



EXPLORE

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

EXPERIENCE

OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT

DISCOVER

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

LA CHÂTAIGNERAIE

La Châtaigneraie campus is nestled in the countryside in the Canton de Vaud, in Founex, 20 minutes from Geneva and 40 minutes from Lausanne. With breathtaking views in every direction, the campus is ideally situated overlooking Lake Geneva and with the Alps and the Jura on either side.

The school aims to develop the full academic and personal potential of each of its 1,500 students through a stimulating and varied academic programme in an international and bilingual environment. All programmes lead towards either the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme or the Swiss maturité fédérale.

The campus comprises two schools:

The Primary School building has specialist classrooms for languages, learning support, art, music, as well as an auditorium, a gym designed for our youngest students, a well-stocked library, a cafeteria, and an infirmary. Students have a number of outdoor play and learning spaces, with specially designed equipment for students of different ages.

The Secondary School can accommodate some 1,000 students, in a range of 19th and 20th century buildings built around a central green courtyard and surrounded by gardens, forests and fields. Departments are located in specialist rooms, including laboratories, assembly halls, IT suites, a music studio, a theatre, a library, a cafeteria and a sports complex. Outside, students have the use of an all weather football pitch, a basketball court and a number of green areas for their general recreation.

A new Campus Hub is currently under construction. This modern, multifunctional building will serve as a vibrant center for collaboration, learning, and well-being, bringing together students, teachers, and parents from both the Primary and Secondary Schools. The Campus Hub is due to open at the start of the 2027 academic year.

As a fully inclusive school, we also have an Extended Support Programme for students with moderate to severe learning difficulties, which is unique to the International School of Geneva.

Why choose La Châtaigneraie ?

We are an authorised International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school (PYP). The PYP is a rigorous and innovative, inquiry-based programme that is recognised around the world. We also offer an innovative dual language teaching model which enables learners of all ages and linguistic backgrounds to develop their proficiency in both English and French, irrespective of the dominant language programme chosen.

Students in lower secondary (Years 7 to 9) follow the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), accredited in 2025, before moving into either the anglophone Year 10 and 11 programme, which prepares students for the International GCSE examinations followed by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), or the francophone maturité suisse programme.

The majority of students follow the IBDP, which was created at the International School of Geneva in the late 1960s. While most subjects are taught in English, the diploma is also available as a bilingual qualification. La Châtaigneraie is also the only campus in the Foundation to offer the Swiss national maturité diploma, reflecting the close link that exists between the school and the local community. The maturité suisse is accepted by universities worldwide, and can be taken as either a francophone or bilingual diploma.

We look forward to showing you around our school.

Pre-Reception to Year 6

In our Primary School, your child will follow the Primary Years Programme (PYP) of the International Baccalaureate. All students follow this course of study in both English and French as our Foundation is devoted to dual language study. Students have a wide range of opportunities to study about and in both languages. During the eight years of Primary School we aim to develop every child's knowledge, skills and understanding in all subject areas to a high standard. Your child will be encouraged to become an independent, responsible and competent learner. This is achieved through integrated programmes of study culminating in the Year 6 extended, in-depth and collaborative research project called the PYP Exhibition.

Moving to the next stage

Developing your child's independence and academic ability is critical to ensuring a smooth transition from the Primary School into the Secondary School. This transition is further facilitated by the proximity of the Secondary buildings and some shared facilities between both Primary and Secondary. It marks an important change and children are excited about the increased responsibilities they will assume and the greater challenges they will face. We also welcome children from other schools each year, both from local schools and from abroad.

At Ecolint, our mission is to encourage students to become active world citizens. Our School provides many opportunities for students to engage with the ethical, environmental and political challenges of their times, and we draw on a wealth of local and international resources in order for them to do so.



A solid start in Secondary School

In the first three years of Secondary School, your child will study within the rigorous framework of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). This curriculum demands high standards across a wide range of subjects, including multiple languages, the arts, sciences, mathematics, Individuals & Societies, design and physical education. Teaching is delivered in English, in French, or through a bilingual pathway, supported by targeted language reinforcement for non-native speakers to ensure academic fluency.

