

Guidance Bulletin 69, 24th June 2019

Year 13: Summer guidance I will be available by e-mail over the summer to answer questions relating to university and college entry. Any questions about visas for study should be referred immediately to the international office of the chosen institution. A room for the new academic year should be arranged as soon as possible through the accommodation office of the university or college of choice.

Year 12: Belgian universities A few universities in Belgium teach wholly in English. For further information go to https://www.belgium.be/en/education/coming_to_study_in_belgium. CAD Brussels <https://cad.be/> Interior Architecture and Design, Graphic and Digital Design ■ Karel de Grote University College (Antwerp) <https://www.kdg.be/en> Business Management, Multimedia Technology ■ University Colleges Leuven-Limburg <https://www.ucll.be> International Business Management ■ Thomas More University (Antwerp) <https://www.thomasmore.be> Business4Events, International Business, International Communication, International Tourism, International Data Security, International Digital Product Architect, Electronics ■ Odisee University College (Brussels) <https://www.odisee.be> Marketing ■ Vesalius College (Brussels) <https://www.vesalius.edu> Business Studies, Global Communication, International Affairs, International and European Law ■ Vrije Universiteit Brussel <https://www.vub.ac.be> Business Economics.

Year 12: Notes from a visit to École Polytechnique (F) on 03-Jun-19 Founded originally in 1794, École Polytechnique assumed military status in 1804 in order to shape responsible and committed leaders. Currently it has 3,600 students, of whom about forty per cent are international, thereby making it the first in France for the *THES* Top 200 Most International University rankings. The spacious campus at Palaiseau forms part of a scientific and technological hub in the area with other universities and research and development institutes of major companies such as Total and Danone. The science laboratories attract €30 million per annum of research contracts. Amongst the current research is the development of new materials, the improvement of energy devices and the investigation of integrated sensing. All undergraduates start with a multidisciplinary core, which lasts one year, before focusing on a double major in the last two years. Alongside the double majors (Maths and Computational Science, Maths and Physics or Maths and Economics), there can be taken minors in Biology, Chemistry or Computational Maths. While about half of the undergraduates opt for a minor, it must be stressed that a minor does not give access to a Masters in the subject. To give further breadth to the degree, all students must take modules in humanities, social sciences, innovation management, entrepreneurship and sport. Thus the bachelor degrees (the equivalent of a *licence* in the French system) are demanding and challenging. The teaching is conducted wholly in English. At least thirty hours a week are occupied by classes in the form of lectures, seminars and tutorials. In addition there is a considerable amount of homework. A lot of support is available, not least because of the superb student-staff ratio. In the first semester of the third year there is an exchange programme to help students decide on what to do for their postgraduate course. The partnerships include Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (see Guidance Bulletin 62) and University of Toronto (see Guidance Bulletin 49). Two hours of sport are required each week, whether horse riding, athletics or rugby. There is a medical doctor and a psychologist available on campus. A music teacher prepares students for individual lessons and for the orchestra. In all the shared values of rigour and respect are emphasised. The student organisation L'ORE oversees over two hundred clubs and societies. Accommodation in single rooms with en-suite facilities is guaranteed for all three years. With cafés, hairdresser, general store, dining facilities (judged by the undergraduate students as excellent) and post office, the campus affords a friendly, safe and self-contained community. The station at Lozère (RER Line B) is a ten-minute walk away and offers trains every fifteen minutes into central Paris. For entry with the IB diploma HL Maths and a science (ideally Physics) are required. The average total for successful applicants is 39 points with at least 6 in HL Maths. Besides the application form there must be submitted a transcript, a CV, a letter of personal motivation, a teacher letter of recommendation and a self-evaluation of different topics in Maths. An interview by Skype, which lasts about forty-five minutes, divides into a short consideration of personal interests and a longer part for answering two or three Maths questions. The interviewers are looking at how the applicant deals with the ideas behind Maths, not necessarily at the precise answer. There are two deadlines: 06-Nov-19 for an interview between mid-December and mid-January with an early February

decision; and 26-Mar-20 for an April interview with a mid-May decision. The tuition fees are €12,000 per annum for EU citizens and €15,000 per annum for international students. Scholarships of €4,000 per annum are available for outstanding students. There are also €6,000 women-into-science scholarships for the first year only. For more details go to <https://www.polytechnique.edu/en/bachelor>.

