

Ermitage International School

Maisons-Laffitte, France



Founded in 1941 amid wartime Paris, this Maisons-Laffitte day school runs IB and French Bac side by side, with equestrian classes in the racehorse capital.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	51/100
Academic outcomes	52/100
University placement	50/100
Prestige & heritage	52/100
Alumni network	51/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	41/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Ermitage trades on a combination that few Paris-area schools can match: a dual academic track and a niche extracurricular offer with real local logic. In Maisons-Laffitte, the racehorse capital on the edge of Paris, it runs the French Baccalaureate and the IB side by side, with instruction in French and English, and specialist equestrian programmes for riders aged 11 to 18. That makes it more than another bilingual international school. It gives families a genuine fork in the road: the French bilingual route for those who want a national framework, and the IB route for those who want an English-medium international one.

The school is old by international-school standards, founded in 1941, and large enough to offer breadth, with **1500 students** and **80 nationalities** on roll.

The strongest point in Ermitage’s favour is that it does not force international families into French academic conformity, nor does it ask locally rooted families to abandon it. That matters in a market where many schools do one thing well and leave the rest to parental compromise. Ermitage’s published outcomes are eye-catching: **100% pass rate** on the French Baccalaureate with honours, and **100%** of IB students placed at their first-choice university. Those claims are flattering, though the school does not publish the cohort sizes behind them, so parents should ask how large each graduating group is before reading too much into perfection. More solid is the structural point: this is an IB World School, with the Diploma Programme in place and the Primary Years Programme listed as candidate status, alongside approval from the French Ministry of National Education for the French track. That dual legitimacy is *commercially rare* and educationally useful.

The boarding offer adds another layer, even if Ermitage is first and foremost a day school. It has **74 boarders**, with five-day and seven-day options, housed in “historic French homes” rather than a purpose-built boarding complex. For international families who want Paris access without a central-Paris school run, that has *clear practical appeal*. For local families, it adds an international social mix without turning the whole institution into a boarding school. Fees place Ermitage in the *premium middle* of the market rather than the ultra-luxury tier: an average annual day fee of €24,500 across ages 3 to 18, and an average annual boarding fee of €44,500.

The pupil who will get the most from Ermitage is internationally mobile, linguistically flexible and comfortable in a school that mixes French families with global ones. It suits children who need options later, not just now: a five-year-old non-French speaker can enter through the English-language IB route, while an older pupil with French ambitions can stay anchored to the national system. It also suits serious riders, for obvious reasons. Children who want a *single-track, tightly defined* academic culture may find the dual structure less pure than a specialist lycée or a wholly international school. But for parents building a shortlist, Ermitage earns its place because it offers something concrete and hard to replicate: two credible academic systems, bilingual daily life, boarding within reach of Paris, and an equestrian programme that is *far more than decorative*.

STRENGTHS

- French Baccalaureate and IB offered
- Bilingual teaching in French and English
- Low 10:1 student-teacher ratio
- Average class size of 18

TRADE-OFFS

- Boarding fee is 30000 EUR annually
- Day fee is 15000 EUR annually
- No boarding type specified in context

ADMISSIONS

Ermitage International School is a day school for ages 3 to 18, so the obvious admissions entry points are likely to align with nursery, primary, lower secondary and sixth-form transitions. Beyond that, the school context provided does not publish a formal list of priority intake years. Given its bilingual French Baccalaureate and IB offer, families should expect admissions to be tied to age, previous schooling and language profile in French and/or English, but the school does not publish enough here to describe a fixed selection route with confidence.

The available information does not state the assessment format, application deadlines or whether bursaries or means-tested financial aid are offered. Nor does it specify any distinctive admissions mechanism such as interviews, taster days or rolling offers. What can be said is that admissions are likely to need careful curriculum matching, particularly for pupils entering the French Baccalaureate or IB pathways later in the school. Families will need to ask directly about timelines, academic review and any support available with fees.

WTS RATING 

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