



# Exploring Your Options

Presentation to 3ème students & parents  
Thursday 10 October 2024



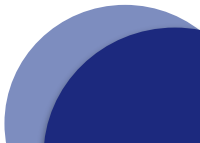
# Introducing the University Guidance Service

## The Team

- Ms David (guidance & advice)
- Ms McKain (administrative support)

## The Service

- Advise and guide students as they research and select courses to apply to using Unifrog
- Provide feedback and advice on writing personal statements and managing the application process
- From 2nde onwards: individual rdv with students to look at their choices and plan their applications





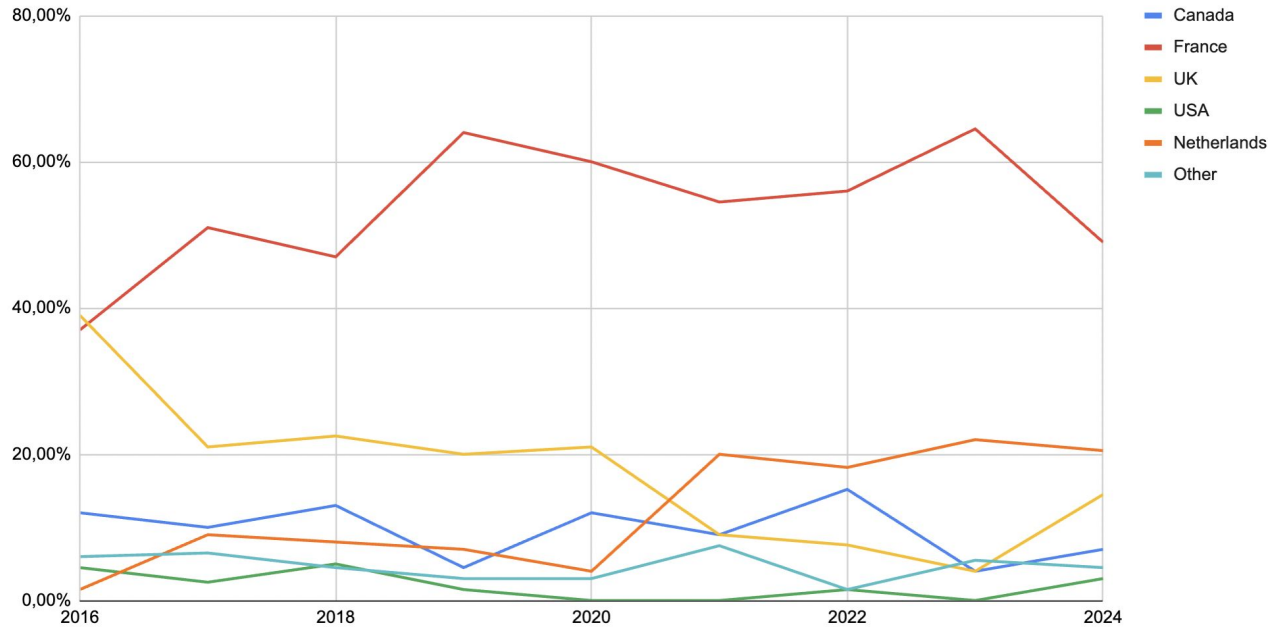
# Thinking about your University choices - is it really time to start?

- Applying to university is the first exciting step you will take into your future adult life!
- It is **YOUR** decision - not your teachers, not your parents, not your friends.
- It might seem very far away but there are some steps you can think about now.
  - Depending on your choices you might need to take very specific subjects in your final years of school and / or do work experience, stages and internships before applying.
- Our role is to **advise** with the application process, not to place students in specific courses or organise your placements for you!



# Where did our Terminale students go?

Anglophone Section Graduates Destinations



Generally, 100% of our students go on to higher education after Terminale.

Last year 51% of our students went on to study outside France in Canada, UK, Netherlands and elsewhere.

Map on the Anglophone Section website showing student destinations after Te <https://www.csianglo.org/universityguidance>

# Where do I start?!

**Q: What do you want to do after school?**

**A: Travel? Work? Study? Maybe all three!**



Points to consider:

- What are you passionate about? Which areas of study inspire you?
- What fields do you want to work in after university and which courses will qualify you for that work?
  - Getting a degree in a subject does not mean you will *only* work in that subject area. A degree is a sign of transferable skills, knowledge and experience.
- What obstacles stand in your way and how will you overcome them?
  - Some universities and courses are **competitive and expensive**, especially for the UK and USA. You may need to start thinking about these issues now to avoid disappointment further down the line.

# What do you want to do in the future?

- Are you passionate about specialising in one specific subject? - **consider the UK & Ireland**
- Do you want to live on a campus, study mostly in class, and have options of exploring a wide range of different subjects before choosing your special later? - **consider a liberal arts course in the USA**
- Do you want to continue to live in a francophone culture where you can study in English & French? - **consider French-speaking Canada**
- Do you want to be able to explore and build your own study program, and have lots of opportunities to work and travel as part of your course? - **consider the Netherlands & Anglophone Canada**





# So what should I be doing in 3ème?

There are several things that you can work on in 3ème and into 2nde.

