

The Cours Secondaire d'Orsay is a private school founded in 1949, located 25 km south of Paris in Orsay, Essonne. It offers a complete educational pathway from kindergarten to final year (Terminale), with approximately 950 students and 70 teachers. The school follows the French national curriculum and welcomes students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, promoting inclusion and diversity.

With three classes per grade level, the school maintains a family-oriented, supportive environment that encourages close relationships between students and teachers. Its main academic goals are preparing students for national exams such as the Brevet des Collèges and the Baccalauréat (general and technological tracks).

The school benefits from a unique geographical setting—both urban and rural—near major tourist sites such as the Palace of Versailles and Paris, allowing students to better understand diverse cultural and professional environments. This privileged context supports the school's commitment to openness, exploration, and holistic student development.

Teachers regularly organize educational outings and international trips, reinforcing experiential learning across all subjects. The school's small size fosters collaboration among teachers and facilitates interdisciplinary projects.

Here are some of the school's key educational experiences:

- Scientific activities, including participation in the Science Festival and academic conferences at Université Paris-Saclay.
- Artistic excursions to Paris, including street art discovery and museum visits.
- A Podcast and Television Workshop.
- A special aviation initiation program (Brevet d'Initiation Aéronautique) linked to visits to the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace.
- Theater and music programs, including performances at the Opéra de Massy, and regular cinema and theater outings organized by literature and history teachers.
- School-wide festive events aimed at strengthening community spirit and enriching student life.

Our Strategic Objectives

Opening to the international is opening to the future!

A key pillar of our school project.

European mobility is no longer a luxury but a lever for success. Thanks to the Erasmus+ program, our students experience a unique international experience.

Our approach:

- 2 additional hours of English practice per week for 10th grade, 1 hour for 11th grade.
- Interdisciplinary projects with international high schools in Spanish and English.
- Opportunity to take the Cambridge exam in 10th and 11th grades.
- ◆ Practical application of learning
- ◆ Real skill development
- ◆ Effective preparation for university life

2. Building active European citizenship

Participating in exchanges, welcoming students from abroad, discovering other educational systems:

- ◆ Promotes cooperation and tolerance
- ◆ Facilitates further studies abroad
- ◆ Fully integrates students into a shared European project

Example: For several years, we have welcomed students from Japan, Thailand, and Peru for full academic years.

3. Learning languages, opening to cultures

Language learning becomes intercultural.

- ◆ Speaking a language improves communication
- ◆ Understanding a culture improves integration
- ◆ Traveling builds self-confidence

Our students return transformed—more open-minded, more confident, and ready to aim higher! Their projects become more concrete.

4. 🗺️ **Supporting staff mobility**

Teachers also go on mobility!

- Observation internships
- Hosting European colleagues
- Sharing innovative practices

This ensures a strong network, enriching continuous professional development, and new expertise for the school.

🔧 **Our Operational Objectives**

👉 1. **Human exchanges above all**

- 🌐 Promote themed weeks (Language Week)
- 🎓 Visits to partner schools (Czech Republic, Germany, Turkey...)
- 🎭 Intercultural exchanges among multiple schools during Erasmus Days trips.
- 👉 Learning also happens outside the classroom!

👉 **Our Partners: A strong European and international network**

Since the 2024-2025 school year, we have built a network of trusted partnerships with middle and high schools:

In Europe (Italy, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Finland, Denmark, Turkey, Austria)
And worldwide (Japan and United States)

Our steering committee (9 members + ERAEI = European and International Action Coordinator) selects and develops sustainable, high-quality partnerships.

- 📌 These collaborations ground skills in real-world contexts and broaden horizons for our staff and students.

☀️ **Impact and Reach**

📍 **Local**

- ➡ Increased enrollments
- ➡ Greater departmental visibility for CSO
- ➡ Open access during Open House events
- ➡ Visibility on our website: <https://cours-secondaire-orsay.fr/>

🏛️ **Academic**

- ➡ Creation of additional English classes in 10th and 11th grades
- ➡ Project of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) courses in Physics, Math, and History-Geography
- ➡ Dissemination via blogs and social media

🏘️ **Municipal**

- ➡ Presence of local officials at Europass award ceremonies
- ➡ Local press coverage
- ➡ Strong support from the local intercommunal authority

 **International**

→ Publication on Erasmus+, eTwinning, Erasmus Days

→ Collaborative projects with European partners

<https://cours-secondaire-orsay.fr/>

<https://cours-secondaire-orsay.fr/>