

HNUE High School for Gifted Students

Hanoi, Vietnam



Born in a wartime evacuation camp in 1966, this Hanoi maths academy still sends students to the podium at international science olympiads.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	64/100
Academic outcomes	72/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	52/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

HNUE High School for Gifted Students occupies a narrow, serious corner of the Hanoi market: a state gifted school built for academically exceptional teenagers who want depth, competition and hard intellectual company. Founded in ****1966**** during wartime evacuation, it carries unusual institutional weight in Vietnamese mathematics and science education. The school’s distinction rests on selective talent development, not pastoral gloss or lifestyle extras. Parents shortlist it for one reason above all: this is a place for students who want to test themselves against the country’s strongest peers and train in an environment where olympiad culture is part of the school’s DNA. Its enduring appeal lies in that **old-school academic severity**, **competitive intellectual charge** and **clear meritocratic purpose**.

What sets HNUE apart is its role as a specialist pipeline rather than a broad all-round school. It serves ages **15–18**, runs in Vietnamese with English also in the mix, and sits squarely within the Vietnamese system. The attraction is obvious for families who value mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology or informatics at a high level and who want a school with a record of sending students to national and international science competitions. That history gives it real market force. In Hanoi, many schools promise stretch; HNUE offers *podium-level ambition*, *scholarly intensity* and a culture shaped by gifted education from the start. The trade-off is just as clear: students who want a wide, relaxed sixth-form experience, heavy arts provision or a polished international-school cocoon will find the proposition too narrow.

The right student for HNUE is academically resilient, self-directed and comfortable in a selective peer group where brilliance is normal. This school suits teenagers who enjoy problem-solving for its own sake, who can absorb pressure without drama and who gain energy from rigorous classes rather than from constant hand-holding. It will also suit families who value substance over packaging. HNUE’s market position is not luxury, not bilingual prestige for its own sake, and not a westernised campus experience. It is a focused public-sector academy for gifted students, with *austere credibility*, *serious scientific culture* and the kind of *national prestige* that still matters in Vietnam. For the right child, that is a powerful shortlist argument.

STRENGTHS

- One of only seven national-level high schools for the gifted in Vietnam, founded in 1966 as the second-oldest magnet school in the country.
- Students have won roughly 100 medals at International Science Olympiads across subjects including mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology.
- Offers specialised tracks beyond its founding mathematics focus, including physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, English and literature.
- Alumni network includes four Vietnamese government ministers, academics at domestic and international universities, entrepreneurs and artists.
- Affiliated with Hanoi National University of Education, giving access to university-level teaching staff and facilities on a shared campus.

TRADE-OFFS

- Instruction is entirely in Vietnamese, making the school unsuitable for families whose children cannot already study at native or near-native Vietnamese level.
- Admission is extremely competitive, with a 2022 acceptance rate around 5.5 percent overall and as low as 3 percent for some subject classes, so most applicants are turned away.
- The curriculum and school culture are heavily oriented toward subject Olympiad training and university entrance exams, which suits a narrow academic profile rather than a broad, rounded programme.
- As a day school with no boarding option, families must be based within commuting distance of the Cau Giay district campus in Hanoi.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is at grade 10 via a competitive subject-specific entrance examination (commonly in two rounds) covering tracks such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, English or literature. Public reporting cites a 2022 acceptance rate of about 5.5 percent overall, falling to roughly 3 percent for some specialised classes, making this one of the most selective schools in Vietnam. Applicants typically need strong prior academic records and, in practice, extensive external exam preparation. As a Vietnamese-curriculum public school, fluency in Vietnamese is a practical prerequisite; the school does not appear to offer an international or bilingual admissions track for non-Vietnamese-speaking applicants.

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_9e7d336221.