

Copenhagen International School

Copenhagen, Denmark



On Copenhagen's harbour edge, an IB campus wrapped in 12,000 sea-green solar tiles powers half its own classrooms

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	66/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Copenhagen International School occupies a rare position in the Nordic market: a full-through English-medium IB day school in the capital, with the scale to feel international rather than expatriate-club small. Founded in 1963, it serves ages 3–18 and enrolls around 930 students from more than 80 nationalities. That mix matters. It gives the school a **genuinely international peer group**, not a token spread of passports around a dominant local culture. The harbour-edge campus, wrapped in ****12,000**** sea-green solar tiles, is not cosmetic eco-branding; it is the school’s defining visual signature and a practical statement of intent, generating around ****50%**** of the building’s electricity. Parents who want a school that reflects contemporary Copenhagen — outward-looking, design-literate, environmentally serious —

will find that here.

The school’s strongest selling point is clarity. It offers the IB across the age range, teaches in English, and operates as a day school with no religious affiliation. That makes it an efficient choice for internationally mobile families who want continuity from early years to graduation without a mid-course curriculum change. The scale is useful too: large enough to support breadth, small enough to avoid the anonymous sprawl of a mega-campus. The architecture adds real value. A well-designed building does not guarantee a strong school, but it does shape daily life, and CIS has a **distinctive sense of place** that many international schools lack. This is not a generic suburban campus dropped on a ring road; it is a **serious urban school** with a **clear modern identity**.

There are limits. Families seeking a traditional local Danish education, a deeply rooted national culture, or boarding will need to look elsewhere. Recent university destinations in the published data skew modest rather than elite, and the school does not trade on a public league-table narrative. That makes CIS a better fit for parents who judge a school by educational continuity, international composition and environment rather than by a parade of headline university names. It belongs on a shortlist for students who thrive in diverse classrooms, want the IB from start to finish, and value a **confident, cosmopolitan setting** over old-school prestige. For the right child — internationally minded, adaptable, comfortable in a large mixed community — CIS offers something **unusually coherent** in Copenhagen.

STRENGTHS

- Copenhagen International School was founded in 1963 and is one of the founding schools of the International Baccalaureate, holding an early IBO school number.
- The purpose-built Nordhavn campus spans about 25,000 square metres across four towers, with a theatre, two rooftop greenhouses, three gyms and dedicated design, ceramics and visual-arts spaces.
- CIS delivers the full IB continuum (PYP, MYP and DP) and is also NEASC-accredited, allowing students to graduate with a US high school diploma alongside the IB Diploma.
- The school enrolls roughly 900 students representing more than 80 nationalities, giving genuinely broad expat diversity rather than a dominant single-nationality cohort.
- Recent IB Diploma results have run above the worldwide average, with a 90% pass rate and an average score of 33 for the Class of 2024 against a global mean pass rate and score that were lower.

TRADE - OFFS

- Annual tuition of roughly DKK 126,000-177,000 is compounded by a substantial one-off registration fee (DKK 25,000-40,000 depending on year) and a non-refundable application fee.
- Families who do not supply a Danish CPR number and matching address by 5 September face an extra charge of up to DKK 45,000 per year because the school then loses its state subsidy for that pupil, a quirk that penalises newly arrived expats.
- The campus sits in Nordhavn, a redeveloped harbourfront district north of the city centre, which can mean a longer commute for families based in other parts of greater Copenhagen.
- Despite its founding-IB pedigree, the school's current editorial ranking places it in the challenger tier rather than among the most highly rated international schools globally.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is possible at any grade from Pre-K (age 3) through Grade 12, subject to space, with rolling applications typical of an expat-mobility market. Prospective families submit an application with a non-refundable fee (roughly DKK 2,500-3,000) and, if offered a place, pay a registration fee (DKK 25,000-40,000) to secure enrolment. Danish CPR registration by early September is required to access the state tuition subsidy; without it, fees rise substantially. Competitiveness is moderate rather than acutely selective, reflecting the school's role as a broad-continuum option for the international community.

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_bf42eca24b.