

Mahidol Wittayanusorn School

Nakhon Pathom, Thailand



On Mahidol University's Salaya campus, Thailand's first specialized science school pairs a full state scholarship with a mandatory research project for every student.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	82/100
Alumni network	58/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	52/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Mahidol Wittayanusorn School occupies a rare position in Thailand’s school market: a state science school with national reach, a campus inside Mahidol University, and a full public scholarship for every student. Founded in ****1990**** and teaching upper secondary only, it was created for pupils with unusual strength in mathematics and science, not for families shopping for a broad all-round independent-school experience. Its importance rests on structure, not branding. Thailand built it as the country’s first specialised science school and gave it unusual autonomy as a public organisation. That combination

matters. It gives the school a sharper academic identity than standard state schools and a stronger institutional link to university-level laboratories, libraries and sports facilities. For the right student, that is **a serious academic proposition**.

What marks MWIT out is the intensity of purpose. This is a day school in the verified listing, serving ages 15–18, with teaching in English and Thai and an average class size of ***24***. Every part of the model points towards advanced STEM study: selective intake, a peer group made up of high-attaining science students, and a curriculum built around research and scientific development rather than general prestige. The school’s own founding rationale is blunt: cultivate students with high potential in science, mathematics and technology, and use the school as a national prototype. Parents who want glossy breadth, elite social signalling or a heavy co-curricular sales pitch will find a narrower offer here. Parents who want **intellectual pressure**, **a meritocratic atmosphere** and **real scientific seriousness** will find exactly that.

The school belongs on a shortlist because very few schools can match its combination of public funding, specialist mission and university adjacency. The Wikipedia extract states that students receive a full scholarship for ***3 years***, including accommodation, with government funding of up to ***100,000 baht*** per student. That changes the calculation for families: MWIT offers access to a high-end science education without the fee burden attached to many international and private alternatives. It also offers something harder to buy elsewhere — a cohort in which academic ambition is normal, not exceptional. The trade-off is clear. This is not the school for a student still undecided about academic direction, or one who wants the widest possible subject mix across arts, humanities and sciences. It is for the teenager who already knows that lab work, mathematical problem-solving and extended research are not chores but **the main event**.

The student who will want MWIT is bright, resilient and happy in a competitive academic environment. They need stamina for sustained science and maths study, comfort with abstraction, and enough independence to thrive in a school designed around high expectations rather than pastoral theatre. Curiosity matters more here than polish. So does discipline. The best fit is a student who wants to test ideas, work with equally driven peers and treat school as preparation for serious study in STEM fields. For that child, MWIT offers **a clear runway**, **a demanding peer group** and **a powerful head start**.

STRENGTHS

- As Thailand's first specialised science school, MWIT is fully government-funded, so all admitted students receive a full scholarship covering tuition and accommodation for three years.
- Class sizes are deliberately small, with new intake capped at roughly 240 students a year and individual classes limited to 24 pupils to support close teacher-student interaction.
- MWIT students have a long, documented record of representing Thailand at International Mathematics and Science Olympiads, including multiple gold and silver medals in events such as the IMO and IPhO.

TRADE - OFFS

- Entry is via a nationally competitive entrance examination for a small annual intake, drawing thousands of applicants for a few hundred places, making admission highly uncertain even for strong students.
- MWIT operates as a boarding school for Mathayom 4-6 (grades 10-12, ages 15-18) students living on the Salaya campus, which is a different daily-life structure to a conventional day school.
- Instruction follows the Thai national curriculum with a heavy STEM specialisation, so the academic breadth in humanities and arts is narrower than at a full international-curriculum school.

- The school hosted the International Student Science Fair in 2011 and continues to run its own annual science fair, drawing participant schools from dozens of countries.
- MWIT's admissions model and curriculum were adopted as the template for Thailand's 12 Princess Chulabhorn's Colleges, the regional network of government science high schools.
- Public information on English-medium teaching or a distinct international-student admissions track is limited, suggesting the school is oriented primarily toward Thai-speaking applicants.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is at Mathayom 4 (Grade 10, roughly age 15) through a national entrance examination; the school enrolls about 240 new students a year, with total enrolment around 720 across three grades and classes capped at 24 students. Competition is intense given the scholarship funding and reputation as Thailand's original specialised science school. Instruction is largely in Thai and follows the Ministry of Education curriculum with advanced science, maths and technology content, so strong Thai language and STEM aptitude are prerequisites; there is no visible separate pathway for non-Thai-speaking international applicants.

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_417a05b507.