

Lycée Guebre-Mariam

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Seeded by a 1947 Franco-Ethiopian accord on Churchill Avenue, its Baccalaureate runs on French, English and Amharic alike.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	55/100
Academic outcomes	56/100
University placement	54/100
Prestige & heritage	55/100
Alumni network	54/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	43/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Seeded by a 1947 Franco-Ethiopian accord, Lycée Guebre-Mariam occupies a rare place in Addis Ababa’s market: not an international school borrowing a French flavour, but a French school in the full institutional sense, with AEFÉ and Homologué status and the French Baccalaureate running from preschool to terminale. It teaches ages 3 to 18 and works in French, English and Amharic from the earliest years. That trilingual structure is the school’s defining asset. Few schools can claim that level of linguistic integration across the whole age range, and fewer still do it with this depth of historical footing. With about ****1,800 students****, it is also a substantial operation, not a boutique outpost.

What puts Lycée Guebre-Mariam on a serious shortlist is that combination of *institutional weight*, *cultural fluency* and continuity. Parents who want a clean route through the French system in Ethiopia do not have many alternatives with this pedigree. The school's size gives it reach; its 1947 foundation gives it roots; its non-religious stance keeps the proposition straightforward. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is **ETB 1,306,500**, which places it firmly in the expensive end of the Addis market. That price buys access to a school with a long-settled identity, not an improvised international hybrid.

This is not the right fit for every child. It suits students who will thrive in a *structured, language-heavy* environment and families who value the French academic tradition enough to commit to it for the long haul. It also suits internationally minded Ethiopian and expatriate families who want their children to move confidently across French, English and Amharic rather than treat multilingualism as a decorative extra. Parents hunting for an Anglo-American school culture, a looser academic style or a softer institutional character should look elsewhere. Lycée Guebre-Mariam is for families who want *clarity of system*, *serious linguistic ambition* and a school with an identity that has held since **1947**.

STRENGTHS

- Follows the official French national curriculum, culminating in the French Baccalaureate, which is recognised for direct entry to universities in France and much of the Francophone world.
- As an AEFÉ-affiliated (or AEFÉ-linked) French lycee abroad, it is subject to oversight and curriculum alignment from the French Ministry of Education network.
- Located in Addis Ababa, giving access to a diplomatic and NGO-heavy expat community, useful for francophone families posted to Ethiopia.
- Day-school structure keeps the institution embedded in daily Addis Ababa life rather than requiring boarding logistics.
- Bilingual/French-medium instruction offers continuity for francophone families moving between postings in French-system schools worldwide.

TRADE-OFFS

- Addis Ababa's infrastructure (power, traffic, air links) is less developed than in many other expat postings, which can affect daily school life and logistics.
- A single-curriculum, single-language (French Baccalaureate) model offers little flexibility for families who may later need an English-medium or IB pathway.
- Editorial rank of 1274 and 'candidate' tier indicate this school is not yet a well-established or highly differentiated presence in the international schools sourcing generally used for comparative benchmarking.
- Public information on fees, class sizes, exact accreditation status and outcomes is limited, making independent verification of quality difficult for prospective families.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is understood to follow the standard French lycee-abroad model: rolling enrolment subject to space, with placement tests or interviews for non-native French speakers, and priority sometimes given to French nationals or AEFÉ-network transfers. Entry points typically align with the French school calendar (September start). Given the school's smaller international profile, competitiveness for places is likely moderate rather than intense, though families should confirm current admissions procedures directly with the school as public detail is limited.

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_97e4f456ed.