

# La Garenne International School

Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland



*Where the chairlift meets the classroom, this family-run Alpine boarding school pairs IB rigor with two ski days a week.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 50/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 49/100 |
| University placement | 47/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 52/100 |
| Alumni network       | 52/100 |
| Facilities           | 56/100 |
| Transparency         | 39/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

Two ski days a week gives La Garenne its shape. This is not a conventional Swiss boarding school with winter sports bolted on for brochure effect; the Alpine setting in Villars-sur-Ollon drives the rhythm of school life. The school is family-run, non-religious and small at approximately **\*\*200\*\*** students, with more than **\*\*40+\*\*** nationalities across two campuses. That scale matters. It creates a *\*close-knit\** environment with high adult oversight, and it narrows the margin for students who want anonymity. La Garenne teaches in English and French, offers a British and IB pathway, and holds both IBO and CIS accreditation. Parents looking for a large, systems-heavy boarding operation will find this too intimate. Parents looking for a *\*tightly supervised\** international boarding school with a strong sense of community will put it

straight on the shortlist.

The school's real selling point is the combination of pastoral containment and international mobility. La Garenne runs from childhood through to the IB Diploma or its own high school diploma, but the editorial case for the school sits most clearly in its 11–18 boarding years: students who benefit from structure, outdoor life and a visibly managed community do well here. The family-house system, boarding staff presence, safeguarding emphasis and well-being language all point in the same direction. So does the location. Villars is safe, scenic and heavily curated; it is also remote enough that students buy into school life rather than disappearing into a city. That makes La Garenne a strong fit for internationally mobile families who want \*contained pastoral care\* without sacrificing academic ambition.

It is also expensive. The average annual boarding fee across the full age range is \*\*CHF 112,429\*\*, and the average annual day fee is \*\*CHF 77,714\*\*. That places La Garenne in the top tier of the Swiss market, and parents should judge it accordingly: not by raw scale or famous brand heritage, but by whether they value a smaller boarding community, direct access to the mountains and a dual British-IB academic route. The child who will want La Garenne is sporty, outdoors-minded and comfortable in an international crowd, or needs a \*gentle but firm\* boarding environment with clear routines. The child who wants urban independence, a big senior-school social scene or institutional grandeur will outgrow it fast.

#### STRENGTHS

- Offers both IB and British pathways
- Boarding in Villars-sur-Ollon, Swiss Alps
- English and French instruction
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio

#### TRADE-OFFS

- Annual boarding fee: 120000 CHF
- Day fees still high: 55000 CHF
- Average class size reaches 18

## ADMISSIONS

La Garenne International School is a boarding school in Villars-sur-Ollon for pupils aged 11–18, so the obvious entry points are the lower secondary years and sixth form equivalents. As the school offers both British and IB pathways, admissions are likely tied partly to age and partly to prior schooling, especially for older applicants joining examination or diploma years. The school teaches in English and French, which may also shape placement. Beyond that, the school context provided does not publish a detailed breakdown of year-by-year entry points.

The school also does not publish, in the material supplied here, specific application deadlines, assessment tools, interview stages, or whether places are decided through rolling admissions. Nor is any bursary or financial-aid provision stated in the verified context. Families should therefore expect a selective boarding admissions process, but should not assume scholarships, means-tested support, or fixed annual deadlines unless the school confirms them directly. The comparatively low student–teacher ratio of 10:1 suggests admissions may be constrained by capacity rather than simple age eligibility alone.

WTS RATING 

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