

Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, Hong Kong



Perched above Tolo Harbour, this United World College gathers scholars from 90 nations for a service-driven IB Diploma.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	67/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	67/100
Alumni network	19/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Perched above Ma On Shan Country Park and looking over Tolo Harbour, Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong trades on something rarer than a glossy campus: intensity of purpose. This is a boarding school for ages 16 to 18, founded in 1992, teaching the IB Diploma in English, and it is built for students who want the final two years of school to feel **immersive**, international and service-led. The school’s own account points to students from over 100 nations and more than ****90 activities**** beyond the classroom. That breadth matters. At sixth-form age, many schools talk about global citizenship; LPCUWC organises daily life around it.

What sets it apart is the combination of full boarding, a single-curriculum focus and a mission that reaches past exam preparation. There is no attempt to be all things to all families. This is not a through-school with multiple pathways and a soft landing for uncertain teenagers; it is an IB boarding college with a clear idea of the student it wants. The UWC model attracts young people who are academically serious, outward-facing and willing to live closely with peers from very different backgrounds. Parents who want constant hand-holding, heavy social polish or a narrow university-drill culture will find better fits elsewhere. Parents who want their child tested by a **demanding** peer group and a **service-heavy** residential life should pay attention. The published boarding fee, at an average ****HK\$270,000**** a year across the two-year programme, places it in the premium Hong Kong market without tipping into the territory of pure luxury branding.

Why shortlist it? Because few schools in Hong Kong offer this degree of international mix, residential independence and clarity of mission in one package. The IB Diploma already asks for range, stamina and self-management; adding boarding and community engagement raises the bar again. That will suit the student who is restless in conventional high school settings, eager for **serious** discussion, and ready to commit to a community larger than their own friendship circle. It will not suit every 16-year-old. It will suit the student who wants school to be **transformative**, not merely comfortable.

STRENGTHS

- IB Diploma results have consistently outperformed the world average, with averages of 36-37.5 points in several years versus a global average around 31, and roughly a quarter of students scoring 40 or more.
- The great majority of the roughly 250-258 students receive need-based or merit scholarships, so admission is not effectively gated by ability to pay.
- The student body is drawn from about 80-90 countries, giving genuine cultural diversity for a school of its size.
- As part of the 18-member United World Colleges movement (opened 1992, the seventh UWC), the college has an established international network for university guidance and alumni support.
- Classes are kept small, at roughly 12-18 students, within a fully residential campus set beside Ma On Shan Country Park.

TRADE-OFFS

- The college teaches only the two-year IB Diploma Programme for ages 16-19; it is not a K-12 school and families cannot enrol children earlier or keep them on after graduation.
- It is 100% boarding with no day-student option, meaning full-time residential life is compulsory rather than a choice.
- Admission is highly competitive: historically only around 50 of roughly 300 Hong Kong applicants are accepted each year, with additional places allocated to other UWCs rather than this campus.
- The Wu Kai Sha campus in the New Territories, near Ma On Shan Country Park, is less central than many Hong Kong international schools, adding commuting time for day visitors or family events.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is only at the equivalent of Year 12 (Grade 11) for the two-year IB Diploma, typically ages 16-18. Hong Kong residents apply through the UWC Hong Kong National Committee; overseas applicants apply via their home country's UWC national committee, which nominates candidates across the 18-college network rather than to LPCUWC specifically. Selection weighs academic merit, personal qualities and financial need together, with historically only a minority of Hong Kong applicants accepted. Most successful applicants receive full or partial scholarships automatically as part of the process.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (8)

MUSIC: Elim Chan

DRAMA: Clement Kjersgaard

VISUAL_ARTS: Asim Butt

LETTERS: Clement Kjersgaard

POLITICS: Niki Ashton, Dominic Lee Tsz-king

SCIENCE: Niki Ashton, Nicola Zilio, Q140172569

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_7adc9274a6.