

Institut auf dem Rosenberg

St Gallen, Switzerland



Above St Gallen's art-nouveau villas, a 1:2 staff ratio powers a 40-course Talent and Enrichment path from robotics to hospitality.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	77/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	82/100
Transparency	65/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The number that defines Institut auf dem Rosenberg is ****1:2 staff ratio****. That level of staffing puts it in a tiny global bracket, and it underpins the school’s core proposition: extreme personalisation for a small, rich, international boarding cohort. Founded in 1889 in St Gallen, with around 280 students from 60 nationalities, Rosenberg trades on scarcity, access and custom design rather than scale or democratic breadth. The school offers both IB and British pathways, teaches in English and French, and carries CIS and IBO accreditation. The line that matters for parents is simpler than the branding: this is a ***hyper-curated*** boarding school built for families who want education shaped around an individual child’s ambitions, interests and social world.

The school’s Talent and Enrichment structure gives that proposition substance. A **40-course** menu spanning robotics to hospitality is a serious attempt to push beyond standard academic packaging, and it fits students whose profile is expansive rather than narrow: entrepreneurial, highly coached, globally mobile, and accustomed to adults building programmes around them. The setting above St Gallen’s art-nouveau villas reinforces the sense of remove and exclusivity; so does the fee level. At an average **CHF 165,000** a year for boarding across the full age range, Rosenberg sits in the *ultra-premium* end of the market and filters its intake accordingly. This is not a school for parents hunting value, institutional understatement or broad social mix.

Why put it on a shortlist? Because very few schools can marshal this degree of adult attention, programme flexibility and social capital in one place. Recent destinations include Cornell, Columbia and Yale, which gives at least some hard evidence that the model converts into elite university access. The more important question is fit. Rosenberg suits students who thrive in *rare-air privilege*, want intensive mentoring, and are comfortable in a boarding environment where wealth is visible rather than disguised. It will appeal less to families who want a grounded, academically austere school with transparent public data and a conventional measure of outcomes. Rosenberg sells access, customisation and network at the highest price point; for the right child, that is the point.

STRENGTHS

- Very small class sizes (6-12 students) and a staff-to-student ratio reported at around 1:2 to 1:3 allow for highly individualised teaching.
- Offers a wide span of qualification pathways under one roof — IB Diploma, A-Levels, IGCSEs and Advanced Placement — giving families flexibility to switch tracks.
- Long-established institution, founded in 1889 and still family-run, giving it more institutional history than most challenger-tier boarding schools.
- Strong recent academic outcomes, including a reported average IB score of 38 in 2024 and consistent placement of graduates at Russell Group and Ivy League universities.
- Every student follows an Individual Development Plan (IDP) with dedicated coordinators, plus access to a large menu of enrichment courses beyond the core curriculum.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees are among the highest of any boarding school worldwide, with reported all-in costs ranging from roughly CHF150,000 up to over \$200,000 per year depending on programme and extras.
- Additional charges are common on top of base tuition, including talent and enrichment programmes, entrepreneurship labs and cultural trips that can add tens of thousands of Swiss francs annually.
- Small total enrolment (around 230-300 students) means a narrower peer group and less scale in facilities than larger international boarding schools.
- Admissions are competitive and process-heavy, requiring entry exams, an interview and a personal statement, which may disadvantage less test-confident applicants.

ADMISSIONS

Rosenberg accepts boarders from around age 6 through 18-19, with entry possible at multiple points rather than a single fixed intake year. Applicants submit three years of school reports and a personal statement via an online portal; those shortlisted sit the school's own entry exams and attend an interview. Admissions are described by education consultants as highly selective, reflecting the school's small annual intake and individualised teaching model. Families should expect a multi-stage process rather than a single interview, and should budget time for the exam and interview stages alongside standard document submission.

 ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

The next 2 milestones for Institut auf dem Rosenberg. Dates confirmed against the school's most recent published admissions calendar — check the official site to confirm before submitting.

Oct 10, 2026 2MO	OPEN HOUSE Discovery Days (parents visit)
Nov 15, 2026 3MO	ASSESSMENT Interview + assessment day

► 1 PAST DATE

WTS RATING 

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