

King's College School Cascais

Cascais, Portugal



A EUR75 million coastal campus outside Lisbon pairs Cambridge rigor through Year 11 with a choice of IB or A-Levels beyond.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	45/100
Academic outcomes	48/100
University placement	45/100
Prestige & heritage	42/100
Alumni network	30/100
Facilities	62/100
Transparency	40/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

King’s College School Cascais sits in a crowded premium segment and separates itself through scale, finish and route choice. This is a British day school, founded in 2018, teaching in English from ages 3 to 18, with Cambridge International in place through Year 11 and a fork at sixth form: IB or A-Levels. That matters. Many schools ask families to buy into one post-16 philosophy; King’s College School Cascais keeps both doors open. The campus investment also sets the tone. A **EUR75 million** site outside Lisbon gives the school the physical weight of an established institution, not a start-up improvising year by year. For parents who want *serious academic infrastructure* without boarding, that is a clear draw.

What is special here is the combination of British academic framing, Portuguese location and a genuinely broad senior-school choice. The school targets internationally mobile families and ambitious local families who want English-medium schooling without sacrificing access to university systems that reward either the IB or A-Levels. COBIS and Cambridge International accreditation give it external anchors, but the stronger selling point is practical: this school offers a *clean, legible pathway* from early years to university entrance qualifications that travel well. In market terms, it competes at the top end: expensive, polished and built for parents who value standards, campus quality and international portability over intimacy or eccentricity.

Why shortlist it? Because it solves several common parental problems in one place. It gives a child continuity from age 3 to 18, a British curriculum identity, and two credible sixth-form exits in a coastal Lisbon location that attracts expatriate executives, returning Portuguese families and globally minded professionals. It also avoids the false choice between a local school with limited international reach and an international school with weak academic structure. The proposition is *high-control, high-ambition schooling* in a setting that carries lifestyle appeal as well as convenience. Families who want a school with *institutional heft* and a *well-signposted academic route* will find it compelling.

The best fit is a student who thrives in a structured, academic environment and benefits from clarity, pace and expectation. This is not the obvious choice for a child who needs a loose, alternative culture or a small, idiosyncratic community. It suits the pupil who wants strong English-medium academics, classmates from internationally oriented families, and the option at **16** to choose between two distinct routes to university. For the right child, that mix of *global mobility* and *exam-course flexibility* puts King's College School Cascais firmly on the shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- Part of the King's Group Schools network, whose British curriculum model originates from King's College Alicante, founded in 1969, giving pedagogical continuity across campuses.
- Offers a full British curriculum pathway from Early Years through to A-Levels, easing transition for families planning a return to UK or Commonwealth universities.
- Located in Cascais, an affluent coastal town near Lisbon with a well-established international business and expat community, reducing relocation friction for families.
- Sister campuses across Spain, Panama and Ecuador allow continuity of curriculum and pastoral approach for families who relocate again within the group's network.
- As a comparatively new school, likely benefits from modern, purpose-considered facilities rather than an aging estate.

TRADE - OFFS

- As a relatively young campus, it lacks the decades-long public exam results record, university placement history and alumni network of longer-established British schools in the region.
- Fees for a full British international curriculum are typically at the higher end of the Portuguese schooling market, a material factor for relocating families on fixed budgets.
- Single-campus location in Cascais may mean a significant commute for families based in central Lisbon or on the eastern side of the city.
- Being one of several campuses within a larger for-profit group means a more standardised, corporate school culture rather than the singular character of an independent legacy institution.

ADMISSIONS

King's College School Cascais admits students from Early Years through Sixth Form (A-Levels), operating rolling admissions rather than one fixed annual intake. Applicants typically undergo age-appropriate assessment and interview, with English proficiency expected for entrants joining IGCSE or A-Level years. As a newer, expanding campus, competitiveness is generally moderate compared with long-established Lisbon international schools, though places in popular year groups can fill quickly given steady demand from relocating families across the Cascais-Estoril corridor.

WTS RATING 

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