



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

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THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE

ADMISSIONS POLICY

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Admissions Policy

1. Core Principles

The Admission procedure is centred around the College's mission statement. This describes a school which exists... to provide an English-medium education for young people in Prague, primarily of Czech origin, which is second to none academically but also develops every individual's potential to the full and prepares them for the practical, social, intellectual and moral challenges that they will face in today's globalised society. In addition, the English College in Prague has as one of its aims, "to attract and retain those students best suited to the education we offer through selection, as far as possible, by academic ability rather than ability to pay". This is addressed in practical, financial terms in our Bursaries, Scholarships & Other Financial Awards Policy. Finally, the English College in Prague is an IB School which means that it actively supports and promotes the core values captured in their mission statement, which we wholeheartedly adopt:

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

2. Admission Routes into the College

There are two admission routes for students applying to the English College:

- through the state entrance exam (only Year 1 and only in the first round)
- direct to the College - internal entrance exams (Year 1 only in the second round, Years 2-3) and academic interview (Years 4-6)

Both routes include a personal interview in English with the Headmaster.

2.1 Admission via State Entrance Exam

For those applying to Year 1 the school administers state entrance exams in Maths and Czech according to the regulations that are in force in that year (the so-called CERMAT exams). These candidates are additionally required to take the College's own English and non-verbal reasoning (NVR) exam. Taking the College's own Czech and Maths exams is optional but recommended. The minimum passing grade for the state entrance exam is published this year.

2.2 Admission via Direct Application to the College

For those applying directly to the College, there is no specific legal requirement in the way the candidates' applications are considered, but the College attempts to apply a similar academic standard to those taking the state entrance exam. For Year 1 in the second round and for Years 2-3, the school offers internal entrance exams in English, Maths, non-verbal reasoning and Czech. Students who wish to be considered for the Maturita qualification must take the school's Czech exam. For Years 4-6 the school usually offers an academic interview (instead of a written entrance exam) which is focused partly on the subject preferences of the applicant. The school may replace parts of the academic interview with a written exam if it so wishes.

3. Preparation

3.1 Exam Preparation Courses

The school runs exam preparation courses in English from January to April each year. The course is aimed at preparation for Year 1 entry, although they are open to Year 2 students as well. The English course is designed primarily for students who have not been taught in a solely English-speaking environment or for those who are not very proficient or confident.

The school offers a single weekend Maths preparation session to help students with "English-style" maths questions. Maths exam papers for entry to years 1, 2 and 3 have a Czech translation.

3.2. Aptitude Test

Aptitude tests are offered to give the candidates for Year 1-3 and their families a chance to consider whether to take the main entrance exams by reflecting on their performance in those tests. Generic feedback on the performance in the exam is supplied. Short written or verbal feedback can be provided if requested. The aptitude tests also serve to settle student nerves and allow them to spot gaps in their knowledge, which they can seek to rectify before the official exams.

4. Headmaster's Interview

Both admission routes involve a 20-30 minute interview with the Headmaster in English. In the interview the Headmaster is assessing English language communication skills and assessing whether the candidate is taking an active interest in attending the College. He may also assess whether the candidate's outlook is broadly aligned with the school's ethos. In practical terms, this means being both open and internationally-minded, as well as being personally self-motivated and willing to engage with the school and the wider community. The Headmaster is also looking for candidates who are both curious and agile thinkers who show signs of an independent mindset.

5. Assessment

State Entrance Exam results are received by the school from the relevant authorities. The school marks its own internal entrance exams (Years 1-3). The academic interview notes are also used (Years 4-6). The Headmaster's interviews notes are also referred to in assessing candidates.

In all cases the ability to be able to access the curriculum in English is a prerequisite for admission to the College.

Knowledge of Czech is not a requirement of admission to the College.

The Headmaster, Registrar Heads of English, Maths and Czech meet in a series of admission review meetings to decide on whether places are offered to applicants based on their performance across the exams taken/interviews held.

Candidates' ethnicity, race, religious faith, sexual orientation are not taken into account in assessing their application, in line with its mission statement, "to provide an English-medium education for young people in Prague, primarily of Czech origin". The school aims for approximately 75% such students. Currently, no significant active selectivity is required to maintain this level, but it is monitored each year.

The Headmaster has the final decision on who is offered a place. Parents applying through the state entrance route can appeal the Headmaster's decision according to the relevant law.

5.1 State Entrance Exam Assessment Criteria

For those taking the state entrance exams 60% of their overall mark is derived from the state entrance (CERMAT) exams and the remaining 40% comes from the College's own internal exams and Headmaster's interview.

5.2 Direct Application assessment Criteria

Applicants applying directly to the College (not through CERMAT) do not take the state entrance exams. In the 2nd round of Year 1 and Years 2-3, their results in each of the school's own exams (English, Maths, Czech and NVR) are not aggregated, but considered individually along with the Headmaster's interview performance and other background information to make an assessment. In Years 4-6 the judgement of a candidate's suitability comes from both the Headmaster's and the academic interview (or exam if relevant).

5.3 Siblings

The school welcomes applications from siblings, but each sibling's application is treated on its own merits and bears no relation to whether the applicant has existing siblings at the school. The policy on sibling discounts is found in the Bursaries, Scholarships & Other Financial Awards Policy.

6. Notification and Securing a Place

All candidates receive a private entrance code. Notification of successful candidates is done by posting this code on the website. For those taking the state entrance exams, this notification is on a date specified by the education ministry.

A place is secured on the payment of a deposit of 50,000CZK, which is due 10 days after an offer is made.

7. Class Sizes and Places Available

The school currently operates on a notional maximum size as below:

Year	Recommended max. Year group size*	Places available on offer each year
1	44	44
2	56	12
3	72	16
4	76	4
5	78	2
6	78	0
All	404	78

*Year groups can accommodate more students (1-3 places) at the Headmaster's discretion.

This profile is designed to ensure a high quality intake in Year 1 by maintaining good competition for places. It also allows for people to join the school at different times. This is important as internationally-minded Czech families can be internationally quite mobile and therefore not necessarily ready to send their children to ECP in Year 1. Additionally, some families may not be able to afford to send their child to ECP for the full six years even with a bursary, so having available places in all year groups allows a wider range of Czech families to consider ECP as a realistic choice.

8. Waiting lists

When the year groups are full, prospective students are placed on a waiting list. The waiting list is not sequential (i.e. it is not “first on the list - first offered a place”). When a place becomes available the school reserves the right to select the best student(s) according to the same admissions criteria as above.

9. Bursaries and Scholarships

Details of these can be found with the sibling discount policy in the Bursaries, Scholarships & Other Financial Awards Policy.

