

Cairo American College

Cairo, Egypt



Founded in 1945 as Egypt's only US State Department-sponsored school, pairing an American diploma with an IB pathway dating to 1993.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	66/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Cairo American College occupies a narrow, defensible niche in Cairo. Founded in **1945**, it has a long institutional memory, a clear American identity and a distinct constituency: embassy families, internationally mobile professionals and students who need a school that can absorb transition without drama. The point that matters is not romance about heritage; it is operational seriousness. A US State Department-sponsored school carries a level of scrutiny and governance that many international schools cannot match. Add a not-for-profit structure and an IB pathway in place since **1993**, and CAC stands out as a school built for continuity, not **flashy marketing**.

What is special here is the combination of an American school culture with an international intake and the option of IB. In Cairo, that is a sharp market position. Parents looking for a straight American curriculum get it; families who want an internationally portable senior route have one. English is the language of instruction, the school is non-religious, and the age range runs from **3-18**, which gives families a full-school proposition rather than a fragmented one. The school's draw is *institutional ballast*, *diplomatic-community trust* and a campus culture shaped by students who know what relocation, adaptation and reinvention demand. For the right family, that matters more than grand claims about innovation.

This school belongs on a shortlist for parents who want a serious, internationally literate American school with stable governance and a globally recognised leaving route. It also has the kind of university outcomes that catch attention without needing spin: recent destinations include Harvard, Dartmouth and King's College London. That is not proof of universal academic brilliance; it is proof that CAC can support students to top-end destinations. The weaker point is the one common to many schools that trade on reputation: public academic data are thin. The school does not publish the kind of aggregate outcomes that would let parents benchmark it with precision. Parents who need hard performance tables will find that frustrating.

The student who fits CAC is clear. This is for children who thrive in an international peer group, who value *structure over spectacle*, and who need a school that understands movement between countries, systems and friendship circles. It suits ambitious, adaptable students rather than children who need a deeply local Egyptian identity or a highly specialised national curriculum. For globally mobile families, diplomat households and parents who want *calm competence* rather than noise, Cairo American College earns its place. It offers *credibility*, *continuity* and a form of *quiet prestige* that rests on history, governance and fit.

STRENGTHS

- Cairo American College was founded in 1945, making it one of the oldest and largest American-curriculum schools in the Middle East.
- It holds dual accreditation from the Middle States Association and the Council of International Schools, a recognised quality benchmark for US-model schools abroad.
- The school is the only US State Department-affiliated school in Cairo, reflecting long-standing ties to the diplomatic and multinational expatriate community.
- Students can pursue either the American High School Diploma or, from grade 11, the full IB Diploma, giving flexibility for university-bound families.
- Ninety-eight percent of CAC graduates go on to colleges and universities in the United States or other countries, according to the school's own reporting.

TRADE-OFFS

- Annual tuition for K-12 runs from roughly \$26,600 to over \$28,000 plus a \$390 application fee, a \$1,000 assessment fee and a \$1,000 admissions deposit, placing it at the premium end of Cairo's fee range.
- The curriculum is American/IB only, with no IGCSE or other international pathway, which may not suit families wanting a British-system option.
- The single campus sits in Digla, Maadi, in southern Cairo, a long commute for families based in New Cairo, Zamalek or other parts of the city.
- Independent, verified parent reviews are scarce online, making it harder for incoming families to benchmark day-to-day school life against peer institutions.

ADMISSIONS

Applications for the following academic year open in February, with decisions typically issued by 31 May; transfer students arriving mid-year are considered on a rolling basis subject to space. The process includes a \$390 application fee and a \$1,000 assessment/placement fee, alongside a \$1,000 deposit once a place is offered. Demand is strong given the school's long history and links to the US diplomatic and multinational corporate community in Maadi, so families should apply well ahead of their intended start date and confirm availability in the specific grade.

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_25fb0ee715.