

WELCOME TO THE SECONDARY CYCLE

Introduction booklet for P5 families

Tallinn European School

INTRODUCTION

The Secondary Cycle at Tallinn European School (TES) aims to promote European cultural diversity whilst simultaneously fostering an inclusive and supportive school community. Currently, the Secondary Cycle only consists of one Language Section, namely, the English section.

Pupils normally enter the Secondary Cycle in the calendar year in which they turn 11, following the successful completion of the European School's primary course or an equivalent course duly certified by an officially recognized school.

The seven years (from S1 to S7) of secondary education are organized in the following way:

Observation Cycle S1-S3

Pre-orientation Cycle S4-S5

Orientation Cycle S6-S7

The curriculum encompasses all general academic subjects from Mathematics and the Sciences to Humanities and Modern Languages. Students with an interest in Art and Music can follow their interests and develop their skills according to our syllabus.

FROM PRIMARY 5 TO SECONDARY 1 – WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

One class teacher and several subject teachers

Many different classrooms

A new grading system: from A to FX

A new language (L3) (NB! Specifically designed for beginners)

GRADING SYSTEM IN S1-S3

	Secondary 1 - 3	Performance indicator
Excellent though not flawless performance entirely corresponding to the competences required by the subject	A	Excellent
Very good performance almost entirely corresponding to the competences required by the subject	B	Very good
Good performance corresponding overall to the competences required by the subject	C	Good
Satisfactory performance corresponding to the competences required by the subject	D	Satisfactory
Performance corresponding to the minimum of the competences required by the subject	E	Sufficient
Weak performance almost entirely failing to meet the competences required by the subject	F	Failed (weak)
Very weak performance entirely failing to meet the competences required by the subject	FX	Failed (very weak)

<https://www.eurisc.eu/en/European-Schools/studies/markings-scale>

In the Secondary cycle two midterm reports (in November and in April) and report cards for Semester 1 (in February) and Semester 2 (in June) are issued. In February, an online Secondary progress review is organized.

At the end of the school year, the class council will decide whether a pupil may move to the year above or is required to repeat the year. The decision will be based on the General Rules of the European Schools, the pupil's profile and the standard of the attainment of the relevant competencies, as described in the June report.

ORGANIZATION OF STUDIES IN S1-S3

Subject / Lessons per week	S1	S2	S3
Compulsory Subjects/Courses			
Language 1 /L1	5	5	4
Language 2 /L2	5	4	4
Language 3/ L3	2	3	3
Mathematics	4	4	4
Integrated Science	4	4	4
Human Sciences	3	3	3 (in L2)
Physical Education	3	3	3
Music	2	2	2
Art	2	2	2
Ethics	2	2	2
ICT	1	1	-
Optional Subjects			
Host Country Language /HCL	1	1	1
ICT	-	-	2
Latin	-	2	2

In S2, Latin is offered as an option.

In S3, all pupils start studying Human Sciences in their L2.

In S3, pupils who chose Latin in year 2 continue to study it. For the other pupils, ICT is offered as an option.

CHOOSING LANGUAGE 3

On entry to the first year of Secondary, all pupils choose a third language (the second foreign language) from the official EU languages for which a viable group (at least 5 pupils) exists and for which a qualified teacher is available.

L3 must be different from L1 and L2. The course is designed for beginners only.

For the school year 2024-2025, Tallinn European School will propose an L3 choice between the following languages:

French, German, Spanish, Estonian

To indicate your preference, you must fill in an electronic form in MySchool **by 31st of January 2024**.

Once the choice has been made, it cannot be changed anymore.

