

Craighouse School

Santiago, Chile



A Scottish surname turned school name, blending British house tradition with a full IB continuum on a 24-hectare Andean campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	56/100
Academic outcomes	57/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	56/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	57/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Craighouse School occupies a narrow and coveted niche in Santiago: a non-religious, bilingual day school with both British heritage and the full IB continuum, set on a ****24-hectare**** campus. Founded in ****1959****, it has had time to harden its identity. The formula is clear: Spanish and English, house tradition, a long age range from 3 to 18, and the academic architecture of the IB from start to finish. That combination gives parents something rare in Chilean schooling: **institutional confidence**, **clear academic continuity** and a culture that reads British in structure without turning into a museum piece.

What distinguishes Craighouse is not novelty but synthesis. Plenty of schools offer bilingual teaching.

Plenty claim internationalism. Craighouse ties those claims to a recognisable school model: disciplined pastoral organisation, competitive house life, and an academically serious programme that runs through the whole school rather than switching tracks at the senior end. HMC membership sharpens that positioning. It places Craighouse in conversation with established British independent schools, not just local competitors with an international label. For families who want *social polish* without religiosity, and *serious academic mileage* without a narrowly local curriculum, that matters.

It also belongs on a shortlist because it solves a practical problem for internationally minded Chile-based families. A child can enter at **3** and stay through **18** in one coherent system, in two languages, without the educational whiplash that comes from moving between unrelated curricula. That makes Craighouse attractive to ambitious local families, expatriates planning a long stay, and parents who value optionality for university destinations. The school's scale and established reputation also give it a degree of *earned prestige* in the Santiago market. This is not a boutique newcomer trading on design language and aspiration.

The best fit is a student who thrives in a structured, high-expectation environment and wants breadth as well as attainment. Craighouse suits children who will use the campus, join in house culture, cope with bilingual demands and benefit from the steady accumulation of IB habits over time. It is less suited to families hunting for an overtly progressive, loose, or anti-traditional atmosphere. The appeal lies in *stable ambition*, *bilingual fluency* and a school culture built to carry students for the long term, not just decorate an admissions brochure.

STRENGTHS

- Offers the IB Diploma Programme alongside a British curriculum framework, giving families a dual pathway toward UK and international university admission.
- Located in the Vitacura area of Santiago, placing it within an established corridor of international schools serving expatriate and diplomatic families.
- Bilingual (English-Spanish) instructional model gives non-Spanish-speaking arrivals a structured route to functional bilingualism rather than immersion-only teaching.
- Coeducational day school structure suits families wanting siblings of both genders on one campus without boarding logistics.
- Long-established presence in Santiago's international school market, giving it more institutional continuity than newer bilingual startups in the city.

TRADE-OFFS

- As a day school only, it offers no boarding option, which limits it for families based outside commutable Santiago neighbourhoods.
- Editorial rank of 1255 places it well outside the top tier of internationally benchmarked schools, reflecting limited independently verified academic outcome data.
- Fee levels and detailed IB/A-level results are not consistently published in accessible public sources, making cost and outcome comparisons difficult for relocating families.
- Bilingual British-IB hybrid model, while flexible, means it lacks the singular curricular identity of a straight British or straight IB school, which can complicate transfer credit for families moving on to a different system.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is understood to run through direct application to the school, typically requiring previous school reports, an interview, and in some cases assessment testing, with entry points across primary and secondary years subject to space. As a well-known bilingual option in Vitacura, places at popular entry years (early primary, start of secondary) can be competitive among Santiago's expatriate and local international-track families. Families should contact the school directly for current fee schedules, seat availability, and language-proficiency expectations, as these are not fully detailed in public materials.

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_8d2ca3c99d.