

Admissions & Testing

***Information for applicants to the
Anglophone Section at the CSI Lyon***

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1. INTRODUCTION

This guide outlines the key information that parents need to be aware of when applying for their child to join the Anglophone Section at the Cité Scolaire Internationale in Lyon (CSI Lyon). It sets the context for applications and provides some information about what to expect regarding the testing process.

2. APPLYING TO THE CSI LYON & THE ANGLOPHONE SECTION

The Anglophone Section is a fee-paying International Section hosted by the *Cité Scolaire Internationale (CSI) Lyon*, a French public (state) school which functions accordingly.

Each year, applications to the school far exceed the number of places that are available and the CSI Lyon is unable to accept all the candidates that apply. The reasons for this are outlined below.

Firstly, the school is required by the *Académie de Lyon* to apply certain '**priority admissions criteria**' for applicants, which are listed on the CSI Lyon website and below (in English).

- Priority 1: Children from partner institutions (including *Interpol, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Consulates*).
- Priority 2: Non-French speaking children arriving from overseas.
- Priority 3: French-speaking children arriving from overseas.
- Priority 4: Other non-French speaking children already residing in France.

Secondly, the dual-language nature of the curriculum and the *Baccalauréat* programme in lycée is a challenging educational choice, requiring real and sustained commitment by the students. Students need to be linguistically and academically very able, highly motivated and fully engaged in both curriculums. Parents are strongly encouraged to actively support their children throughout their studies in the Anglophone Section within the CSI Lyon. **At all levels students must demonstrate age-appropriate, native-level proficiency in all aspects of English language.**

Parents should also be aware that the **number of places available in certain year groups are particularly limited.** In 2023, for example, only four students were accepted into 1ère, five into 3ème & one into 5ème.

As such, **admission to the Anglophone Section at the CSI Lyon is selective** and all applicants are tested as part of the application process. The testing process is overseen by the CSI Lyon administration working closely with all the International Sections. Families applying to the Anglophone Section need to be aware that the final decision regarding applications rests with the administration of CSI Lyon and not with the Anglophone Section. The Anglophone Section organises the language tests, and reports back to the CSI Lyon administration, but the Anglophone Section cannot guarantee the outcome of any application.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

An administrative fee will be charged for each application to the Anglophone Section. The fee is non-refundable and applicable to all applicants, including those who have applied to the Section previously.

- Applications to primary: €200
- Applications to secondary (*collège & lycée*): €250

The administrative fee(s) should be paid (directly to the Anglophone Section) at the same time as the completed application is submitted to the CSI Lyon administration. Full instructions regarding payment of the administrative fees will be sent to parents along with the application form.

4. LANGUAGE TESTS & OTHER ASSESSMENTS

As part of the process of applying to the CSI Lyon, candidates will be tested to assess their level of English, and possibly French (Primary and Secondary) and Mathematics (Primary only). The results of *all* these tests are taken into account when considering an application. While the candidate's ability to speak, read, write and understand English is obviously very important, the results of any French and Mathematics tests are also a key element of the overall assessment.

4.1. English language level

It is important to note that the Anglophone Section does not teach English, the Section teaches *in* English. Children applying to join the Section will be expected to have age-appropriate, native-level proficiency in all aspects of English language at the time of applying to the CSI Lyon.

4.2. French language level & support for non-French-speaking students

The *mission* of the CSI Lyon is to provide instruction for students who want to follow an international programme within the French education system. Non-French speaking students are expected to be able to integrate into their French classes as soon as possible after arrival at the school. The French teachers will decide when a student no longer needs to attend French language/support classes.

The CSI Lyon provides “French as a second language” classes (FLE/FLS) for students with little or no French. Please note that:

- In primary, pupils will be offered FLS classes (*Français Langue Secondaire*).
- In *collège* (6ème to 3ème) and 2nde students will be offered FLS or FLE (*Français Langue Etrangère*) classes.
- Students applying to 2nde (year 12 / grade 11) who do not have at least a B2 level in French should contact the Anglophone Section to discuss their application.
- Applications to 1ère (year 13 / grade 12) and Terminal (year 14 / grade 13) from non-French speakers will not be accepted. Intensive FLE/FLS support for non-French speakers is not provided for students working towards their *Baccalauréat*.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be requested directly from the CSI Lyon, using the link(s) that will be provided on the website www.csilyon.fr

Completed application *dossiers* are to be submitted directly to the CSI Lyon administration. Please ensure that all application *dossier(s)* are complete: incomplete *dossiers* will not be considered.

Administrative Fee(s) (see Section 3 above) are to be paid directly to the Anglophone Section at the time of submission of the application *dossier(s)*.

