticipate that your child will need it from the start of their time at our school. An adjustment will be made at the beginning of the year based on the student's actual needs.

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS

Every Wednesday from 9:00 to 12:00am (**English only**), children explore themes in a creative way. It's also a chance for children to express themselves in English!

HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Available in **French only**, from 4:30 to 6:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Pupils can be picked up by a designated adult at any time during this work time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FEES

ONE-TIME SCHOOL KIT

This kit includes a cafeteria badge, a locker padlock, and access to lockers, available only for Grade 6 and 7 students.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

This fee is applicable only to middle school students (grades 6 to 9) and covers the costs incurred for transportation to off-site activity locations (stadium, swimming pool, etc.).

SPORT PACKAGE

This fee is applicable only to middle school students (grades 6 to 9) and covers individual entrance fees to sports facilities such as the ice rink, swimming pool, and others.

SPORT ASSOCIATION

This fee is a contribution paid by students to participate in the National School Sports Union. It covers access to organized sports activities, training sessions, and competitions throughout the school year.

REMOTE PLATFORM ACCESS

Fees for the operation and maintenance of our remote learning platforms.

ACCOMPAGNEMENT PERSONNALISÉ EN FRANÇAIS (APF)

APF is intended for students who still require additional, individualized support in French. This support is provided **for 1 to 2 hours per week** (instead of French Language & Literature class) and is designed to help students strengthen their language skills. Their level will be assessed at the beginning of the school year by our teaching staff.

To help us plan our classes effectively, you may select this option in the enrollment form if you anticipate that your child will need it from the start of their time at our school. An adjustment will be made at the beginning of the year based on the student's actual needs.

FRANÇAIS LANGUE D'ACQUISITION (FLA)

This support **is mandatory for non-French-speaking students** to ensure they can successfully continue their education under the best possible conditions at our school. Students will **receive 3 to 4 hours** of instruction per week (option replaces French Language & Literature class), and their level will be assessed at the beginning of the school year by our teaching staff.

To help us plan our classes effectively, you may select this option in the enrollment form if you anticipate that your child will need it from the start of their time at our school. An adjustment will be made at the beginning of the year based on the student's actual needs.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Is an educational initiative that encourages students to develop innovative solutions to complex, open-ended challenges. It emphasizes teamwork, critical thinking, and creativity, often through competitions where students tackle real-world or imaginative problems in areas like science, technology, and the arts. The goal is to build problem-solving skills that are both practical and inventive. Our students will participate in a competition in Berlin. The trip will cost around 400€.

BIA (BREVET D'INITIATION AÉRONAUTIQUE)

This option provides students with a comprehensive foundation in key areas of aeronautics. It includes 120 hours of classes spread over two years (9th and 10th grade) and leads to the Aeronautics Initiation Certificate.

Classes take place on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Registration will be made at the beginning of the school year with the teacher in charge of this option (Mr. Rongemaille).

FINANCIAL AID

REDUCED FEES

It is possible to apply for reduced fees (Grade 6 to 9) when the family's income is under 85k€/year (subject to annual review).

Please note that this income threshold **is for guidance only** and the final decision is made by the head of school, based on a comprehensive assessment of the family's situation. Please note that the decision **cannot be reconsidered**.

All requests must be submitted through an online form, which will be available when completing the final enrollment/re-enrollment in April/May via the *Ecole Directe* portal. Login information is usually sent to families in April

SIBLING DISCOUNT

The sibling discount is automatically applied to families paying the regular rate. For families on the reduced rate, the sibling discount **will be determined by the head of the institution based on family circumstances**.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available in various forms: The “**Bourse Chapitre**” is a support fund made possible through the *Saint Thomas Foundation* and is primarily intended for one-time assistance with school meals or other additional school-related expenses.

We also offer a “**Fonds de Solidarité Interne**” to help support students with more costly projects, such as school trips abroad. Additionally, we provide **meal assistance**, co-financed by the school's sponsors, to help cover school lunch costs.

Please note that families can only apply for the “Bourse Chapitre” and “Fonds de Solidarité Interne” after their child is officially enrolled at our school. Scholarship campaigns typically start in November, about one month after the school year begins.

VOLUNTARY DONATION

This donation supports students' well-being and enhances the quality of their education. It helps fund educational resources and improvements to school facilities that benefit every student.

As public funding is legally limited, each family is invited to determine its level of support according to its income.

As a donation to a public-interest organization, **it is tax-deductible: 66% of your gift may be deducted from your income tax, up to 20% of taxable income** (subject to current tax law).

WHAT AMOUNT SHOULD I INDICATE ?

- The annual income amounts shown in the table below are provided to help you determine your contribution, which qualifies for a tax deduction.
- Each family is invited, in **good conscience**, to decide the level of contribution they wish to make. The suggested amounts do not take into account your personal circumstances, nor the spirit of solidarity and sharing without which we could not remain open to all. In this spirit, any additional contribution will be most welcome.

SUGGESTED DONATION SCALE 2026-2027

	Number of children				amount	After-tax amount
	1	2	3	4 and more		
- Category 7 - For households with a taxable income above:	> €50,000	> €53,000	> €56,000	> €59,000	€2,800	€952
- Category 6 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €50,000	< €53,000	< €56,000	< €59,000	€2,000	€680
- Category 5 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €40,000	< €43,000	< €46,400	< €49,400	€1,450	€493
- Category 4 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €34,400	< €37,400	< €40,400	< €43,400	€980	€333
- Category 3 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €27,400	< €30,400	< €33,400	< €36,400	€660	€224
- Category 2 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €20,400	< €23,400	< €26,400	< €29,400	€350	€119
- Category 1 - For households with a taxable income under:	< €13,450	< €16,450	< €19,450	< €22,450	€120	€41