


SciencesPo

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**





At Sciences Po, we consider each candidate as a singular individual with a unique combination of talents, interests and passions. There is no such thing as a “good” or “bad” profile.

We choose students for who they really are and we want each and every one of them, regardless of their origins, secondary school, social and economic background, or academic journey, to have the same opportunity to show their potential and convince our jury.

That is why, starting in 2021, all applicants – whether French or international – will be evaluated in the same ways on identical criteria. The evaluations are demanding, and require diverse and complementary qualities. The evaluation criteria are also clear and transparent in order to give all the best talents a chance to be selected.

We wish you all the best of luck!

THE OVERVIEW

Four evaluations to highlight your achievements



All secondary school applicants, from France and around the world, follow the same admissions procedure in order to be accepted to Sciences Po.

We select candidates on the basis of four separate evaluations: performance in their final secondary school exams (Baccalaureate or international equivalent), their academic record and overall progress and appreciations, three written papers, and a remote interview.

1 admissions procedure, two admissions platforms

- Applicants preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate, in France or abroad, apply through the admissions platform *Parcoursup*.
- Applicants preparing to sit a foreign secondary school diploma apply through the Sciences Po admissions platform.

From application to acceptance: The evaluations to pass

Assemble your application

Complete and rigorous, the application provides an overview of the candidate's academic record and progress throughout the last three years of secondary school, as well as an insight into their background, motivations, critical thinking and writing skills. The application consists of three stages of evaluation and is a chance for all applicants to demonstrate that they are knowledgeable and well-rounded, with diverse academic qualities and extra-curricular activities.

Once their application has been evaluated, candidates are awarded three marks out of 20:

- **A mark out of 20 for the results of their Baccalaureate exams or foreign equivalent** (see page 4)
- **A mark out of 20 for their academic performance in the last three years of secondary school, including overall progress** (see page 5)
- **A mark out of 20 for the candidate's three essays** (see page 6)

These three marks out of 20 are totalled to give a mark out of 60.

In order to proceed to the next stage, the candidate must have obtained a mark equal to or higher than a minimum mark defined by Sciences Po each year.

Succeed in an interview

Applicants who have obtained the necessary minimum mark will be invited to participate in an interview, which is the fourth and final evaluation for admission. On the basis of this interview, conducted remotely, the jury will give the candidate a fourth mark out of 20. This interview mark is not the deciding factor for admission: it complements the other three marks obtained during the application phase.

Shining under four different lights: the challenge for applicants

After the interview, the jury totals the candidate's four marks out of 20 to give him or her a final admission mark out of 80. To be accepted to Sciences Po, applicants must obtain a mark that is equal to or higher than a minimum admissions mark set by the university each year. Each of the four evaluations carries equal weight in the final admissions decision. Together, they allow us to select a balanced and varied range of candidates, who can shine in different and complementary lights.

Our admissions panel

At every stage of the admissions process, decisions are made by an experienced panel of evaluators combining secondary school teachers and members of the teaching and academic staff at Sciences Po. This panel conducts a deep and detailed assessment of each application. Algorithms play no part in the admissions process at Sciences Po.

• THE DETAIL



1. Secondary school exams

MARK /20

	I am preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate	I am preparing to sit a foreign secondary school diploma
What does this evaluation involve?	Results obtained in the French Baccalaureate exams ¹ .	Results obtained in secondary school assessments abroad: there are no specific subject requirements.
Who examines these results?	The average grade obtained across these exams is calculated in <i>Parcoursup</i> .	Results are evaluated by a team of experts in systems of secondary education abroad.

1. Subject to the content and calendar of the reformed Baccalaureate curriculum for 2021, exams must cover oral and written French, history and geography, special subjects, languages, sciences.

