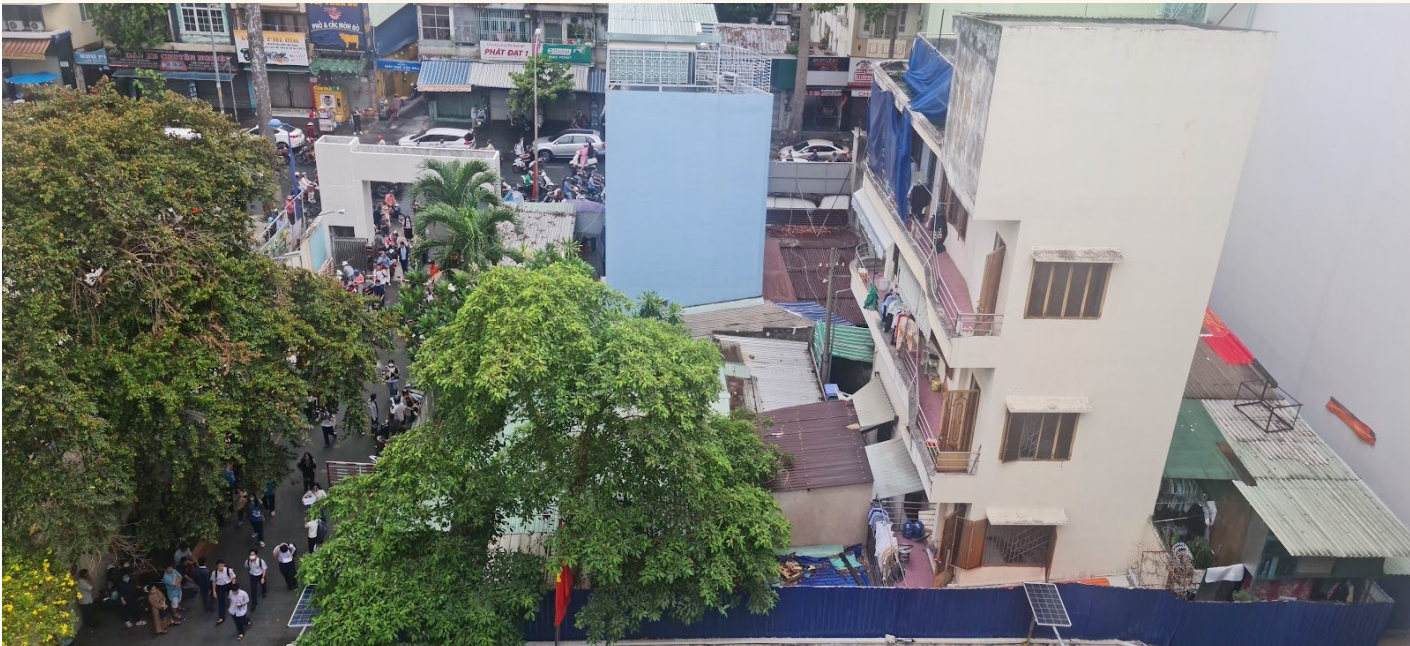


VNU-HCM High School for the Gifted

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Affiliated with Vietnam National University, this Ho Chi Minh City school has stacked International Mathematical Olympiad medals since 2003.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	50/100
Facilities	52/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

VNU-HCM High School for the Gifted occupies a rare place in Vietnam’s school market: a specialised public day school for academically exceptional teenagers, attached to Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City and founded in ****1996****. That university affiliation matters. It gives the school a sharper academic identity than the average selective high school and sets the tone for a serious, competition-driven sixth-form experience. The school teaches the Vietnamese curriculum, with instruction in Vietnamese and English, and it recruits for students with clear subject strength rather than for the broad, polished all-rounder profile prized by many international schools. Its own published numbers are blunt: ****1,900**** students a year, ****150**** teachers and lecturers, and ****50**** international medals and awards.

That scale, paired with elite selection, makes PTNK a national academic machine rather than a boutique school.

What puts it on a parents' shortlist is not pastoral rhetoric or glossy campus theatre, but results culture and intellectual concentration. The school's stated purpose is to develop students with outstanding performance and subject talent in one subject, two subjects, or a specialist field. The editorial tagline points to the strongest proof point: a long run of International Mathematical Olympiad medals since 2003. That record gives the school a *hard-edged academic identity* and a *competition-bred culture* that few schools in the region can match. Parents looking for a gentle, expansive school life with equal weight on sport, arts and social polish will find a narrower proposition here. Parents looking for *serious scholarly ambition*, close contact with high-performing peers and a route into top Vietnamese universities will find one of the clearest options in the city.

The right student for VNU-HCM High School for the Gifted is bright, fast, self-disciplined and comfortable in an environment where intellectual ranking is part of daily life. This is a school for teenagers who enjoy difficult problems, deep subject study and selective admissions pressure; it suits mathematicians, scientists and other academic specialists more than generalists. It also suits families who value public-sector academic prestige over the broader lifestyle offer of fee-charging international schools. The trade-off is plain: PTNK offers *institutional seriousness*, *peer intensity* and a *clear meritocratic ladder*, but not the softer packaging that international parents sometimes expect. For the right child, that is not a drawback. It is the whole point.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1996 as a specialized public school affiliated with Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, and regarded as one of the three most renowned gifted high schools in the city.
- Consistently produces medallists at the International Mathematical Olympiad, with several gold, silver and bronze results recorded across successive years.
- Admits students through a national entrance exam open to applicants from across Vietnam, drawing a highly academically capable cohort into math, physics, chemistry, biology, informatics, English and literature streams.
- Operates two campuses, including a newer Dong Hoa site inside the VNU-HCM university township with boarding provision and dedicated sports facilities.
- As a public institution under a national university, it sits within a state-subsidised fee structure rather than the private international-school fee bracket.

TRADE-OFFS

- Instruction is entirely in Vietnamese and follows the national curriculum, making it unsuitable for expat children without strong Vietnamese language ability.
- Entry is via a separate, highly competitive entrance exam (Maths, Literature, English plus a specialised subject paper), which favours students already coached within the Vietnamese system.
- Students are streamed into narrow subject-specific classes (e.g. a single Maths or Physics class per cohort), offering less breadth than an IB or A-Level programme.
- The main An Dong campus operates as a day-only, single or two-session school with no boarding, while boarding is available only at the separate Dong Hoa site.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is via PTNK's own national entrance exam, held annually and separate from the city Department of Education's exam, typically in late May with online registration in early May. Applicants sit compulsory Maths, Literature and English papers plus a chosen specialised subject (Maths, Informatics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English or Literature). The exam is nationally open but draws overwhelmingly from strong Ho Chi Minh City lower-secondary schools, and competition for the roughly 595 Grade 10 places (2025-26 intake) is intense. Results and cut-off scores are published about a month later.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_07df21e0e3.