

Shanghai High School International Division

Shanghai, China



Grown from a 19th-century public school in Xuhui, its IB cohort has averaged 41 points for fifteen straight years.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	84/100
University placement	81/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	75/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The figure that matters here is the IB: an average of 41 points for fifteen straight years is rarefied territory by any standard, and it puts Shanghai High School International Division in the city’s *serious academic top tier*. This is not a new standalone start-up trading on borrowed prestige. The international division, founded in 1993, sits within the orbit of Shanghai High School, a much older public-school institution in Xuhui, and that connection gives it more depth than many expatriate-facing schools can claim. The school covers ages 3 to 18, teaches in English and Mandarin, and runs both IB and American pathways. It also carries CIS and IBO accreditation, which matters because parents shopping in this bracket should expect external scrutiny, not just glossy self-description.

What stands out in market terms is intensity, breadth and scale of ambition. A **5:1** student-teacher ratio is exceptionally low, and the public-facing academic and co-curricular menu is expansive: AP courses alongside the IBDP, dedicated college counselling, science and technology competitions, subject Olympiad-style activity, and a club culture that ranges from robotics, Model United Nations and mock trial to choir, drama, debate and a long athletics list. This is a school built for students who want a *high-output*, *competitive* environment and who will use it. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **RMB 148,666**, which places SHSID in Shanghai's premium international bracket, but the proposition is clear: parents are paying for academic horsepower, unusual programme density and a peer group that expects to work hard.

The children who thrive here are bright, self-directed and comfortable with pressure. This is a strong fit for internationally minded families who want a bilingual setting, serious university preparation and a school where intellectual stretch is the point, not an optional extra. It is less convincing for parents seeking a *soft-edged*, intimate school with a visibly distinctive pastoral identity; the published story leans far more heavily on outcomes, opportunity and activity than on emotional language about nurture. For the right student, that is exactly the attraction. SHSID belongs on a shortlist for families who want *elite academic momentum* without sacrificing range, and who know their child will push into the opportunities rather than wait to be coaxed.

STRENGTHS

- IB Diploma results have averaged over 41 out of 45 points since 2021, well above the global average of around 30.6.
- It was the first school in Shanghai authorised to offer the IB Diploma Programme, gaining this status in 1995.
- Curriculum breadth spans IB, AP and A-Level pathways rather than locking students into a single exam system.
- Tuition (RMB 156,000/year for high school) is markedly lower than premium foreign-passport international schools in Shanghai charging RMB 336,100-385,300.
- Multiple campuses across the city (Xuhui/Puxi, Pudong/Zhangjiang, Lingang, Hongkou) give families some choice of location.

TRADE - OFFS

- Enrolment is legally restricted: the applicant must hold a foreign passport and have at least one parent with a foreign passport, which excludes fully local Chinese families.
- Entrance assessment is demanding, testing English, Chinese and Maths for all applicants plus Physics and Chemistry for Grade 10 and above.
- The school's admissions pages do not describe a routine scholarship or financial-aid programme for new international-division students.
- Applications require extensive documentation, including proof of Shanghai employment and residence, birth and marriage certificates, and two years of prior school records.

ADMISSIONS

Entry requires the student and at least one parent to hold a foreign passport (Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan residents are also eligible), plus proof of Shanghai residence or employment. After document review and a non-refundable RMB 1,000 fee, applicants sit a written and oral assessment in English, Chinese and Maths, with Physics and Chemistry added from Grade 10. No published scholarship scheme exists on the admissions pages, so places should be assumed to be fully fee-paying and competitive given the school's strong IB record.

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_a803a60dfb.