

International School of Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf, Germany



Beside the Rhine in historic Kaiserswerth, one of the IB's earliest diploma pioneers still keeps nearly all seniors in the full Diploma Programme.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	69/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	69/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	64/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Set beside the Rhine in Kaiserswerth, the International School of Düsseldorf trades on something more substantial than scenery: institutional depth in the IB. Founded in 1968 and authorised for the IB Diploma in 1977 as the ****65th**** school worldwide, it has had decades to settle into the demands of a full IB education rather than bolt the programme on as a prestige finish. That matters. Schools with long IB histories tend to understand the workload, the internal coherence and the pastoral pressure points better than newer entrants. ISD also keeps a clear identity: a not-for-profit, independent, co-educational day school for ages 3 to 18, teaching in English and holding CIS, IB World School and NEASC accreditation. In a crowded German international market, that combination gives it **real credibility**.

What puts ISD on a shortlist is not flash. It is continuity, seriousness and a location that works for internationally mobile families in the Düsseldorf orbit. The school sits in the heart of the expatriate community of Kaiserswerth, and its origins as the American International School of Düsseldorf still explain part of its DNA: this was built to serve mobile, non-military international families, not as a local bilingual school rebadged for overseas parents. The editorial tagline gets to the point: ISD remains one of the IB's early diploma pioneers and still keeps nearly all seniors in the full Diploma Programme. That is a *meaningful distinction*. Plenty of schools dilute the IB at sixth form by steering weaker candidates into lighter pathways; ISD's commitment to the full diploma signals an academic culture with *clear expectations*.

Fees place it in the serious but not stratospheric bracket for a long-established European international school: an average annual day fee of **€24,185** across the full age range. For parents weighing value, that buys a mature IB institution with a stable governance model and a broad international community rather than boutique exclusivity or grand campus theatre. Recent university destinations in the published record are modest in number but concrete: Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and the University of New South Wales. The school does not publish a broad destinations list here, so any parent focused on elite UK or US admissions will want harder outcome data. That is the main reservation: ISD's public case rests more on history, ethos and accreditations than on *hard-edged* academic disclosure.

The student who thrives here is internationally minded, comfortable in English, and willing to take on the full weight of the IB rather than shop for easier senior options. This suits families who want a *settled, adult* school culture, strong integration for newcomers and a school day anchored in community rather than boarding. It suits less well the family chasing public glamour, a hyper-selective destination list, or a more varied sixth-form menu. ISD's appeal is narrower and stronger than that: a *serious IB school* with long memory, a loyal expatriate base and enough institutional substance to justify close consideration.

STRENGTHS

- In 1977, it became the 65th school worldwide authorized to award the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma, giving the school one of the longest IB track records in Germany.
- This structure is supported by about 54 DP courses, and more than 90% of Grades 11-12 students are enrolled in the Diploma Programme, so nearly all seniors follow the full, university-recognised IB Diploma rather than piecemeal certificates.
- Diploma Programme results (2025) show strong performance: 44/45 is the maximum score achieved; 22% of DP students earned 40+ points; the average score across DP students was 35 (world average 30.6), indicating results well above the global mean.
- ISD is accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS), the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, and the New England Association of

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition is significant: Pre-school through Grade 2 costs €20,320 per year, rising to €21,130 for Grades 3-5 and €22,740 for Grades 6-8, and a one-time, non-refundable Admission Fee (Admission Contribution) of €6,500 is required on confirmation of a place.
- As a not-for-profit, independent, coeducational day school, ISD offers no boarding option, so relocating families must arrange their own housing near Kaiserswerth rather than rely on the school for residential care.
- The Diploma Programme is deliberately non-selective: the school itself notes if we were to admit only the top third of candidates, the average score would likely be 39 points, since it does not believe in limiting access to the IB Diploma based on academic selection, unlike other schools - meaning its published average is not directly comparable to more selective competitors.

Schools & Colleges (NEASC), giving multiple independent layers of quality assurance.

- 10-acre campus houses multiple buildings, three libraries, seven science laboratories, five computer rooms, a design technology room, and dedicated centres for visual and performing arts, plus 350-seat theatre and three cafeterias, providing substantial dedicated facilities for a day school of its size.
- With an editorial rank of 667 in a 'rising_star_400' tier, ISD sits outside the most highly ranked cohort of international schools globally, despite its long institutional history.

ADMISSIONS

ISD accepts students from age 3 through Grade 12 on a rolling, year-round basis rather than a single fixed intake window, beginning with an online inquiry or application submitted directly to the Admissions Team. A one-time, non-refundable Admission Fee of 6,500 euros applies on confirmation of a place, alongside an additional enrolment processing fee. The Diploma Programme is not academically selective; the school states it does not restrict IB Diploma access based on prior attainment. A limited Financial Assistance and Scholarship programme exists but is restricted to families with at least one parent resident in Germany, with an April annual application deadline.

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_ddff7dc2da.