

Escuela Superior de Comercio Carlos Pellegrini

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Argentina's first school of commerce, founded in 1890, still issues its diplomas straight from the University of Buenos Aires.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	60/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	66/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	12/100
Facilities	54/100
Transparency	48/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Escuela Superior de Comercio Carlos Pellegrini holds a singular place in Argentine education. Founded in **1890**, it was the country’s first school of commerce, and the connection to the University of Buenos Aires still matters: the school issues its diplomas through UBA, not as a loose branding exercise but as an institutional fact. For parents, that gives Pellegrini a market position that few secondary schools can match: a public, secular day school for ages **13-18** with real university affiliation and a long civic pedigree. This is not a polished international school selling a global lifestyle. It is a serious Buenos Aires institution with *intellectual weight*, *public purpose* and *academic gravity*.

What distinguishes Pellegrini is not a glossy campus story but its identity as a working public school embedded in the life of the city and the national university system. The school site reads like a live institution rather than a marketing brochure: exam notices, academic calendar adjustments, family workshops on digital upbringing, study trips, Model UN activity, sports events, and repeated institutional communications on misuse of digital images and digital media. That tells parents two useful things. First, this is an active, crowded school with a real internal culture. Second, leadership communicates in direct terms when problems arise. The public language on the site — including a prominent defence of university funding — also places the school firmly inside Argentina’s public-education tradition. That will appeal to families who want **civic seriousness** over polish.

Pellegrini belongs on a shortlist for families who value reputation, history and substance more than concierge-style service. It teaches in Spanish, English and French, but this remains an Argentinian school, not an expatriate bubble. Parents who need heavy hand-holding, campus theatre or extensive English-medium provision should look elsewhere. Students who thrive here will be academically ambitious, comfortable in a large urban institution and ready for a school culture with **high expectations**, **strong identity** and a measure of institutional toughness. The best fit is the teenager who wants standing as well as schooling: a place with **earned prestige**, deep roots in Buenos Aires, and a diploma that carries the name of UBA.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1890 as the first commerce school in Argentina, it is directly affiliated with the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), which issues its diplomas.
- As a public school under UBA control, there is no tuition fee, removing cost as a barrier despite the highly competitive entry process.
- Central Recoleta location is well served by multiple bus routes and two Buenos Aires Subte (metro) lines, easing daily commuting.
- Graduates have gone on to prominent public roles, including former Buenos Aires Province governor Daniel Scioli and historian Felipe Pigna.
- Students run an active, long-standing student union (CECaP) with annual elections, offering genuine early experience in organisation and civic life.

TRADE-OFFS

- Admission requires passing a lengthy, highly competitive entrance course and exam shared with Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires, effectively demanding months of prior preparation.
- As a state-funded institution dependent on national university financing, the school has publicly flagged budget pressures tied to university funding disputes.
- The school has a pronounced, historically left-leaning and politically activist student culture that will not suit every family's preferences.
- Instruction is entirely in Spanish under the Argentine national curriculum, with no bilingual or international-baccalaureate pathway for families needing curriculum continuity abroad.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is via a single, highly competitive admission point requiring candidates to complete a preparatory course and pass an exam in language, mathematics, geography and history, shared with Colegio Nacional de Buenos Aires. No tuition fee applies since the school is free and public, but demand far exceeds the roughly 2,500 places available, and most families use private academies to prepare months in advance. There is no publicized lateral or mid-secondary entry route; instruction proceeds entirely in Spanish under the Argentine curriculum.

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_485d103b1b.