2. Academic performance and overall progress

MARK /20

	I am preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate	I am preparing to sit a foreign secondary school diploma
What does this evaluation involve?	Academic report cards for the three years of the lycée (<i>Seconde</i> to <i>Terminale</i>) ² .	Academic report cards for the final three years of secondary education (high school).
What is examined?	Student's academic performance, results in comparison with other students, evidence of hard work, perseverance and improvement, overall progress throughout the last three years of secondary school. Comments and appreciations from teachers.	
Who makes this evaluation?	Two secondary school teachers and members of the teaching and academic staff at Sciences Po. These examiners assess the applications independently of one another and are not made aware of the results of the first evaluation.	

2. *Parcoursup* calculates the average of grades obtained in the *Première* and *Terminale* years of the lycée. This is supplemented by the evaluating team's qualitative assessment of the student's performance and an appraisal of results obtained in *Seconde*.

3. The Essays

MARK /20

This third evaluation completes the application and is designed to give a more detailed picture of the candidate: their motivations, intellectual ambitions for Sciences Po, and the quality of their writing and critical thinking.

It consists of three essays of written work, which are the same for all applicants:

- **A personal statement about the candidate's background**, in which they describe their activities and areas of interest. This might include any leadership or teamwork experience, work placements or internships, extra-curricular involvements or community service, sports or cultural activities etc.
- **An essay outlining the candidate's motivations and intellectual ambitions**: what led him or her to apply to Sciences Po? What programme are they most interested in and why?
- **An essay** (3,000 characters) on one of five proposed themes.

Any applicants preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate, whether in France or abroad, should write their application in French. Applicants coming from a foreign system of secondary education have the choice of writing their application in French or English, depending on the programme they have applied to.

4. The interview

MARK /20

The marks awarded for each of the first three evaluations are added to give a mark out of 60. Applicants who have obtained a mark equal to or higher than the minimum mark set by Sciences Po each year will be invited to participate in an interview. This is an opportunity for the institution to meet the applicant.

What will the interview involve?

Interviews are conducted remotely, via video conference with a panel of two examiners. They last 30 minutes and consist of three sequences:

- The candidate introduces him or herself
- The candidate is asked to choose from two images that he/she will comment on and analyse
- The candidate discusses his or her motivations with the examiners

Who are the examiners?

As teachers and/or academic staff at Sciences Po, the two examiners have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the institution's requirements. To ensure that their evaluation is neutral, neither of the examiners is given access to the candidate's application.

For applicants preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate, the interview will be conducted in French. Some questions may be asked in English, depending on the programme they applied to. Candidates applying from foreign secondary schools can choose for the interview to be conducted in French or English, depending on the programme they have applied to.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

I am preparing to sit the French Baccalaureate

I am currently working towards a general or technological French Baccalaureate in an institution of secondary education in France or abroad, including in a school participating in our Equal Opportunity Programme (CEP) (see adjacent page).

I apply through the Parcoursup platform

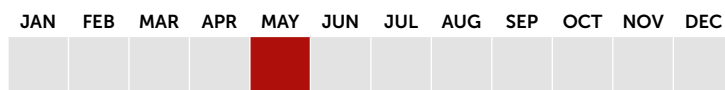


From mid-January to the end of March: create an account on *Parcoursup* to select your university preferences and submit your application.

- ➔ Select the Sciences Po Bachelor's programme along with two preferences from the regional programmes offered on our campuses.
- ➔ You can add other preferences if you are interested in one or more of our dual Bachelor's degrees.
- ➔ You can also separately apply for international dual degrees managed by Sciences Po's partner universities (see page 11).



During April or May: your application will be examined and evaluated.



In May: If you obtain the necessary mark (see page 7), you will be invited to interview.

End of May: once the results of each evaluation have been examined by the admissions jury, you will hear whether or not you have been accepted. Some candidates will be placed on a waiting list.

Candidates from schools participating in our Equal Opportunity Programme (CEP)

These candidates apply on the *Parcoursup* platform and pass the same evaluations as all other candidates, but are admitted through a specific admissions pathway. The application phase allows for their specific academic background and training as part of the Equal Opportunity Programme to be taken into account. Applications from CEP students will be monitored and examined separately from those of other candidates.

