

The British School of Amsterdam

Amsterdam, Netherlands



Canal-named houses and a monument-listed Havenstraat campus anchor Amsterdam's only full British nursery-to-sixth-form pathway.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	62/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Canal-named houses and a national-monument campus give The British School of Amsterdam a setting few international schools can match, but the real point is structural: this is Amsterdam’s only full British pathway from age 3 to 18. For expatriate and internationally mobile families who want a single English-medium school running straight through to GCSEs and A levels, that matters. The school opened in **1978**, teaches ages **3–18**, and remains a day school, so its market sits with families committed to living in Amsterdam rather than using school as a boarding base. It also carries COBIS and BSO accreditation, which gives parents a clean external check on standards and governance. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **€17,548**: expensive by local standards, but not absurd for a

capital-city international school with a full British ladder.

What marks it out is the combination of *continuity*, *architectural character* and a clear British academic line. The school states plainly that its curriculum leads to GCSE and A Level qualifications, and the through-school model removes the usual friction of changing systems at 11 or 16. That makes it attractive to British families on assignment, return-bound families who want re-entry into the UK system, and non-British parents who want the discipline and examination structure of that route. The Havenstraat site, with modern facilities folded into a listed building, gives the school a *distinctive* physical identity in a market full of generic campuses. It also matters that the school grew from a parent-founded primary into a full-through school; that origin still shows in the emphasis on community and in the prominence it gives its parents' organisation.

Parents still need to read it accurately. This is not a school selling progressive ambiguity or multiple diploma options. It is for children who will thrive in a *structured*, exam-led English curriculum and in a school that puts academic achievement, student welfare and extra-curricular activity at the centre of its strategic plan. The recent university destinations published in the context — Durham, Birkbeck and Canterbury Christ Church — are real but *modest* as a public outcomes snapshot; the school does not publish a broader destinations picture here, and that leaves serious university-focused parents wanting more detail. The strongest fit is a student who wants stability, clear expectations and a British school identity without leaving Amsterdam; less convincing for families seeking a bilingual Dutch pathway, an IB route, or a *hard-charging* public record of elite university placements.

STRENGTHS

- Full English National Curriculum through A Levels
- Dedicated British-curriculum day school, ages 3–18
- English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families
- COBIS and BSO accreditation provide external oversight

TRADE-OFFS

- No boarding; unsuitable for families needing residential provision
- English-only instruction may limit Dutch-language immersion
- British curriculum may not suit non-UK university pathways

ADMISSIONS

The British School of Amsterdam is a through-school for ages 3-18, with entry spanning Early Years, Junior School and Senior School, and culminating in GCSEs and A Levels. The obvious intake points are therefore at the start of nursery/early years, junior years and senior years, but the school presents itself as open across the age range rather than only at a handful of fixed admissions stages. It is a day school and teaches in English, following the National Curriculum for England.

Publicly available material here is notably thin on admissions mechanics. The school does not publish, in the material provided, specific application deadlines, assessment formats, interview arrangements or any distinctive selection hurdles. Nor is there any mention of bursaries or financial aid in the source material supplied, so parents should not assume fee assistance is available without asking directly. What is clear is that admissions sit within a school that stresses community fit, wellbeing and a parent-founded ethos, rather than a narrowly selective or exam-driven front door.

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_a87a9b408b.