These include:

- Unifrog tasks: get signed up and start getting to know Unifrog
- Organise a useful *stage*
- Think about doing the *Service nationale universelle*
- Extra-curricular activities & interests
- Wider reading & learning beyond the classroom





# Using Unifrog: research and personal organisation

Unifrog is an online platform which helps students to research and organise their university applications.

**IMPORTANT!** Unifrog is the primary way that the University Guidance Team will communicate with students. Make sure your access is working correctly and get used to using it!

At the start of each holiday the team will set a task for you to complete. We encourage you to get used to the platform and explore the different areas but not to get too bogged down in the actual application process or to start making university shortlists just yet.

**Fun family activities - please do spend some time together exploring courses and options! Parents can watch this video to get started.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXGB4h3Hn44>

- STUDENTS: If you haven't already done it, sign up to Unifrog using the following code **LYOI2027**
- Contact [university@csianglo.org](mailto:university@csianglo.org) if you have any problems accessing your Unifrog account.





# UNIFROG Parent Accounts



Parents can set up a **parent account** on Unifrog using the following code:  
**LYOIParents50**

This can be used to research subjects, institutions, online courses etc and to try out the quizzes and other tools that are available.

It is **not** linked to your child's account and **not** intended to be used to 'track' their progress.

NB: Please don't be tempted to set up a 'fake' student account. Our advisers actively use Unifrog to track individual student progress and the presence of 'fake' student accounts can cause confusion.



# *Stage* - Work Experience

**Dates of the *stage* : 9 to 13 December 2024**

**Why is this important?**

- The “*stage d’observation*” is a compulsory element of the 3ème year.
- In CSI students will be on their *stage* for 5 days between the 9 to 13 December 2024

**This is an important opportunity!**

- Think hard about where you will do your *stage*. You should:
  - target your *stage* towards the courses or areas you are considering studying in the future
    - For example if you considering law Universities in some countries, including the UK, will expect to see some work experience / demonstrable interest in this area.
  - consider how it might relate to your interest or passions, which you could then use as a concrete example in your applications.

# How is the *stage* organised ?

- The dates for the *stage* are set by the French administration. The *prof principal* is the first point of reference.
- The *stage* is an integral part of the 3ème year and students are expected to organise it themselves.
- A “*convention*” is signed by all parties (student, company, parents, school) and returned to the school. In theory, students are just supposed to observe the work of the company during the *stage*.
- After the *stage* students are meant to write up a report about their experience which may (or may not) form the basis of their Brevet oral.



# SNU - *Service National Universelle*

The SNU is a voluntary program run by the French government to encourage young **French citizens** aged between 15 - 17 years old to get more involved in their community and local institutions.

It is comprised of three parts: a two-week team building trip, an 80-hour community service volunteering program and (post-school) an opportunity to extend your involvement in a longer project. It is entirely funded by the government.

If you are eligible it's a great thing to get involved in:

1. It allows you to meet new people and experience life away from your family and friends
2. It offers a framework to become involved in a service/area that interests you through the 80-hour community service.

You can find out more about it here: <https://www.snu.gouv.fr/>





# Extra-Curricular Activities & Interests

## Why are these important?

- Many universities will want to see evidence of academic excellence and signs that you are a well-rounded person who can contribute to the social life of the university. Extra-curriculars provide evidence of this, as well as signs of motivation, organisation, maturity and commitment.
- For some courses like medicine, extra-curriculars involving care and first-aid are essential.
- For US universities extracurriculars are taken into serious consideration as a sign of character development, and can also be used to help you apply for generous scholarships.
- One very useful institution is Scoutisme/ The Scouts - this is extremely well regarded by Anglophone institutions





# Wider Reading & Learning

**Universities are places of learning!** They are looking for passionate and curious students who will challenge themselves, their peers and the tutors with new ways of tackling problems.

In many cases you will not have had the opportunity to study a subject before attending university - so how are you sure you want to spend at least 3 years focussing on it without trying it first? How will you answer interview questions or write a personal statement or motivation letter if you have never read or watched anything about that subject?

- MOOCs - Massive Open Online Courses are great opportunities to learn about a subject - for free!
- Coursera- <https://www.coursera.org/>
- Future Learn- <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- Many of the top institutions you will want to apply to run courses **for free** on these platforms
- Don't forget to make the most of family holidays, local libraries, museums and charitable organisations for more learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Talk to your family and friends about their studies, jobs and careers.



# Summary

- Think about what you want to do. Talk with your parents, your friends and your teachers - but remember that it's your choice.
- Research your options using Unifrog and other platforms.
- Consider the non-academic issues that might impact your decisions: the implications of Brexit, fees and other costs, visas and nationality etc.
- Email [university@csianglo.org](mailto:university@csianglo.org) if you have any questions.
- Make sure you are using **Unifrog** to record competencies, experiences, MOOCs that you complete etc. Use it to help refine your ideas, draft personal statements and organise your applications.

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