

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

International and French baccalaureate choices at Lycée International de Los Angeles

Burbank, CA – March 17, 2014 – High school students at LILA (Lycée International de Los Angeles) face an important decision in their sophomore year (2^{nde}): whether to take the French *baccalauréat* or the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma programs.

Unlike any other school in the Los Angeles area, LILA students must choose between these two prestigious and demanding academic programs for their last two years of high school. In addition, LILA students earn their U.S. high school diploma and many of them take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams in French, Spanish and other languages, and Higher English Literature, in 10th and 11th grades. These achievements, in addition to extracurricular activities, earn them entry into the world's top universities.

There are striking differences as well as similarities between the two baccalaureates. Both are two-year degree programs that require serious study of a variety of subjects. The curricula of both are considered pre-university courses. In addition, at LILA, it is mandatory for all students, regardless of which program they are in, to complete 150 hours of community service following the model of Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) within the IB program. This is in accordance with LILA's ESLRs (Expected School-wide Learning Results) of raising socially conscious students who are active learners and involved citizens.

The differences lie mostly in the requirements of each program. The IB was developed in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1968, to allow students in international schools to obtain a rigorous credential that would be recognized around the world. Today, the IB Diploma is widely recognized as the most comprehensive college preparation available. The power of the IB lies in the overall holistic experience which is designed to educate the whole human being. The curriculum promotes student autonomy, independent research, and a rich, post-modern educational environment. The Diploma model offered by LILA is designed as a microcosmic version of a university degree program, consisting of six academic areas. Subjects are studied concurrently and students are exposed to the two great traditions of learning: the humanities and the sciences. Students must choose at least three subjects at the Higher Level within the required six academic areas. Additional requirements include the Extended Essay, a 4,000-word essay based on the students' independent original research, the Theory of Knowledge program which results in a deeper intellectual experience for students, and the earlier-mentioned CAS extracurricular community service. LILA students may opt to pursue a bilingual IB diploma.

The French *baccalauréat*, known colloquially as *le bac*, was introduced in France by Napoleon I in 1808 and is the main diploma required to pursue university studies. All students study a wide variety of subjects: French, two other languages, Sciences, History-Geography, Philosophy, Physical & Sports Education and, should they wish to do so, one or two elective subjects. The French *bac general* offered at LILA falls within three sections: Sciences (S), Economic and Social Sciences (ES), and Literature (L). The S section offers a strong emphasis on mathematics and sciences and is tailored for students who want to major in the fields of medicine, engineering, and the natural sciences. The ES section is recommended for students who plan on majoring in economics or law, and provides a strong foundation in humanities, math, and foreign languages. Section L is offered intermittently at LILA and focuses heavily on literature, philosophy, and foreign languages and is for prospective students of law, humanities, or languages.

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Students in all three sections also have to work on a research project called the *travaux personnels encadrés* or TPE. These are generally conducted in groups of 2, 3 or 4 and focus on a subject determined by the students under the supervision of a faculty member.

LILA aims to instill the drive to excel in higher education and the desire to make life-long learning a priority. Part of this drive involves the students making the right choices for their own education. To support this, LILA's college counselor works with each individual student to ensure that he or she is well informed of options and actively engaged in the university admissions process. LILA is proud of its students who have gone on to become leaders in their fields, artists, innovators and game changers.

About Lycée International de Los Angeles:

LILA is an international, preschool through 12th grade school, committed to academic excellence in a nurturing and intimate environment that encourages personal initiative, creativity and curiosity. Students are challenged through the rigorous and well-balanced bilingual curricula of the French and International Baccalaureate institutions. The school's goal is to develop confident, caring, and open-minded critical thinkers who will thrive in a diverse competitive world. Elementary campuses are located at Los Feliz, Pasadena, West Valley, Orange County & a secondary campus is located in Burbank. For more information, visit www.lilaschool.com.

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