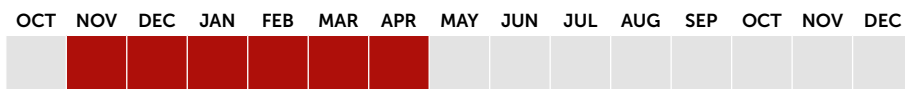
I will obtain a foreign secondary school diploma

I am preparing to sit final secondary school exams that are equivalent to the general French Baccalaureate abroad.

Apply through the Sciences Po admissions platform

- ➔ I choose 2 programmes within the Sciences Po Undergraduate College, including a maximum of 1 dual degree managed by Sciences Po.
- ➔ I can also separately apply for international dual Bachelor's degrees managed by Sciences Po's partner universities (see page 11).

Admissions process and calendar



From the end of November until the end of April 2021: Admissions are open. Create an account on the admissions platform to select your programme preferences and send off your application. Completed applications are examined and evaluated on a rolling basis: the deadline for submitting your application is 25 April 2021.



Between January and June: If you obtain the necessary mark, you will be invited to interview remotely.

Applications are assessed on a rolling basis³. The timeline for announcing decisions varies according to the date that the candidate sends off their completed application and to which admissions jury it is allocated

3. This rolling assessment of applications guarantees that international applicants receive a response within approximately two months of submitting their application.

National and international dual degrees

For international dual degrees managed by our partner universities:

Applications must be submitted via the admissions platform of the partner university, in line with their specific procedures and deadlines. Candidates may apply to more than one of these dual degrees, in addition to a Bachelor's programme at the Undergraduate College.

For international and national dual degrees managed by Sciences Po

Depending on the circumstances of the candidate, applications to these dual degrees should either be sent via the *Parcoursup* platform or via the Sciences Po admissions website.

OUR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES

At Sciences Po, we know from experience that talking about diversity is not enough for it to exist in practice, no more than pronouncing opportunities equal is enough to make that realistic. For 20 years now, Sciences Po has championed a policy of social inclusion without equivalent in the French higher education system. This commitment to social responsibility as an institution means that today, our student body consists of 25% scholarship holders and 49% international students, and we provide financial aid to nearly four in ten students.

Alongside its new admissions procedure, Sciences Po has committed to increasing its intake of scholarship students to 30% across all of its incoming undergraduate classes.

More open and inclusive entry criteria

In valuing the full range of a candidate's academic and extra-curricular qualities, and abolishing the "eliminary" oral exam (formerly the deciding factor of Sciences Po's admissions procedure), our new admissions criteria give a fair chance to all applicants, in all their diversity and in whatever field they may excel.

Expanded outreach within France

Sciences Po's decision to join the admissions platform *Parcoursup* has made the university accessible to all secondary school students, both across France and in French overseas territories. This decision is just one aspect of the university's commitment to fighting social exclusion.

A reformed and widened Equal Opportunity Programme

After 20 years of existence and with more than 2,000 secondary school students admitted, this trailblazing policy is now fully integrated in the new and unified admissions procedure that it helped to inspire. Applicants from secondary schools participating in the programme will be assessed through the same evaluations and according to the same criteria as all other candidates, but with a tailored monitoring system. The number of participating secondary schools will double from 106 to 200 by 2023, ultimately increasing the proportion of CEP admissions from 10% to 15% of each new cohort.

Finally, in order to increase the proportion of scholarship holders among students admitted via the Equal Opportunity Programme, participating secondary schools will work to strengthen and encourage these candidates through a series of preparation workshops.

To further promote diversity in all of its forms, Sciences Po is implementing a regional strategy to recruit candidates from more secondary schools and still more varied regions.

Openness to all talents

As a means of encouraging applications from students with particular talents – from high-level athletes to musicians and artists – Sciences Po guarantees that, if accepted, these students may benefit from special arrangements enabling them to continue the practice of their art or sport.



Sciences Po

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