

# ECB BAC AWARDS – WHAT IS IT AND HOW DOES THE SELECTION WORK?

## 1. General Principles

The award is rooted in the EU's motto United in Diversity which also applies to this selection process. While outstanding academic performance is recognized, the ECB BAC Award would like to widen the horizon and not only focus on top achievers in academic terms, but make sure that also students are considered who show a high level of social engagement. Academic excellence alone does not match the complexities and challenges of our modern life. The ESF's curriculum is geared towards fostering tolerance, co-operation, communication and concern for others throughout the school community and beyond. In order to emphasize the importance of diverse engagement and sense of community, the ECB BAC Award is meant to identify ESF students who stand out for their excellence both in academic performance as well as in social conduct and engagement, including but not limited to contributions to school events, projects and activities.

## 2. Selection Procedure

### (Extended) Jury

The extended jury consists of the students' representatives of S7, the class teachers of S7, the pedagogical adviser for S7 and the ESF management team (Deputy Director Secondary Cycle, Assistant Deputy Director Secondary Cycle).

For data protection reasons, the marks of shortlisted applicants cannot be shared with the students' representatives. This means students representatives only participate in the first phase of the selection procedure. This is why there is a distinction between the extended jury, including the students' representatives, and the jury, including teachers, pedagogical advisers and ESF management.

### Selection Process

The ESF management team will inform S7 students about the ECB BAC Award at the beginning of the school year. The respective letter inviting all S7 students to express their interest to participate in the selection procedure by submitting a motivation letter and a CV will be sent to them at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. In addition, in case there is a risk of an insufficient number of applications, the extended jury may identify students that they would individually encourage to submit a motivation letter and a CV. If they do so, they will make sure that such individual encouragements mirror the diversity of profiles within the group of S7 students.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the selection procedure the extended jury will identify a shortlist on the basis of the motivation letters, taking into account feedback from the school community.

The shortlist will be matched with the BAC results by the jury in a second phase of the selection procedure, resulting in up to 6 ECB BAC Awards granted to participating bacheliers.

### **Selection Criteria**

To align with the general principles explained above, the final decision for inclusion on the shortlist is based to 40% on the academic performance and 60% on the social engagement. This split will also give a chance to win the ECB BAC Award to those students, who may be not the top achievers in respect of final marks, but have an excellent record on social engagement. The idea behind is to make the group of participating students bigger and avoid the perception that the finalists are known from the outset due to their excellent academic performance.

### **Ad-hoc Awards**

The ESF management may grant an additional award to a student, outside the above selection procedure, in case individual performance or engagement are justified from a pedagogical perspective.

### **Information to Students**

The content of this document is shared with the students at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester via email sent to the students by the Secondary School Secretariat.

## **3. BAC Proclamation**

Bacheliers and their parents are invited to this event to receive the original diploma from the directors. The ECB BAC Award is part of the event's programme and handed over by an ECB representative with a few explanatory words on the ECB's motivation for granting this award. ESF management will contribute to this part of the programme by elaborating on the selection procedure, jury, number of participating applicants and integration with the ESF pedagogical concept and community perspective.

All winning students are asked to come on stage for the award ceremony. In order to capture this moment for the students, the photographers are asked to take a group photo.

## **4. Publication**

In order to spread the knowledge about the ECB BAC Award, information on the annual award ceremony and selection procedure may be published on the ESF Website and the ECB Intranet.

## **5. Data Protection Requirements**

The ESF will ask winning candidates in writing for the permission to include their names and pictures in articles on the ESF Website and ECB Intranet.

## **6. Letter for Winning Bacheliers**

The ESF provides winning bacheliers upon request with a letter certifying the ECB BAC Award including a short description of the selection criteria.