All applicants are strongly advised to return their completed *dossier(s)* and to pay the administration fee(s) as soon as possible.

To find out more about the application process:

- All deadlines and other important information will be made available on the Anglophone Section website [How To Apply](#) page as it becomes available.
- Information about the application process will also be made available on the school website www.csilyon.fr at the appropriate time.
- You can use the [Admissions Enquiry Form](#) on the Anglophone Section website or contact the Anglophone Section administration team on admin@csianglo.org.

Please note that the CSI Lyon administration will not necessarily confirm receipt of application *dossiers*.

The specifics of the application process (deadline for return of applications, supporting documents required, arrangements for testing, decision-making process, publication of final results etc) will change each year so please don't rely on any information that you have received in previous years.

Applying for entry to Terminal (year 14 / grade 13)

Applications to join the school in Terminale will only be considered if the applicant has already completed their 1ère year in the BFI programme elsewhere. The BFI programme is a 2-year course of study and it is not possible to begin the programme in Terminale.

6. OVERVIEW OF THE TESTING PROCESS

The language skills of all applicants will be assessed as part of the application process. The purpose of assessing candidates is to evaluate their ability to speak, listen, read and write in English at an age-appropriate, native English-speaker level, and their potential to maintain and develop these skills whilst being educated in a primarily francophone environment.

Grade equivalencies for French, American and English school years are provided in an Appendix at the end of this document.

6.1. Applying to Primary

Applicants will sit tests in English and may be tested in French and Mathematics. While the English tests are organised and carried out by the Anglophone Section, the French and Mathematics tests will be organised by the CSI Lyon administration.

6.1.1. Anglophone Section primary tests

The tests are designed to assess the children's level of spoken and written English. Four key language skills are tested (Speaking & Listening, Reading, Writing and Organisation).

The complexity of the tests increases with the age of the child, as shown in the table below:

	CP	CE1	CE2	CM1	CM2
Speaking & Listening	★	★	★	★	★
Reading		★	★	★	★
Writing		★	★	★	★
Organisation	2 teachers with a group of 4 children.		2 teachers for a group of up to 12 children. Children tested individually for speaking and listening.		

CP (Year 2, 1st Grade)	
Children must:	Be able to talk confidently and fluently and listen well
	Have experience of stories, handling books and recognising rhyme
Activities in the test:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk inspired by manual activities • Discussing / predicting a story • Telling a story using pictures • Listening to a story and showing understanding
Test Info	Children are tested in a group. The test lasts for 45-60 minutes.

CE1 (Year 3, 2nd Grade)	
Children must:	Have confidence and fluency in speaking and listening; be reading in at least one language
Activities in the test:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral comprehension • Reading and discussing a story

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar in sentences • Letter sounds • Creating a short story
Test Info	Children are tested in a group. The test lasts for 45-60 minutes.

CE2 (Year 4, 3rd Grade)	
Children must:	Children must be confident and fluent when speaking and have good listening skills
Children should be:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading early chapter books • Writing short structured texts • Use some basic punctuation • Spelling words either by memory or using their phonic knowledge
Activities in the test:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a reading test to assess their reading age • Oral comprehension of a text (explaining in own words, answering questions) • Listening comprehension (following instructions) • Grammar exercise (using punctuation correctly) • Writing a short story (clear, interesting, high-level vocabulary and punctuation)
Test Info	Children are tested individually for oral activities. The test lasts for 45-60 minutes.

CM1 (Year 5, 4th Grade)	
CM2 (Year 6, 5th Grade)	
Children must:	Be confident and fluent when speaking and listening.
Children should be:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading chapter books • Writing longer, structured texts • Writing sentences that are mostly grammatically correct • Using punctuation more consistently • Using a range of high level vocabulary
Activities in the test:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a reading test to assess their reading age • Oral comprehension of a text (explaining text in own words/answering questions) • Grammar exercise (using punctuation correctly) • Reading comprehension (answering questions about a text) • Writing a story (showing ability to use high level vocabulary, different writing techniques, varied punctuation)
Test Info	Children are tested individually for oral activities. The test lasts for 45-60 minutes.

6.1.2. French & Mathematics primary tests

All applicants to CP will take tests in Maths & French.

All applicants from CE1 - CM2 will take Maths and French tests IF they are not coming from a French educational setting.

The CSI Administration will confirm, on a case-by-case basis, which applicants will need to take French and Maths test as part of the process: this will be shown on the *convocation* that applicants will receive.

6.2. Applying to College & Lycee

Candidates will be tested in English and possibly French. While the English tests are organised and carried out by the Anglophone Section, the French tests will be organised by the CSI Lyon administration.