Year 12: Medicine at Humanitas University To prepare for the IMAT entrance test there are past papers and helpful hints at <https://www.hunimed.eu/courses/medicine/apply-test-medicine/#how-to-prepare>. For details about Humanitas University, including IMAT, go to Guidance Bulletin 44. A new course has just been launched. This integrated six-year training course leads to a bachelor degree in Biomedical Engineering from Politecnico di Milano and the MD in Medicine from Humanitas University: <https://www.hunimed.eu/medtecschool/>. The language of instruction is English.

Year 12: Cambridge University A webinar on the application process in general and specifically what makes a good application will be broadcast on 28-Aug-19 at 10:00 BST (11:00 CET). To register go to https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6h7CEAvHqrPSCoJ.

Year 12: Common Application Common Application allows students to send personal details and educational background to a range of universities and colleges in the USA. Registration is conducted at <https://apply.commonapp.org/createaccount>. Transcripts and letters of recommendation are sent separately through Maia. The list titles for the initial personal essay – the more competitive institutions may demand supplements – can be found at <https://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/2019-2020-common-app-essay-prompts>.

Years 11 and 12: SAT and ACT Initial preparation is offered for SAT from 26 to 30-Aug-19 at La Grande Boissière. The cost for the course is 1,200 CHF which includes an hour of private tutoring. Advanced preparation, designed to improve the scores of those who have already taken SAT, is provided for 800 CHF on 21 and 22-Sept-19 at La Grande Boissière. An intensive weekend, for those intending to take SAT in December, is available for 800 CHF on 22 and 23-Nov-19. For more details about all three courses, and to register, contact paris@bespokeeducation.com. For online preparation, it may be worth considering <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>, <https://www.alphaprep.com/alpha/>, <https://www.arborbridge.com/> and <https://academy.act.org>. To take SAT at La Grande Boissière, the School Code is 796086, the Centre Code 59817. To take ACT at La Grande Boissière, the School Code is 796086, the Centre Code 867760. The deadline to register for SAT on 05-Oct-19 is 06-Sept-19.

Years 11 and 12: Open Day at École Polytechnique École Polytechnique at Palaiseau just outside Paris invites anyone interested to meet with some current bachelor students, visit the laboratories, tour the campus and attend a question-and-answer session about admissions on 12-Oct-19 from 10:00 to 18:30. For more details go to <https://www.polytechnique.edu/en/open-day-ecole-polytechnique>.

Years 11 and 12: Open Days Universities hold open days over the summer holiday. These offer the chance to explore campuses, compare courses and attend talks. Among the many in the UK, the following may be of interest: 29-Jun-19 Bangor, Chichester, City University of London, Lancaster, Newcastle, Northumbria, Nottingham, Oxford Brookes, Sheffield Hallam, University College London; 01-Jul-19 York St John; 03-Jul-19 Oxford, Portsmouth; 04-Jul-19 LSE; 05-Jul-19 Cardiff, Leicester, Surrey; 06-Jul-19 Bournemouth, Brighton, East Anglia, Kent; 07-Jul-19 Southampton; 13-Jul-19 Royal Agricultural; 25-Jul-19 Queen's Belfast; 17-Aug-19 Kingston, Ravensbourne. A complete list can be found at <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/open-days/search>. Personal visits can also be arranged at a time and date of choosing by going to the web pages of the relevant admissions offices or contacting individual academic departments. University College London, for example, runs guided tours three times a week: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/campus-tours/>. With prior notice US and Canadian universities always welcome visits. Go to the website of each institution and look at their particular arrangements, for example <https://www.rollins.edu/admission/visit/schedule-a-visit.html>, <https://admission.smu.edu/portal/dailyvisits>, <https://future.utoronto.ca/visit/campus-tours>.

M.D. Grant, Guidance Counsellor, Campus des Nations mark.grant@ecolint.ch