

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Vice Chancellor/Head of Admissions/Admissions Tutor,

**Important information about the awarding of the Baccalauréat Général (France)  
and the Option Internationale du Baccalauréat Général (France)  
in the context of the Coronavirus (Covid-19)**

This year, as usual, a large number of students from France will be applying for admission to universities in the UK. However, in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic, their Baccalauréat results will not have been based on final examinations. This letter contains important information for UK admissions officers concerning how French applicants' Baccalauréat results will be awarded, so that they can adopt an informed approach to admissions decisions.

As you may be aware, the French government closed secondary schools from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and announced its decision to cancel the Baccalauréat examinations on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020. The alternative arrangements that will be put in place to determine grades this year were published on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

The main points are as follows:

- Results in the French Baccalauréat Général will be based upon continuous assessment during the first two terms of Terminale (Year 13);
- The final grade awarded for each subject, as well as the overall result for the diploma, will be determined by a regional commission (the *jury*);
- In reaching the final grade for each subject, as well as the overall result for the diploma, the regional commission will take account of the following information:
  - The average of the marks awarded in the first and second term of Terminale (Year 13), rounded up to the nearest whole number, for each subject studied as part of the diploma
  - Teachers' comments relating to the student's approach to learning (e.g. assiduity) and progress during the year
  - Marks obtained during Première (Year 12)
  - Any observations made by the headteacher
  - Individual school performance data (end of key stage 5) for the past three years

Some adjustment may be made where there appears to be a significant discrepancy between the marks awarded by teachers and previous years' results, and where

teachers' comments indicate that the student's level of achievement may be above that reflected in the marks awarded in the first two terms;

- The overall result will be calculated according to the weightings (*coefficients*) applied to each subject studied as part of the diploma;
- Honours awards (*mentions*) will be maintained:
  - *Tres bien* (distinction): average of 16 or more points out of 20
  - *Bien* (merit): average of 14 points or more but fewer than 16 out of 20
  - *Assez bien*: average of 12 points or more but fewer than 14 out of 20;
- Results will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Key issues for UK HE admissions**

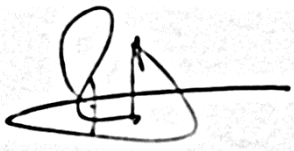
The marks submitted to the regional commission (*jury*) prior to moderation will reflect the performance of the student in assignments and tests during the first and second term of Terminale (Year 13). For some students, especially those who tend to perform better in final examinations, this could potentially lead to some results being lower than they might have been in normal circumstances.

### **Option Internationale du Baccalauréat Général, OIB (British version)**

Marks will be calculated in the same way as the Baccalauréat Général with the exception that Cambridge Assessment International Education, the UK partner authority, will standardise the marks for English Language and Literature and History-Geography prior to marks being submitted to the *jury*, thereby preserving the bicultural nature of the diploma. As a reminder, these two subjects are taught and assessed in English at first language level and the role of Cambridge Assessment International Education is to quality assure their equivalency with A Level.

We would ask you to distribute this information to all admissions officers within your university so that they have the necessary information to help them assess the applications of students from France. We trust the information contained in this letter will be useful to you in reviewing results against offer conditions this year and that it will help to ensure that students are not penalised because of major disruptions beyond their control.

Yours faithfully,



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British Council in France



James Cathcart  
President,  
Association des Sections Internationales  
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