

Lycée Français de Madrid

Madrid, Spain



Since 1885, two Madrid campuses have grown into the world's largest French school abroad, drawing pupils from over 70 nations.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	55/100
Academic outcomes	62/100
University placement	58/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	45/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Lycée Français de Madrid occupies a rare position in the Madrid market: an established French state school abroad with real scale, deep institutional roots and a clear academic identity. Founded in **1886**, it runs across **2** campuses — Conde de Orgaz in Hortaleza and Saint-Exupéry in La Moraleja — and serves children from age 3 to 18. The point of difference is not branding but substance. This is the world’s largest French school abroad, operated by AEFÉ rather than merely affiliated to it. For families who want the French curriculum delivered inside the official French overseas network, that matters. It offers **serious continuity**, **institutional heft** and a route that stays coherent from maternelle to lycée.

What puts it on a shortlist is the combination of scale and clarity. Many international schools promise multilingualism and mobility; this school delivers a defined national system in French, in Madrid, with Spanish also in the daily mix. That gives it strong appeal for French families, binational households and internationally mobile parents who want their children anchored in a recognised public-sector framework rather than a hybrid model assembled from several traditions. The size cuts both ways. Large schools can offer breadth, peer diversity and organisational resilience; they can also feel less intimate and more bureaucratic. Parents who want a *close-knit cocoon* or a boutique pastoral culture will find stronger alternatives elsewhere.

The school suits pupils who thrive in a structured academic setting and families who value consistency over customisation. It is right for children who are comfortable in a big community, can navigate a clear set of expectations and benefit from immersion in French while living in Spain. It also suits families planning future movement within the French-speaking or French-state education world. It is less persuasive for parents chasing an Anglo-American model, heavy co-curricular theatre or a school built around individual hand-holding. The attraction here is *academic seriousness*, *cross-border credibility* and a *clear cultural centre of gravity*. For the right child, that is a powerful proposition.

STRENGTHS

- Operated directly by AEFÉ (Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger), the French government's own network for education abroad, rather than a franchise or licensed operator.
- Official 2025 exam results published by the school show a 99.7% Baccalaureat pass rate, with 93% of candidates earning a mention and 46.6% achieving the top 'Tres Bien' grade.
- Graduates leave with a dual French Baccalaureat and Spanish 'Titulo de Bachiller', giving direct access to both French and Spanish university systems.
- Became a UCAS-accredited exam centre in September 2023, centralising applications to British universities alongside the French and Spanish pathways.
- One of the largest Lycee français institutions in Europe, with over 4,300 pupils and more than 70 nationalities represented across two campuses.

TRADE-OFFS

- Scale is considerable - over 4,300 students across two sites - which typically means larger cohorts and less individualised attention than smaller boutique schools.
- First-time registration carries a substantial non-refundable fee: EUR 1,528 for Maternelle/Elementaire or EUR 1,700 for College/Lyceé, on top of termly tuition.
- The school is explicitly not a bilingual institution - Spanish is taught to a high level, but the day-to-day ethos, administration and staffing remain francophone-led.
- Registration is handled independently by the school and opens roughly a year in advance each autumn, meaning families who arrive later in the admissions cycle may face long waitlists.

ADMISSIONS

Admission runs through the school's own online portal (Skolengo), with campaigns for each September opening the preceding autumn - families are advised to enquire well ahead of the intended start year. Entry points span TPS/PS (from age 2) through Terminale. First-time registration incurs a non-refundable fee of EUR 1,528 (Maternelle/Elementaire) or EUR 1,700 (College/Lycees), separate from termly tuition. The school is open to all nationalities, though means-tested scholarships are restricted to French citizens registered with the Madrid consulate.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_93ae208619.