

Lycée Français International de Tokyo

Tokyo, Japan



A cherry-lined Kita-ku campus pairs a dojo and trilingual classrooms with near-universal Baccalaureate honors success.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	64/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The cherry-lined Kita-ku setting matters here because Lycée Français International de Tokyo is not a generic international school with a French stream bolted on. It is a full French school, founded in 1967, running from age 2 to 18 and teaching in French, English and Japanese. The website points to a structured language pathway from petite section to terminale, with international sections and the BFI also flagged. That combination gives the school its market position: a **serious French academic track** inside Tokyo, with stronger local linguistic integration than many embassy-adjacent schools manage. The average annual day fee across the full age range is ****JPY 1,456,546****, which places it in a **credible mid-to-upper international bracket** for Tokyo rather than the city's most inflated tier.

What puts it on a shortlist is clarity of purpose. The school is accredited by AEFÉ and delivers the French Baccalauréat, so parents are not buying a vague “international” proposition. They are buying a defined national system with known expectations, external oversight and a direct route for families who need continuity with French education. The trilingual offer adds substance, not decoration: the school publishes language pathways, secondary language information and routes into international sections, which tells you languages are organised across the school rather than left to aspiration. The campus details in your brief — a dojo alongside trilingual classrooms — reinforce a school with a *distinct local identity* rather than a transplanted European bubble.

This is the right school for children who thrive with structure, progression and academic precision, and for families who value the French system enough to commit to it. It suits French nationals, francophone families, bilingual households and internationally mobile parents who want their child anchored in a curriculum that travels cleanly. It also suits students who can handle a *demanding linguistic load*: French as the academic spine, with English and Japanese embedded into daily school life. It is less convincing for parents who want broad curriculum optionality, a looser Anglo-American style, or heavy emphasis on boutique enrichment over academic framework. In market terms, LFI Tokyo is a *specialist choice done properly*: not the widest net in Tokyo, but a strong one for the families it is built to serve.

STRENGTHS

- One of only two French Ministry of Education-accredited schools in Japan, part of the AEFÉ network since 1990, ensuring compatibility with the French national curriculum.
- Offers the Baccalaureat Français International (BFI) with dedicated Japanese-stream (since 2002) and American-stream (since 2017) options alongside the standard French Baccalaureat.
- Purpose-built Takinogawa campus (opened 2012) includes a swimming pool, tennis courts, an athletics track, a dojo, an auditorium and two libraries.
- Genuinely international intake, with over 1,500 students and dozens of nationalities represented across the primary and secondary sections.
- AEFÉ affiliation allows straightforward credit transfer for families moving between French lycees abroad.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fee structure differs for French citizens versus other nationalities, and published tuition tables note that financial aid options may be limited for non-French families.
- Campus is located in Takinogawa, Kita-ku, in northern Tokyo, a less central location than many rival international schools favoured by expatriates in central wards.
- Rising enrolment has strained fixed classroom capacity at secondary level, complicating timetabling as the school grows.
- Instruction is delivered overwhelmingly in French, so families without an existing French-language base may find integration slower than at English-medium alternatives.

ADMISSIONS

Registration for the following academic year typically runs from early March to mid-May, and families are advised to track this window a year ahead of an intended start or relocation date. The school operates under AEFE rules with places allocated partly via priority for French and Franco-Japanese families; double-registration is recommended for Japanese or binational pupils. Tuition is set annually by the Foundation's board and differs for French versus non-French nationals; a separate one-time first-enrolment fee applies. Prospective families should contact the admissions office directly for current fee tables and seat availability, particularly at secondary level where capacity is tighter.

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_9badbae7ac.