



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

Admissions Policy 2024-25

1. Core Principles

The Admission procedure is centred around the College's mission statement. This describes a school which was established, and continues to exist, 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 2-5)

Both routes include a personal interview in English with the Headmaster or the Senior Deputy Head.

2.1 Admission via State Entrance Exam

For those applying to Year 1 from Czech schools 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, Maths and non-verbal reasoning (NVR) exam.

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 2-5, 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.

3. Preparation

3.1 Exam Preparation Courses

The school runs exam preparation courses in English from January to March each year. The course is aimed at preparation for Year 1 entry and is designed primarily for students who have not been taught in a solely English-speaking environment, don't speak English with family members 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. Mock Entrance Exams

Mock entrance exams are offered to give the candidates for Years 1-4 and their families a chance to consider whether to take the main entrance exams by reflecting on their performance in those tests. They also serve to settle students' 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-minute interview with the Headmaster or the Senior Deputy Head in English. In the interview the Headmaster is assessing English language communication skills and appraising 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 1-5). The Headmaster's interviews notes are also referred to in assessing candidates.

In all cases the ability 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 and 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. 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.

*All Year 1 applicants are expected to take the Czech (and Mathematics) CERMAT exam if they have a basic level of Czech or have had any Czech education. All other students should take the College's own Czech entrance exam. Places for students into Year 1 not taking CERMAT are only considered for admission once all CERMAT students have reviewed and those of a sufficient standard have been offered places. Students of Y2, Y3 and Y4 should take the College's own internal Czech language entrance exam if they have any level of Czech at all.

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, the results are published on a date specified by the Ministry of Education.

A place is secured on the payment of a deposit of 65,000 CZK, 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 maximum Year group size*	Indication of places available in a typical year
1	44	44
2	56	12
3	72	16
4	78	6
5	78	0
6	78	0
All	406	78

*Year groups can accommodate more students 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.

