



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. ADMISSIONS

- [What are the guidelines for admissions?](#)
- [Are there waiting lists?](#)
- [Is there an application fee?](#)
- [Is there an entrance exam?](#)
- [Is there a deadline for applications?](#)
- [When will I know if my child has been accepted?](#)
- [Does the school offer financial assistance, bursaries or scholarships?](#)
- [I can't access my admissions application \(e.g. my password does not work\), what should I do?](#)
- [What does the school do to assist in transition for incoming students?](#)

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- [What are the school hours?](#)
- [Does the school offer After School Care?](#)
- [Does the school have a variety of sports and after-school activities on offer?](#)
- [What is the average class size?](#)
- [What are the main differences between the three campuses?](#)
- [Do you offer a bus service?](#)
- [How do we choose a campus?](#)
- [Do you offer a cafeteria?](#)
- [How many students attend the school?](#)
- [Is there a holiday programme?](#)
- [What opportunities are there for parental involvement?](#)
- [Is there a boarding house?](#)
- [Do you have a dress code or uniform?](#)
- [How do you cater for children with allergies?](#)
- [What is the code of conduct in your school \(policy on drugs, alcohol, use of mobile phones\)?](#)
- [How does the school communicate with parents?](#)
- [Where do the teachers come from?](#)
- [Is the programme offered different to that which is offered in Swiss or French schools?](#)
- [How many different nationalities are there in the school?](#)
- [Do you have a band or orchestra programme?](#)



3. ACADEMICS

- [Where can I find more information about the curriculum?](#)
- [What examinations/diplomas are prepared for?](#)
- [Does the IB DP \(International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme\) allow entrance to universities worldwide?](#)
- [Where do your students go to university after leaving school?](#)
- [What are the school's IB Diploma results?](#)
- [What support and provision does the school make for children with special educational needs?](#)
- [Do you have a programme for gifted children?](#)
- [How does the school assess pupil progress?](#)
- [What is your homework policy?](#)
- [How do children manage when they have to leave and reintegrate into their national systems?](#)

4. LANGUAGE LEARNING

- [Is support provided for children who do not have English or French as a first language?](#)
- [Is the school an English/French bilingual school?](#)
- [What other languages are offered and in which classes?](#)
- [Do you offer a Mother Tongue programme?](#)



1. ADMISSIONS

What are the guidelines for admissions?

Please refer to our [admissions process](#)

Are there waiting lists?

There are application lists in most years. We do however see many students arrive and depart throughout the school year so it is always worth contacting us to discuss availability of places. The applicants are placed on the application list according to the date at which you submit your application. Therefore the earlier you apply the greater your chances of obtaining a place.

Is there an application fee?

Yes. There is a non-refundable, non-deferable application fee of 250 CHF per child.

Is there an entrance exam?

There is no entrance examination, however, the school may request further relevant information, administer placement tests or request an extra interview with applicants if deemed necessary.

Is there a deadline for applications?

There is no deadline for applications. We accept applications throughout the year and allocate places subject to the availability of places. Parents can also apply in advance for future academic years.

When will I know if my child has been accepted?

For September entry, we start offering places after the completion of our re-enrollment process (at the end of March) and continue to offer places as and when they become available throughout the summer until the end of August.

For certain classes which are not dependent on departures we may offer places as early as February. For children joining us after the beginning of the school year in September, you should know whether your child has been accepted within 2-3 weeks, dependant on availability of places.

You are always welcome to contact the Admissions Department to enquire about the status of your child's application. Email: admissions@ecolint.ch, telephone: +41 22 787 26 30

Does the school offer financial assistance, bursaries or scholarships?

Bursaries are normally for one year only and are for students who are already attending the International School of Geneva. The Bursary Committee allocates financial assistance, with the funds available to those in need. Application forms may be obtained from the Finance Director's office laurent.falvert@ecolint.ch

I can't access my admissions application (e.g. my password does not work), what should I do?

For any technical difficulties with your online application, kindly contact webmaster@ecolint.ch.



What does the school do to assist in transition for incoming students?

We have Orientation Day/Open House events before the start of the school year to welcome all new students and their families. During the first term there are a number of induction activities to help new students establish themselves.



2. GENERAL INFORMATION

What are the school hours?