EVERYDAY SCHOOL LIFE

- Everyone is expected to act according to the values set by the school community: respect, harmony, and creativity.
- MySchool and Teams are the primary channels for pupils to follow all study-related information. Secondary students must use MySchool daily to keep up with their assignments and progress.
- Each Secondary pupil has a personal locker. The pupil and his/her parents are responsible for the safekeeping of the key. Lost keys are replaced at the Front Office at a cost of 5 euros per key.
- Secondary pupils keep their backpacks in the cloakroom or in their personal locker and do not carry them around from class to class. Small tote bags are allowed.
- Secondary students are not allowed to linger in the cloakroom area during their gap lessons and are encouraged to spend this time wisely in the second-floor common area or the library.
- S1-S3 students cannot leave the school premises during school hours but are expected to go out during midday break time after having lunch in the school canteen.
- All pupils need to leave the school premises after the end of their last lesson unless they have scheduled studies or activities.
- Pupils are expected to dress appropriately. Items of clothing with offensive language, images, messages and/ or exposing the body in an inappropriate manner for a school are deemed inappropriate and not allowed.
- Everyone must wear indoor shoes inside the school building. Outerwear including hats, jackets, and outdoor shoes shall be left in the cloakroom.
- Secondary 1-3 pupils can use personal ICT devices (smartphones, smartwatches etc.) only for communication with parents and legal guardians in designated areas with the permission of a member of staff.
- Drinking, eating, or chewing gums is not allowed in the classroom, during lessons unless the teacher has agreed otherwise for a particular lesson. Pupils are only allowed to eat in the canteen, this includes food that has been brought along from home.
- If the gym is not booked, Secondary pupils may use it for sports activities during their gap lessons and between 12.35 – 12.55 only under supervision. Pupils must make sure a teacher is present and has given the permission to use the gym, otherwise it is not allowed.

If these rules are not respected, the privilege to use the gym outside of lesson time, will be taken away.

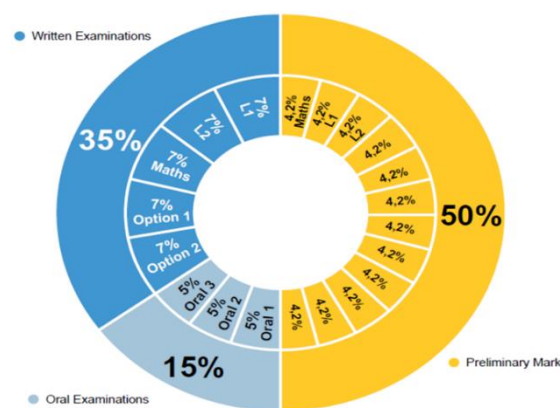
- Parents/guardians need to inform school of a student’s absence immediately. Subject teachers insert all absences in MySchool as unexcused, and at the end of the day class teachers may revise the status only if relevant information has reached them on time.
- Absences for personal reasons must be agreed with the School Director or the Deputy Director. Leaving early with justification can be agreed upon with the Educational Adviser or the Class Teacher.
- By the beginning of each new week, all appeals against inaccurate descriptions of absences need to have been made, otherwise, the reason for the absence will remain as stated originally in MySchool.
- Any family holiday travelling must be planned during TES official holidays only (see TES website). Except in cases of force majeure, absences will not be excused for the week preceding or the week following school holiday periods or public holidays.

THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE

Information about the Baccalaureate Cycle

The European Baccalaureate comprises of the last two years of Secondary Education in the European schooling system that is approved by the board of governors and is recognised worldwide.

At the end of Secondary the students will receive a final mark out of 100 that comprises of a preliminary mark (given by subject teachers), written and oral examination (internally and externally marked) in June of Secondary 7.



It is important that the students are aware of the Baccalaureate structure and know why it is important to set standards and create efficient and effective working habits as early as possible. Here is an overview of the examination choices they will have to make in Secondary 7:

Written examinations	Oral examinations
L1	L1
L2	L2 / History / Geography
Mathematics	Advanced mathematics / Biology / Philosophy / Chemistry / Physics / L3 / L4
Two 4p options	

Important Baccaureate Facts

- Overall European Baccaureate average mark in 2022 – 23 - 77.02**
- Average written examination mark in 2022 – 23 - 71.65**
- Average preliminary mark (class mark) in 2022 – 23 - 79.45**
- Language 2** – All students will have to sit from 1 to 3 written examinations in their second language.
- University applications** – As part of the application process, it is not uncommon for universities to ask for all report back to Secondary 4.
- Secondary 3 and transition to the next cycle – considerable leap:**
 - In Secondary 3 all students will start studying Human Sciences in their L2.
 - From Secondary 4 onwards History, Geography and the optional Economics course will be taught in students' L2.
 - Change in the grading system – numerical marks + A marks (in class work) and B marks (summative assessment, tests, and exams)
- All subjects matter** – Each subject in Secondary 7 is worth 4.2% and university look at past reports, especially comments about attitude and working habits.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Please feel free to reach out to us:

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Educational Adviser – Liina Junolaine

Baccaureate Coordinator – Tom Flowers