Under the guidance of the Academic and Pastoral Assistant Principals, our Heads of Department and Heads of Year ensure a smooth transition from Primary School. The MYP at La Châtaigneraie goes far beyond basic transition; challenging students through eleven subjects and

Interdisciplinary Units (IDUs), where they must synthesize knowledge from disparate subjects to solve complex, real-world problems. This intellectual discipline culminates in the Year 9 Community Project, a significant independent undertaking where students demonstrate their research and service-learning capabilities.

To complement this academic intensity, all Middle School students participate in our comprehensive Creativity Week in June. This programme pushes them out of their comfort zones, fostering innovation and resilience through immersive projects and trips. By the end of Year 9, students have developed the critical thinking and self-management skills necessary to make informed, ambitious curricular choices as they advance into Year 10.



Looking to the future

Students in Years 10 and 11 either study the anglophone IGCSE curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, or choose to move into the francophone *maturité suisse* path. Both programmes grant access to higher or further education. We aim to support our students' goals by counselling them towards the most appropriate path, which depends largely on their linguistic and academic abilities and interests. La Châtaigneraie students generally aim for university or other post secondary education, with many getting into the top universities all over the world, and the majority accessing their first choice university.

All students at La Châtaigneraie are encouraged to develop their skills, interests and personal values both through the academic curriculum and the wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities on offer. Whether students are keen athletes,

champion debaters, computer whizzkids or budding writers, our extra curricular programme offers opportunities for them to explore their potential. We also have an extremely successful Music School and popular World Languages Programme to help students maintain their mother tongue or learn additional languages. As a Foundation which has always had strong humanitarian values at its core, we also provide opportunities for students to participate in humanitarian and charity projects, either close to home in the Lac Léman area, or on various organised activities in countries as far afield as India, Tanzania and Nepal.

An education at La Châtaigneraie will enable your child to achieve his or her potential in the broadest possible international context. Our programmes and our school life are designed to lead our students to be resourceful, responsible, confident and successful adults.



Wellbeing at the school is the foundation that enables students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our approach recognises that learning and wellbeing are inseparable; students learn best when they feel safe, supported, included, and connected to their community. The school therefore prioritises a proactive and preventative model that combines safeguarding, mental health support, strong pastoral care, and a positive school culture.

Our focus is on building students' emotional resilience, promoting healthy relationships, and ensuring that all students feel a sense of belonging. Key priorities include early identification and support for mental health needs, safeguarding and student safety, responsible digital engagement, and inclusive practices that support diverse learning and wellbeing needs.

This vision is delivered through a whole-school approach that brings together mentors, Heads of Year, specialist wellbeing staff, student leadership, and parent engagement. By strengthening these systems and partnerships, the school aims to equip students not only to succeed in school but also to develop the self-awareness, coping strategies, and social responsibility needed to flourish beyond it.

>>> YOUR ROUTE THROUGH LA CHÂTAIGNERAIE >>>

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Pre-Reception and Reception

Learning in the Early Years classes focuses on exposing students to both English and French and on building a solid base for successful learning throughout the Primary Years Programme (PYP). Parents are asked to designate either French or English as their child's Language A. During the week, your child will be involved in language learning activities in both their Language A and Language B.

Year 1

From Year 1, students will move into an English or French classroom depending on which of these languages is their Language A. Strong foundations are laid in reading, writing and mathematics.

Years 1-6

Literacy and mathematics, as well as the heart of the Units of Inquiry (research in humanities and sciences) are taught by the class teacher in the Language A. In addition, students have Language B lessons each week. Language B is used to instruct classes in PE, Music and Theatre/Visual Arts when the students are with specialist teachers.

Year 6

The PYP Exhibition is the culmination of the Primary Years Programme and sets students up for their transition to Secondary.

Years 7-9

In the first three years of secondary school, the broad-based curriculum available in French, English or in dual language, requires that students become increasingly autonomous and take on progressively greater challenges.

Years 10 and 11 (Anglophone)

Year 10 students all complete the 10INTEGRATE group projects, collaborating with real-world NGOs to showcase their leadership, advocacy, and personal growth. At the end of Year 11, students can either sit the IGCSE examinations or internal examinations (pre-IB) as they prepare for the Diploma.