Age by 31.08	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Ecolint years	PR	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
La Grande Boissière	Primary School						Middle School			Secondary School						
Class starts	8.30						8.15			8.15						
Dismissal	15.00 (Mo, We, Fr: 12.00)	15.00 (We: 12.00)	15.00 (We: 12.00)	15.00 (We: 12.00)	15.40 (We: 12.30)			15.05 (Thu: 15:50)		15:50 (Mon: 15:05)	16:35					
Buses departure	*		15:40													
La Châtaigneraie	Primary School						Secondary School									
Class starts	8.10						8.10			8.10						
Dismissal	2.55 (Mo, We, Fri: 12.00)	14.55 (We: 12.00)				3.15			4.50							
Buses departure	*		1st service: 15:25 / 2nd service: 17:00													
Campus des Nations	Early Years (Pregny)				Primary School			Secondary School								
Class starts	8.15 (Doors open), 8.30 (School starts)				8.10			8.10								
Dismissal	3.15 (Mo, We, Fr: 12.15)				3.10 (We: 12.10)			15:30			16:15					
Buses departure	*		Shuttle to Saconnex: 15:15		15:45											

* For security reasons children under the age of 5 are not allowed to use the transport service

Does the school offer After School Care?

We offer an After School Care programme for our Early Years and Primary students. Within after school care, children have the opportunity to take part in a variety of fun activities which will have been carefully planned by the After School Care Co-ordinator and After School Care Assistants.

Further information, Terms and Conditions and registration forms for After School Care can be found within the Ecolint internal website.

Does the school have a variety of sports and after-school activities on offer?

Our school offers a very wide programme of sporting and cultural activities. The aim is to develop the students as individuals, enrich their learning experience and widen their horizons and develop their teamwork abilities. Each campus provides a variety of competitive and recreational sports available, coordinated by the Sports Directors. Also available for our Early Years and Primary students is After School Care.



Some examples of our extra-curricular activities*:

Climbing wall, pottery, badminton, film production, debating club, table tennis, theatre, swimming, choir, ballet, multisports, basketball, athletics, mother tongue tuition in a range of languages, music tuition

**These activities vary depending on the campus and the school.*

What is the average class size?

Across the Foundation class sizes are limited to 22 students for Pre-Reception and Reception. For Years 1 to 11 the maximum size is 24 students.

The maximum size of examination groups in Years 12 and 13 will normally be limited to:

- a) 18 students for courses that normally have 5 or more periods per week.
- b) 22 students for courses of less than 5 periods per week.
- c) The size of mixed groups (different exam targets or different I.B. levels) will normally be limited to 18 students.

What are the main differences between the three campuses?

To refer to the different academic and language programmes offered on each of our three campuses, please see our programme overview at <http://www.ecolint.ch/programmes-results/bespoke-curriculum-every-child>. La Grande Boissière offers school-based Primary, Middle School and Lower Secondary School programmes and the Diploma Programme in French and English; La Châtaigneraie offers the IB PYP, IGCSEs, the IB Diploma Programme and Maturité Suisse; Campus des Nations offers the IB PYP, IB MYP, IB DP and IBCP. Senior students completing the ESP programme at Nations can follow the ASDAN programme. All three campuses offer a US-style High School Diploma.

Do you offer a bus service?

Yes, we offer a bus service at each campus, covering Geneva, Vaud and the French border area. For security reasons children under the age of 5 are not allowed to use the transport service.

For further details about our bus service, please see page 12 of [the General and Financial Conditions](#) 2016-2017.

How do we choose a campus?

On the online application form available at <http://www.ecolint.ch/admissions/welcome-admissions> you have the opportunity to choose your campus in order of preference. You do not need to complete all three choices.

Do you offer a cafeteria?

All three of our campuses offer a restaurant service run by Novae. The restaurants are authorised to use the quality label "Fourchette Verte Junior".

The following are offered :

- varied, attractive and balanced menus, controlled by the Novae dietician
- special events, weeks with themes to discover new tastes
- vending machines containing selected products following the criteria of the 'Ecole en Santé'
- Novae is committed to listening to its clients' needs and wishes, offering a quality service in collaboration with local producers and respecting the environment.

For more information please see page 11 of [the General and Financial Conditions](#) 2016-2017.



How many students attend the school?

