

# Nido de Águilas

Santiago, Chile



*On 130 acres in the Andean foothills outside Santiago, Harkness-style seminars feed parallel US, Chilean, and IB diploma tracks.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 72/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 74/100 |
| University placement | 72/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 73/100 |
| Alumni network       | 72/100 |
| Facilities           | 75/100 |
| Transparency         | 67/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

Nido de Águilas occupies a rare position in the Santiago market: a large, established international day school with real scale, real land, and a curriculum structure that does more than funnel everyone down a single academic route. Founded in 1934, it sits on **130 acres** in the Andean foothills and enrolls about **1,500** students across early years to high school. The school’s distinguishing feature is the combination of an American curriculum with parallel diploma options in US, Chilean and IB pathways, underpinned by Harkness-style seminars. That matters. It gives academically ambitious students room to work in discussion-led classrooms while keeping university options open across Chile, the US and beyond. In a city where many international schools sell global aspirations, Nido has the scale and structure to

deliver them with *\*serious academic range\**.

This is not an intimate boutique school. It is a substantial institution with *\*\*45\*\** nationalities, a published *\*\*7:1\*\** student-teacher ratio, and the depth that comes with a broad faculty and a long-established reputation. For parents, the attraction is clear: breadth of peers, breadth of courses, and a campus that feels *\*expansive rather than compressed\**. The size cuts both ways. Students who need constant hand-holding or a tightly managed small-school atmosphere will find stronger pastoral containment elsewhere. Students who thrive in a busy, high-functioning environment, and who want sport, activities and multiple academic lanes in one place, will find *\*room to grow\** here. Accreditation from MSA and CIS adds external assurance, but the stronger selling point is operational maturity: Nido has been doing this for decades.

Why shortlist it? Because few schools in Chile combine *\*international ambition\**, substantial physical space, discussion-based teaching, and three serious end-of-school trajectories in one package. It suits confident, outward-facing students who are comfortable in English, happy in a diverse peer group, and ready to take responsibility for their own education. The best fit is the student who wants a campus with energy, options and expectation — not insulation. For that child, Nido offers *\*a sense of scale\**, *\*intellectual stretch\** and a route into selective universities that justifies its standing at the top end of Santiago’s international market.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1934 and accredited by both NEASC and the Chilean Ministry of Education, giving it one of the longest continuous track records among Santiago's international schools.
- Designated the official US State Department-sponsored school in Chile, a credential that signals recognised standing with the American expatriate community.
- An IB World School since 1982 offering the full Diploma Programme alongside a US-style diploma, with the option to earn the Chilean National Plan diploma concurrently.
- Serves a genuinely mixed community of roughly 1,500 students drawn from 40-50 nationalities, with a substantial share of local Chilean families alongside expatriates.
- Sits on a spacious, park-like 130-acre campus with facilities including a 735-seat theatre, an indoor aquatics centre, MakerLabs and dedicated science laboratories.

TRADE - OFFS

- Tuition is among the highest in Santiago, with published 2024-2025 rates of roughly \$20,900 per year for K2-Grade 12 plus a one-time incorporation fee of about \$14,700, on top of separate registration charges.
- The school runs a Northern Hemisphere academic calendar (late July to mid-June), an unusual arrangement in Chile that can complicate transfers to or from local Southern Hemisphere schools.
- Non-native English speakers must sit a WIDA language assessment on entry, and students placed in English-language support are not eligible for the full IB Diploma track.
- The campus lies in Lo Barnechea in the Andean foothills, roughly 20 minutes from downtown Santiago, meaning families based elsewhere in the city face a longer daily commute.

## ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Pre-Kinder (age three) through Grade 12. Applicants to PK/K1 undergo an in-person evaluation; from K2 upward the Admissions Committee reviews the full file and sets any further assessments. A CLP 190,000 non-refundable application fee applies. Non-native English speakers take the WIDA proficiency test, and direct entry to the full IB Diploma requires a minimum 3.1 US-scale GPA with no history of failing grades; otherwise students follow a partial IB plan. Need-based financial aid exists, capped at 50% of tuition, averaging around 25%.

WTS RATING 

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