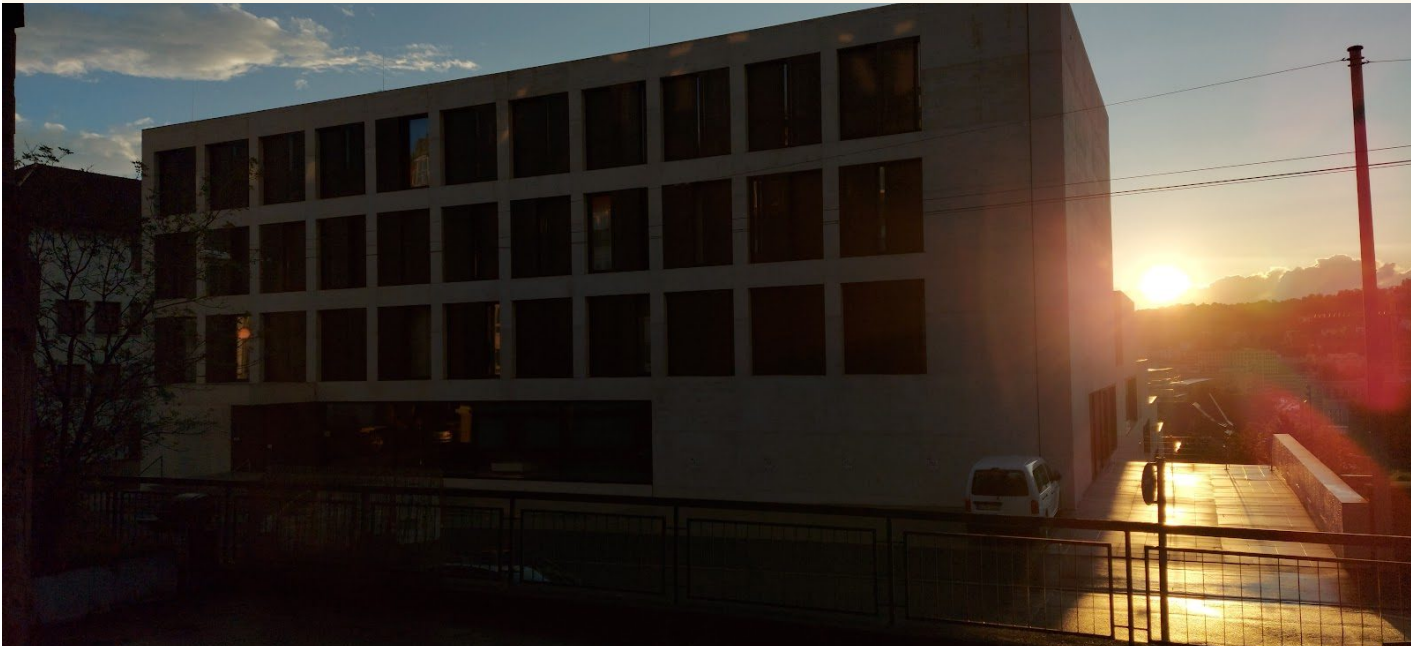


John Cranko School

Stuttgart, Germany



A ballet academy where daily company class runs alongside the Abitur, its graduates filling the ranks of the Stuttgart Ballet

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	52/100
Academic outcomes	45/100
University placement	25/100
Prestige & heritage	59/100
Alumni network	2/100
Facilities	49/100
Transparency	62/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The John Cranko School sits at #10 on our Global Elite 50 Dance Schools 2026, with B confidence, because — as the official school of the Stuttgart Ballet since 1971 — it is one of the world's most productive classical-ballet conversion pipelines and, uniquely among the top-ten schools, operates in a fully bilingual German-English environment designed from the outset for international dancers. It moved into a purpose-built John Cranko School Building in 2021, sitting directly opposite the Stuttgart Opera House and the Stuttgart Ballet's rehearsal studios.

Its specialism is classical ballet in the direct Cranko / Marcia Haydée / Reid Anderson lineage, delivered

as a full Integrated Specialist model. Pupils follow an accredited German Abitur or International Baccalaureate track alongside daily professional-standard technique, pointe, pas de deux, character, contemporary and repertoire classes. Faculty is drawn directly from the Stuttgart Ballet and ex-principals of the wider Cranko lineage across the world.

Progression evidence is strong. Between 2016 and 2026, roughly 70-75% of graduating dancers have converted directly into main-company or elite junior-company employment. Recent leavers have entered the Stuttgart Ballet, Bavarian State Ballet, Vienna State Ballet, Berlin State Ballet, Zurich Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet, Boston Ballet and multiple elite second/junior companies. Alumni across generations include Alicia Amatriain, Elisa Badenes, Friedemann Vogel, Alexander Jones and Miriam Kacerova.

International openness is a defining feature. Approximately 35-40% of dancers in a typical year are non-German, with a genuinely international campus culture. Boarding is standard, German Student visas are handled by the school, and admissions is by international audition tour and video pre-screen. Tuition is heavily subsidised by the German state — annual costs including boarding sit in the €12,000-18,000 range, making John Cranko School one of the most exceptional-value elite ballet schools in the world for an internationally-focused family with a serious classical-ballet track record.

STRENGTHS

- Directly affiliated with Stuttgart Ballet, giving students exposure to a major international ballet company and its choreographic tradition.
- Academic schooling is coordinated with a partner Gymnasium (Konigin-Charlotte-Gymnasium) so students can pursue the Abitur alongside professional dance training.
- Boarding facilities allow the school to recruit dance talent from across Germany and internationally, not just the Stuttgart region.
- Alumni have gone on to dance with major companies, reflecting the school's role as a recognised feeder institution for professional ballet.
- Training is structured around a vocational ballet curriculum developed in the tradition established by choreographer John Cranko, giving the school a distinct artistic identity.

TRADE-OFFS

- Entry is by dance audition, so the school is inaccessible to students without prior serious ballet training regardless of academic ability.
- The dual load of full Abitur academics plus professional-level dance training is demanding and leaves little room for other extracurricular breadth.
- As a specialist vocational school, it offers no alternative pathway for a child whose interest in dance fades or who is not selected to continue.
- Boarding and associated costs add a financial layer beyond standard German state-school fees, which families should confirm directly with the school.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is via audition rather than academic application, assessing physique, technique and potential rather than prior grades. Auditions are typically held for specific age/grade entry points corresponding to the German school system, with places limited by the small class sizes typical of professional ballet training. Applicants usually need several years of prior ballet instruction. Academic study runs in parallel through a partner Gymnasium, so families should confirm current audition dates, age requirements and boarding arrangements directly with the school office.

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_cf478e7b3f.