The International School of Geneva is the largest and oldest international school in the world. At the time of writing (July 2016) there are around 4,425 students enrolled. La Grande Boissiere Secondary has 770 students; La Grande Boissiere Middle has 550 students; La Grande Boissiere Primary has 550 students; Campus des Nations Secondary has 525 students; Campus des Nations Saconnex (Primary) has 280 students; Campus des Nations Pregny (Early Years) has 180 students; La Châtaigneraie Secondary has 970 students; La Châtaigneraie Primary has 600 students.

Is there a holiday programme?

Yes. We run a variety of exciting activities at our Ecolint Summer Camps in July and August including: creative play; multi-activity; multi-sports; dance; drama; English through drama; French through drama; cookery; adventure challenge. We welcome children aged 3 to 14. Our coaches and assistants are highly qualified and mostly bilingual (French/English). Please see the following link for further details: www.ecolint-camps.ch

What opportunities are there for parental involvement?

Each campus has an active PTA. A variety of events are organised throughout the year including bake sales, book sales and bazaars. One of the highlights of the Ecolint year is the 'Kermesse' (summer fair). A truly international event which runs on each campus, with fun activities for children and delicious food available from different countries. Ecolint welcomes and appreciates parental involvement in different ways: through giving careers advice to students; giving mock interviews; helping on the PTA; offering work experience opportunities; providing expert help to the DG or the Governing Board; running workshops or giving presentations; helping with class trips to name but a few.

Is there a boarding house?

The International School of Geneva does not have boarding facilities. Students attending the school must reside with one or both of their parents or a legal guardian living in the Geneva area.

Do you have a dress code or uniform?

There is no uniform at The International School of Geneva, however, students are expected to dress suitably, comfortably and safely for a busy working day. Please check with your child's school Principal or class teacher for the requirements at your child's school regarding clothing for Physical Education classes.

How do you cater for children with allergies?

Children and young adults who are affected can lead a normal school life as long as there is good communication and cooperation between the school, parents, nurses and teaching staff. The Foundation's schools cannot provide a trigger-free environment, but we can work with parents to manage the condition, take sensible precautions and give appropriate support. The key ingredient is that the school and parents both play their part in working together. Please write to communications@ecolint.ch to get a copy of our Foundation policy on allergies.

What is the code of conduct in your school (policy on drugs, alcohol, use of mobile phones)?



This matter is addressed through several Foundation policies and each school has its specific Code of Conduct. Please write to communications@ecolint.ch with specific questions or to get a copy of our policies.

How does the school communicate with parents?

Each school communicates with families via a password-protected section of the Ecolint website called the 'community portal'. You will be given access to this section once your child is fully enrolled. In this section you will find newsletters from the school principals, school calendars, relevant information and class pages. You will also find information about extra-curricular activities (music, sports, Mother Tongue programme, arts etc) in this section. Your child's class teacher will advise the best way for you to communicate with them on a day to day basis. When you enrol your child, you will be asked to complete an 'emergency card' by the school secretary - it is essential that the school always has access to your most up to date contact information. Communication about pupil progress takes place a number of times throughout the year depending on the age and stage of your child. This will be in the form of student-led conferences or parent-teacher meetings, as well as "open house" events in primary. You are welcome to speak to your child's class teacher at any time about pupil progress.

Where do the teachers come from?

Our teachers have come to us from over 30 different countries bringing with them a wealth of experience of national education systems. All teachers have mother tongue or high level fluency in their principal language of instruction and are expected to have mastery of both the Foundation's languages of instruction, English and French.

Is the programme offered different to that which is offered in Swiss or French schools?

The International School of Geneva offers a range of international education programmes. Please refer to our 'programme overview' for information specific to each campus :

<http://www.ecolint.ch/programmes-results/ bespoke-curriculum-every-child>.

Our aim at the International School of Geneva is to provide a distinctive, high quality international education through which all our students are helped to develop their abilities to the highest level of their potential. The international education programme at the International School of Geneva allows children to make a smooth transition from one education programme to another.

How many different nationalities are there in the school?

We have a total of around 140 different nationalities within the Foundation.

Do you have a band or orchestra programme?

