

Press release

Odyssey Education announces the opening of EFI Bucarest's International Middle School in September 2026: International excellence in the heart of the capital



Bucharest, March 21, 2026

Odyssey Education is pleased to announce a major milestone for the **French International School of Bucharest (EFI Bucarest)** with the opening of its new **International Middle School (Collège International)** for the **September 2026 academic year**. Following the success of the elementary school, this ambitious project aims to provide students with an exceptional education, combining academic rigor and personal fulfillment within a human-scale environment.

An educational model built on 5 fundamental pillars

Founded in 2019, EFI Bucharest has rapidly established itself as a leading educational institution. Building on its success and remaining true to its pedagogical vision, the school is taking a new step forward with the opening of its International Middle School, which utilizes a modern pedagogical approach to prepare students for 21st-century challenges. This model is based on five fundamental pillars:

- **Bilingual curriculum:** For perfect language mastery in a globalized world.
- **International validation:** Through globally recognized certifications.
- **Future-oriented education:** To anticipate tomorrow's challenges.
- **Individualized attention:** With personalized support for every student.
- **Dynamic urban campus:** Located in the heart of the capital's energy.



"The EFI Bucarest middle school has been designed to be unique within the Romanian educational landscape, combining the high standards of the French core curriculum with an unprecedented focus on autonomy and project-based learning. This school does not just follow standards; it defines new ones and will serve as a model for the development of the Odyssey Education group."

Mehdi Lazar, Director of Pedagogy, Odyssey Education.

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EFI Bucarest's pedagogical DNA: exclusive programs

To bring this vision to life, EFI Bucarest is deploying three "Signature" programs designed to strengthen the autonomy and life skills of middle schoolers:

- **L.E.G.O. (Let's Get Organized):** More than just organization, this module helps students structure their mental framework, manage their schedules, and reduce stress by gaining independence.
- **Advisory:** Weekly small-group sessions to support students through the challenges of adolescence (social pressure, social media, friendships) and strengthen their sense of belonging.
- **SEP (Student Exploration Programs):** Every Wednesday afternoon, students work on thematic projects related to Bucharest's rich heritage, fostering creativity and teamwork through field-based learning.

A French curriculum of excellence: continuity and international outreach

The opening of this middle school fulfills a dual mission: **offering a seamless and coherent educational pathway** for primary students while welcoming new profiles to discover EFI Bucarest's unique educational offering. The curriculum is based on the **French academic core**, within which students can choose between two major international pathways to ensure global success:

- **British International Section (SIB):** Deep immersion in literature and history-geography using British methodologies, preparing students for the International Option of the Diplôme National du Brevet (DNB).
- **Cambridge International Pathway:** A recognized international certification focusing on English language acquisition, conceptual understanding, and complex problem-solving.

This gateway to the future is an invitation to families seeking a **differentiated educational offering**, where French academic rigor meets international standards and a deeply human pedagogical approach. True to the founding vision of EFI Bucarest, the International Middle School equips every student with the essential tools to thrive in the pathway of their choice, whether French, British/American, or Romanian."



"It is an immense satisfaction to see this project come to fruition. The opening of this Middle School will be one of EFI Bucarest's greatest assets. In the heart of downtown Bucharest, we now offer a complete educational solution of rare quality, combining proximity, care, and international ambition."

Bianca Stinga, Head of School, EFI Bucarest.

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A caring and secure environment

EFI Bucarest is committed to maintaining small class sizes to guarantee close pedagogical support in a "family" atmosphere. This secure framework allows students to take initiative and thrive both emotionally and academically.

The 2026 opening marks the continued commitment of EFI Bucarest and Odyssey Education to training a generation of curious, independent, and brilliant global citizens.

About Odyssey Education: As the leading independent French international school group, Odyssey Education educates over 4,500 students across 12 schools on 3 continents. Founder of EFI Bucarest in 2019, the group promotes a model of excellence that is multilingual and open to the world, combining the best of French academic tradition with international active learning pedagogies.