6.2.1. Anglophone Section *collège* & *lycée* tests: a two-round process

The aim of the tests is to assess the candidates ability to read, write, speak and listen in English, to an age-appropriate native-speaker level.

The Anglophone Section organises a two-round testing process.

Round 1 Testing The first round of testing is a **standardised language test which the candidate will take online**. The test will determine whether the candidate meets the required level of proficiency in terms of their English language skills. Details of the online test will be sent to candidates after their application dossier has been submitted and they have paid the administrative fee.

Shortlisting for Round 2 Testing

Candidates who do not meet the required level of English proficiency will not be invited to Round 2 testing.

Candidates who meet the required level of English proficiency will be shortlisted for Round 2 testing according to their score in Round 1 testing, the priority admissions criteria listed above and the number of spaces that are available in the year group to which they are applying.

All candidates will be informed as to whether or not they are shortlisted for Round 2 testing.

Round 2 Testing The second round of testing will include both an **oral test** and a **written test**.

- Candidates applying from the 'local' (within *France métropolitaine*) area will be invited into the CSI Lyon for both tests on a specific day.
- Candidates applying from outside the *France métropolitaine* area will be invited to take an oral test online, with an Anglophone Section teacher. Written tests will need to be done (under exam conditions) at the candidates school, and the test paper returned to the Anglophone Section by a deadline.
- **Oral test (reading, speaking & listening skills):** this is an informal discussion where the candidate has an opportunity to speak freely in English with the tester. A piece of text may be provided as a starting point for the discussion, which the candidate is expected to read, understand and discuss with the tester.
- **Written test (reading & writing skills):** the structure of this test varies depending on the year-level to which the candidate is applying.
 - At *collège* level, candidates will be expected to write a short piece of text. The aim is to assess the candidate's ability to communicate effectively and imaginatively; to write clearly, using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures and to use accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation.
 - At *lycée* level, candidates will be asked to write a longer piece, and may be asked to interpret a specific text (which might be a poem, a script or an extract from a book).

The overall aim is to assess whether the candidate has an age-appropriate, native-level of spoken English, in terms of a wide and appropriate vocabulary, correct grammatical constructions and an ability to express themselves well. The complexity and depth of the text, and the expected responses from the candidate, will increase with the year-level being applied to.

6.3. French tests for applicants to *collège* & *lycée*

Candidates who are applying for entrance from 6^{ème} to 1^{ère} may be tested in French if they are **not** coming from a French educational setting.

The CSI Administration will confirm, on a case-by-case basis, which applicants will need to take a French test as part of the process: this will be shown on the *convocation* that applicants will receive.

The French language test will be a written exam, which lasts between 60 to 90 minutes (depending on whether the candidate is applying for Collège or Lycée).

7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Parents should contact the school as soon as possible if an applicant is affected by a particular circumstance (illness, bereavement etc) that might have an impact on their ability to sit the test.

Please also tell us well in advance about any **disabilities** or other conditions that need to be taken into account during the testing process (hearing loss, visual or sight problems etc).

Please note that the structure and content of the tests presented here is subject to change under certain circumstances, such as the closure of the school for any reason. Candidates will be kept informed by the French administration and / or the Anglophone Section of all changes to the procedures presented in this document.

8. NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

It is important to note that the final decision as to whether an individual student is accepted into the CSI Lyon (and the Anglophone Section) rests with the CSI Lyon administration, and not with the Anglophone Section. After testing, the Anglophone Section makes recommendations to the CSI Lyon administration and decisions are then finalised at a *commission d'admissions*, taking into account candidates from all nine International Sections.

Following the *commissions*, the CSI Lyon administration will provide a list of the successful applicants on the school website and / or at the school itself (posted on the door / noticeboard of the primaire / Collège / Lycée). The information will also be made available on the Anglophone Section website.

9. SIBLINGS

Unfortunately, demand for places in the Anglophone Section is such that we are not able to prioritise siblings in the selection process. Each child will be assessed on his / her own merits.

APPENDIX

Grade equivalencies for French, English and American school years

Year groups in France are made up according to the child's year of birth running from January to December, whereas the school year runs from September to June each year.

Grade equivalencies in primary

Age (approx)	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11
French	CP	CE1	CE2	CM1	CM2
English	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
American	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5

Grade equivalencies in secondary

Secondary schooling in France is organised into two distinct phases: collège and lycée.

	<i>Collège</i>				<i>Lycée</i>		
Age (approx)	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
French	6ème	5ème	4ème	3ème	2nd	1ère	Terminale
English	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
American	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12