Yes. A wide range of individual music tuition is available in addition to the music lessons which form part of our curriculum. Private lessons are available in a range of instruments depending on which campus your child is enrolled at (e.g. Classical Piano, Suzuki piano, Jazz Piano, Violin, Cello, Double bass, Flutes, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, French Horn, Trumpet, Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar, Folk Guitar, Bass guitar, Drums, Percussion, Voice, Music & Technology).

In addition there are ensembles and several orchestras within the International School of Geneva.



3. ACADEMICS

Where can I find more information about the curriculum?

The International School of Geneva offers a range of international education programmes. Please refer to our 'programme overview' for information specific to each campus and see our 'Curriculum Guides' which are available as downloads on the page <http://www.ecolint.ch/programmes-results/bespoke-curriculum-every-child>. Our aim at the International School of Geneva is to provide a distinctive, high quality international education through which all our students are helped to develop their abilities to the highest level of their potential.

What examinations/diplomas are prepared for?

We offer a range of different examinations/diplomas according to the curriculum programmes we follow in our schools. At La Grande Boissière, Secondary School students work towards the International Baccalaureate Diploma. At La Châtaigneraie Secondary students can work towards IGCSE (International General Certificate of Education), the International Baccalaureate Diploma and the Maturité Suisse. At Campus des Nations Secondary, students work towards the International Baccalaureate and the IBCP (International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme). The High School Diploma is offered at the three campuses. For further information on our curriculum programmes please see our programme overview and the curriculum guides for each school <http://www.ecolint.ch/fr/programmes>.

Does the IB DP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) allow entrance to universities worldwide?

Yes, the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme allows entrance to universities worldwide, as does the Maturité Suisse.

Where do your students go to university after leaving school?

Please see the list of college and university destinations from previous years at the following link <http://www.ecolint.ch/programmes-results/examination-results>

What are the school's IB Diploma results?

Foundation statistics for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Swiss Maturité can be found here <http://www.ecolint.ch/programmes-results/examination-results>

What support and provision does the school make for children with special educational needs?

The International School of Geneva strives to help all students realise their full potential and provides an inclusive education for all students. Through in-class support from teachers and through our Learning Support (LS) Departments and specialist LS staff we support a wide range of learning needs and styles. For further information about the Learning Support provision available at each of our campuses, please follow this link.

Do you have a programme for gifted children?



We have some specific activities for gifted students and we also ensure that the curriculum is differentiated to ensure that all students have an appropriate level of challenge within the classroom.

How does the school assess pupil progress?

Students are assessed through a wide range of formative and summative measures according to the age and stage of each child.

What is your homework policy?

Homework requirements and guidelines will differ according to the age and stage of the student. Please seek advice primarily from your child's class teacher for clarification on any homework-related questions. Well-designed assessment tasks should attempt to minimize external, material or culturally-specific influences that can affect student performance because they are suitable to some learners but not all of them. Homework assignments should not rely on the availability of equipment, home-learning environments and parent dispositions, but should focus on minimal resources and student-centred factors that have been established and monitored correctly in the classroom.

How do children manage when they have to leave and reintegrate into their national systems?

Very well. In general, the feedback we receive is that students are ahead of their peers in their national system though inevitably differences in curriculum may mean that different topics have been studied.



4. LANGUAGE LEARNING

Is the school an English/French bilingual school?

The school offers Francophone, Anglophone and Bilingual programmes, depending on the campus. <http://www.ecolint.ch/fr/programmes>

Is support provided for children who do not have English or French as a first language?

Ecolint prides itself on the cultural and linguistic diversity of both its students and teachers. It is therefore not uncommon for students to arrive from various linguistic backgrounds and require additional support in the primary language of instruction at their school. The aim of the English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme or French as an Additional Language (FAL) programme (depending on which school your child attends) is to support the development of academic and social language that is relevant to the needs of each student. Across all campuses of the Foundation, EAL/FAL teams ensure that additional language support is provided either in class or in a safe yet challenging learning environment which promotes student confidence and independence.

What other languages are offered and in which classes?

A third language is introduced as of Year 7: Spanish and German at La Grande Boissière and La Châtaigneraie, as well as Spanish and Mandarin at Nations; Italian is introduced in Year 10 at La Grande Boissière and La Châtaigneraie.

Do you offer a Mother Tongue programme?

Ecolint offers an extensive mother tongue programme. Further information can be found on this link: <http://www.ecolint.ch/beyond-classroom/world-languages-programme>