

# Higher Education in France for IB & International Students

Summary prepared by Being & Becoming Consulting

**Overview:** France offers globally recognized higher education opportunities across public universities, grandes écoles, and private institutions. International and IB students benefit from affordable tuition, bilingual programs, and clear admission procedures.

## Main Pathways:

- Public Universities – Accessible through the DAP or Parcoursup, with low tuition fees.
- Grandes Écoles – Prestigious and selective, often requiring entrance exams.
- Private Institutions – Offer flexibility and specialized tracks.
- English-taught Programs – Increasingly available across disciplines.

## What is DAP (Demande d'Admission Préalable)?

The DAP is a mandatory pre-admission process for non-EU students applying to the first year (Licence 1) of French universities. There are two types: DAP Verte (for applicants abroad) and DAP Jaune (for those residing in France).

Applications open in October and close on December 15 for the following academic year.

## Typical Application Requirements:

- High school transcripts and IB Diploma
- Motivation letter in French or English
- Proof of French (DELF/TCF) or English proficiency (IELTS/TOEFL)
- Letters of recommendation
- Copy of passport
- Visa and proof of funds for non-EU applicants

## Recommended Timeline:

- 9–12 months before intake: Research and shortlist programs.
- October–December: Submit DAP application (if applicable).
- January–March: Apply to selective or private institutions.
- April–June: Receive decisions and begin visa process.
- September: Arrive and begin studies.

## Sample Institutions Welcoming IB Students:

- Sciences Po (International Track)
- Université de Bordeaux
- Université de Strasbourg
- IÉSEG School of Management
- EDHEC Business School
- ESSCA Grande École

## **Consultant Strategy:**

Being & Becoming Consulting supports students in academic profiling, identifying best-fit programs, preparing motivation letters, and navigating French admission systems like DAP and Parcoursup. The focus is on clarity, confidence, and cross-cultural readiness.

**Sources:** *Campus France (2025), Sciences Po Admissions, Université de Bordeaux, IÉSEG, EDHEC, ESSCA.*

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