Years 12 and 13 (Anglophone)

The two-year IB Diploma course can be accredited as a single or bilingual qualification depending on the options taken. In Year 13, students sit their final examinations in May

Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 (Francophone)

The *maturité suisse* programme can be accredited in its traditional form, in French, or as a bilingual qualification, depending upon the options taken.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At La Châtaigneraie, school life and learning extend well beyond the classroom. In addition to the outstanding academic programme, there is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer with recreational and competitive sports, music, art and theatre as well as discussion groups, mother tongue language lessons, school publications and humanitarian projects focused on different regions of the world.

The following is a selection of activities offered at La Châtaigneraie:

SPORTS	<p>School teams participate in local, national and international activities in a wide range of sporting events at different levels, and also the "Course de l'Escalade" in Geneva.</p> <p>Large numbers of students participate in the school's recreational sports.</p> <p>Currently, we offer the International Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level.</p> <p>SPORTS+ Programme – Aimed at top-level student athletes who want to succeed both academically and athletically. SPORTS+ is suitable for students of all ages, whatever their sport.</p> <p>SPORTS+ is the first student-centred programme offered in an international school that supports both the athletic and the academic dimensions.</p>
AFTER SCHOOL CARE AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	<p>Extra-Curricular Activities include swimming, choir, ballet, art club, karate, judo, football, basketball, athletics, band, a coding club and a comprehensive range of musical instruments. During the summer holidays we offer camps with many exciting activities. The "World Languages Programme" provides mother tongue tuition in more than 20 different languages and has the ability to provide others as necessary.</p>
THEATRE, MUSIC, ART AND CULTURE	<p>Year 13 IB Diploma Art Exhibition.</p> <p>Within the Extra-Curricular Activities, students can join the ENCORE Performing Arts Academy and the Music School, both designed to enhance creative expression and skill development.</p> <p>ENCORE offers professional-level training in the performing arts and offers programs in dance, drama, and LAMDA qualifications.</p> <p>Our music programme is well articulated at all levels of study from Pre-Reception to Year 13 classes. It works towards preparing performances for parents and the extended La Châtaigneraie community, and includes a community choir and orchestra. We also have a dynamic Music School where students and parents can take music theory and individual instrumental lessons with highly qualified teachers and participate in orchestras and choirs. These courses lead to ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) certification.</p>
VISUAL ARTS	<p>Visual arts are valued at all levels of the curricula. Class and specialist teachers introduce students to a wide variety of media which enrich the exploration of the units of inquiry being studied in class. Students are also involved in community exhibitions and have the chance to work with visiting artists.</p>
SERVICE LEARNING	<p>The school is involved in a wide variety of initiatives to help students learn that every small effort can make a difference. Students are encouraged to think beyond their classroom walls to consider how and where they might make a contribution, both in individual efforts and campus-wide initiatives such as our recent "No Single-Use Plastic Campus" project.</p>
CROSS CURRICULAR	<p>Across all programmes, the school seeks to find authentic connections between the concepts being studied and the plethora of organisations and expertise in the area. Excursions, visiting speakers and engagement in community events ensure that students have opportunities to connect theory and hands-on experience.</p>
CONFERENCES, DEBATES	<p>The school offers a Debating Club, an opportunity to participate in The Student League of Nations (the world's first model UN simulation, which was created at Ecolint), and various conferences in Switzerland and beyond.</p>
EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL TRIPS	<p>The programme of excursions, from one-day to overnight and week-long trips takes students to destinations such as the French and Swiss Alps, Ardèche, Strasbourg, Sevilla, Berlin, Venice, Kenya, Nepal and India. Year 11 students undertake a World of Work Week where they organise a placement with an employer.</p>
PUBLICATIONS	<p>Students run their own online journal, The Update, providing journalistic commentary and films on events happening in school and the local community.</p>
KERMESSE	<p>In June our active Parent Teacher Association presents its annual Kermesse. This community gathering allows our families and visitors to sample distinctive national cuisines and cultures. It also provides a great opportunity for alumni to meet up with their former school friends.</p>