

Garden International School

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Traces its roots to a 1951 Lake Gardens schoolhouse, later becoming Malaysia's first official O-Level examination centre.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	80/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Garden International School has a rare claim that matters: it traces its roots to a 1951 Lake Gardens schoolhouse and later became Malaysia’s first official O-Level examination centre. That gives it something many newer international schools in Kuala Lumpur lack — institutional memory, alumni depth and a settled sense of what a British school in Malaysia is for. Today it runs as a non-religious English-medium day school for ages 3 to 18, with a British curriculum and accreditations that carry weight in this market: BSO, CIS, FOBISIA and COBIS. The average annual day fee across the full age range is ****104,955 MYR****, which places GIS firmly in the ***premium*** bracket. Parents are not paying for novelty here; they are paying for a school with long roots, strong brand recognition and a campus-and-results proposition built

for ambitious families.

What puts GIS on a shortlist is the combination of academic intent and scale. The school states that **99%** of graduates progress to their first or second choice universities, and it trades heavily on top-university access. That is the core proposition, not an afterthought. The campus also matters: GIS advertises a purpose-built site with serious provision for learning, sport and the arts, which fits a school selling a full British education rather than a narrow exam factory. There is a *clear, high-performance* tone to the messaging, balanced by repeated emphasis on pastoral care, belonging and well-being. Still, parents should read that balance correctly: this is an academically driven school with polished support structures, not a soft or experimental alternative.

The best-fit student is bright, organised and ready to use a large, established school well. GIS suits children who want a *structured, university-facing* education, broad co-curricular options and a community with international polish rather than intimate, boutique schooling. It will also suit families who value tradition without wanting a religious frame, and who want British curriculum continuity from early years to sixth form in one institution. It is less compelling for parents seeking a *progressive, unconventional* pedagogy or a lower-cost option. In Kuala Lumpur's top tier, GIS stands as a *serious, high-fee* British day school with history, recognised accreditations and a very direct academic promise.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1951, GIS is one of the oldest and most prestigious private schools in Malaysia, giving it a long-established local track record rather than a newly opened campus.
- Accredited by the Council of International Schools, GIS offers the British National Curriculum, including providing IGCSE and A Levels examinations.
- The school offers a wide array of over 200 co-curricular activities, and students have opportunities to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme and a TED-Ed Student Talk programme.
- Facilities include a 25-metre swimming pool with eight lanes, tennis courts, a sports hall, and an all-weather football field.
- Operates across two campuses in Kuala Lumpur: an Early Years Centre in Desa Sri Hartamas and a Primary and Secondary School in Mont'Kiara, giving age-appropriate separation of younger and older pupils.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees sit at the higher end of the KL market: Application Fee RM 1,500, Registration Fee RM 20,000 (non-refundable), rising to RM 118,560 per year for Years 12 & 13, a significant commitment before a place is even confirmed.
- GCSE-level results data is not reliably reported on for independent schools and the Good Schools Guide notes it does not have entry or exit data for pupils at this school, nor information available from the school itself, making independent verification of outcomes difficult for prospective parents.
- Year 7 and Year 12 entry points are competitive and benefit from early application, and the school itself confirms that when the number of eligible applicants exceeds the availability of spaces for a particular year group, students may be placed in a wait pool until space becomes available.
- Some Sixth Form subjects have capacity constraints determined by accommodation and equipment, and the more popular subjects can reach full capacity early on in the options process, which can narrow subject choice for late applicants.

ADMISSIONS

GIS admits from Early Years through Sixth Form (Year 13). Entry involves age-appropriate assessment: an online diagnostic for applicants aged six and above, in-class observations, and staff interviews, with Sixth Form places additionally conditional on prerequisite IGCSE grades. Year 7 and Year 12 are the most oversubscribed entry points, and when demand exceeds capacity the school operates a formal wait pool, with places allocated partly on the basis of English proficiency, academic fit, and cohort balance. A non-refundable application fee (RM1,500) and registration fee (RM20,000) apply before a provisional or full offer is confirmed.

WTS RATING 

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