

International School of Hamburg

Hamburg, Germany



Germany's first international school since 1957, still the only CIS-accredited IB continuum campus in the port city of Hamburg.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	67/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Hamburg does not have a long list of full-range international schools, and International School of Hamburg trades on that scarcity with justification. It opened in 1957, making it Germany’s first international school, and it still occupies a distinctive niche in the city: an English-medium day school for ages 3 to 18 with the IB across the whole age range. For mobile international families who want one continuous academic track rather than a forced switch at 11 or 16, that matters. The school’s CIS and NEASC accreditation adds external scrutiny that parents in an expatriate market should demand, not treat as decoration.

Its market position is clear. At an average annual day fee of **€21,764**, ISH sits in the serious-fee bracket for Hamburg, but not in the stratosphere by European international-school standards. That buys continuity, institutional age and a straightforward proposition: non-religious, English-language, internationally legible. The school is not selling a boutique alternative or a national system with an international gloss; it is selling a *fully international route* in a city where that remains a *scarce commodity*. The recent destinations disclosed — Hitotsubashi University, Keio University and Korea University — point to a school whose ambitions are not narrowly UK- or US-facing. That will appeal to globally mobile families in Asia-facing corporate or diplomatic circles as much as to parents planning repatriation elsewhere.

The pupil who fits ISH best is one who benefits from international churn rather than resents it: adaptable, confident in English, and comfortable in a community shaped by relocation, arrivals and departures. Families rooted in Hamburg for the long haul and committed to deep integration into the German system have other options and should weigh them seriously. ISH suits children who need academic portability, social ease across cultures and a school that keeps the path to the IB intact from the early years to 18. In that sense, its appeal is *practical rather than romantic*: it is for parents who want an *orderly international education*, clear credentials and a school that has been doing this since **1957**.

STRENGTHS

- IB curriculum throughout ages 3–18
- English-medium teaching suits mobile international families
- Day school avoids boarding commitment
- Established in Hamburg since 1957

TRADE-OFFS

- No boarding option for families needing residential provision
- English-only instruction may not suit German-preferring families
- Non-religious ethos may not suit faith-based preferences

ADMISSIONS

The International School of Hamburg is a day school for ages 3 to 18, so the natural entry points are likely to be the early years, primary, and the main secondary transition stages, subject to places. As an English-medium IB school, admissions are usually shaped by age, previous school records and, where relevant, current level of English, but the school does not publicly set out detailed assessment formats in the information provided here. For older applicants, schools of this type commonly review transcripts and may use interviews or academic screening, though families should confirm the exact process directly with ISH.

The school context supplied does not include published application deadlines, so it is safest to assume admissions are handled on a rolling basis where spaces arise rather than around a single universal cut-off; again, parents should verify current timings with the school. No bursary or financial-aid provision is stated in the material provided, so it should not be assumed. What is distinctive, insofar as can be inferred, is simply that applicants are being considered for a full English-language IB pathway from early childhood through to age 18.

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_0916300560.