

Chadwick International

Incheon, South Korea



One school, two continents: this Songdo campus mirrors a 1935 California founder, pairing IB rigor with mandatory outdoor-education expeditions.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	75/100
University placement	73/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	69/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Songdo gives Chadwick International a rare proposition: an IB school on a purpose-built international campus with a direct institutional link to a California founder dating back to 1935. This is not a loose branding exercise. The school states plainly that it shares mission, philosophy and core values with Chadwick School in Palos Verdes, and student and staff exchanges between the two campuses add substance to that claim. For families who want an American-inflected international education without sacrificing the coherence of a full IB pathway, that matters. So does the scale of adult attention: the published student-teacher ratio is ****8:1****, a serious number in any market.

What distinguishes Chadwick is its insistence on education through experience rather than mere accumulation of credentials. The school frames learning as “self-discovery through experience”, and the editorial tagline points to mandatory outdoor-education expeditions as part of that culture. That combination — IB rigour, American framing, and outdoor challenge — gives the school a *distinctive edge* in a crowded field of international schools that promise global citizenship and deliver little beyond the slogan. Chadwick’s non-religious setting, English and Korean as languages of instruction, and age range from 3 to 18 make it a clean fit for internationally mobile families who want continuity on one campus rather than a patchwork of separate schools and systems.

The average annual day fee is **\$44,335**, which places Chadwick in the *premium bracket* of the South Korean international market. Parents are paying for a full-through school founded in **2010**, IB accreditation, and an educational model that puts equal weight on intellectual stretch and character under pressure. The trade-off is clear: this is not the right school for families who want a narrowly exam-drilled environment or a softer, more anonymous campus culture. It suits students who thrive with high expectations, who want close contact with teachers, and who gain energy from challenge, reflection and participation. In short, Chadwick belongs on a shortlist for families seeking an *outward-facing*, *demanding* international school with genuine trans-Pacific DNA rather than borrowed Californian gloss.

STRENGTHS

- Chadwick International is a Pre-K to Grade 12 school in Songdo, Incheon, founded in 2010, and is an authorized IB World School offering the full PYP, MYP, DP and CP continuum, alongside WASC accreditation.
- Chadwick International opened in 2010 as the second campus of Chadwick School in Palos Verdes, CA, established in 1935, giving it an established US-linked pedagogical lineage rather than a stand-alone franchise brand.
- The school reports roughly 150 faculty, an average class size of about 25 students, and a student-to-teacher ratio of 8:1, figures consistent with smaller-group instruction.
- Chadwick International is one of the first and largest schools in the Seoul metropolitan area where up to 30% of places can go to Korean nationals regardless of overseas-residency requirements, widening access compared with many Seoul foreign schools that require years of overseas residence.
- Students take part in compulsory Outdoor Education trips from Grades 4-12 ranging from two to twelve days, alongside exchanges with Chadwick School in California, Round Square conferences and Model United Nations.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition is billed in a dual Korean-won-and-US-dollar structure, with published 2025/26 figures ranging from roughly KRW 27.4 million plus USD 15,530 in the Village School up to KRW 32.2 million plus USD 18,270 in the Upper School, before one-time application, matriculation and capital fees.
- Qualified students from expatriate families residing in Korea are considered a priority for admissions, which can make places harder to secure for other applicant categories.
- A child admitted as a foreign-passport student must keep that status throughout enrollment, and there is no guarantee of continued enrollment for students who change citizenship status after admission, an unusual structural risk for dual-national families.
- The campus sits about 30 kilometres southwest of Seoul in Songdo, making it a day-school-only option (no boarding) that is less convenient for families based in central Seoul.

ADMISSIONS

Chadwick International runs a defined annual cycle: applications for the following school year typically open in early November and close in mid-to-late January for Korean passport holders and foreign passport holders already resident in Korea, with rolling admission for relocating expatriate families when space allows. The process includes an online application, supporting school records or transcripts, assessments and interviews, and, for Grade 10 and above, an official transcript. Because the school also admits Korean nationals under Incheon Free Economic Zone rules (capped at 30% of enrollment) alongside expatriates who receive admissions priority, places at popular grade levels can be competitive and families should confirm eligibility and timing well in advance.

WTS RATING 

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