

Singapore American School

Singapore, Singapore



A 36-acre Woodlands campus with a rainforest classroom and AP breadth, run on an American blueprint with IB rigor at the edges

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	74/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	71/100
Facilities	86/100
Transparency	78/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A ****36-acre**** campus in Woodlands with a rainforest classroom gives Singapore American School a physical scale that few city schools can match, and that scale matters because SAS is built on an unabapologetically American model: broad co-curricular life, extensive course choice and a big-school social ecosystem. Founded in 1956, it is one of Singapore’s earliest international schools and now serves over ****4,000**** students from preschool through high school. The academic spine is American, while the school-declared IB status and CIS and IBO accreditations add external weight at the rigorous end. This is not a boutique operation. It is a **large, confident institution** with the staffing, facilities and timetable breadth that smaller schools struggle to replicate.

What puts SAS on a shortlist is that combination of breadth and infrastructure. Parents looking for a compact, highly personalised environment will find it **impersonal by design**; parents looking for choice will find serious value in the scale. The average annual day fee is ***SGD 50,000***, which places SAS firmly in Singapore's premium tier, and the school needs to justify that price through programme depth, specialist spaces and consistent delivery across ages 3 to 18. It has the history, non-profit structure and market presence to do that. The weakness is the same as the strength: a school this big demands initiative from students and close attention from parents during the early settling-in phase.

The student who thrives here is independent, energetic and comfortable in a **busy, high-expectation** setting. SAS suits children who want an American-style school culture without giving up international credibility, and it suits families who value university preparation within a broad school life rather than a narrow exam factory. The published recent destinations in this dataset are thin — Adelphi University, American University and Arizona State University each with one student — so parents should not expect a polished public boast-sheet here. More persuasive is the school's durability, accreditations and alumni floor: at least 9 notable alumni are catalogued in Wikidata, including 3 scientists or scholars. SAS is a strong fit for students who will use a **big-platform school** properly; it is a poor fit for children who need constant hand-holding or a **small, intimate** community.

STRENGTHS

- Enrolls over 4,000 students from 66 nationalities across pre-K to Grade 12, making it one of the largest American international schools in the world. Singapore American School (SAS) is one of the world's largest American international schools, enrolling over 4,000 students from 66 nationalities in pre-K to Grade 12.
- Offers a full US-style Advanced Placement program alongside SAT/ACT preparation and dedicated college counselling on an August-to-June calendar aligned with US admissions cycles. Most American schools in Singapore offer a full suite of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, typically 15 to 25 AP subjects, along with SAT and ACT preparation, dedicated US college counselling teams, and an August-to-June academic calendar that aligns with American university admissions timelines.
- Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a recognised US accreditation body. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- High school seniors complete Quest, a year-long, self-directed capstone project mentored by faculty rather than a standard elective. One distinct aspect is the Quest program, a year-long, self-directed initiative for high school seniors to pursue in-depth, personalized projects under faculty mentorship.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees sit in the ultra-premium band, with published annual tuition running roughly SGD 46,530-61,690 depending on grade, plus a separate non-refundable SGD 2,500 application fee. Annual fees SGD 46,530-61,690, Price band help, Ultra-premium A non-refundable fee of \$2,500 is required for consideration of each application.
- Admission runs on a priority-lane system that favours US citizens, Green Card holders and corporate-sponsored families over other applicants. To uphold our mission as an American school in Singapore, SAS utilizes a priority lane system. This ensures we remain a home for US citizens and corporate partners while fostering a globally diverse student body that represents over 60 nationalities.
- Applicants outside the priority lanes can be placed in a waitpool for up to two years with no guarantee of an eventual offer. All other admissible applicants will be placed in a waitpool until space is available to offer. The applications of waitpooled applicants remain active for two years beginning on the family's application fee receipt date.
- Singapore citizens, including dual nationals, need Ministry of Education approval to attend and can be required to leave if that approval is refused or runs short. Singapore Citizens SAS students who are five and turning six years of

- One of the longest-established American schools in Asia, having opened in 1956. Opening year - 1956

age must obtain MOE approval to continue attending SAS. Should MOE at this point deny an SAS student this required approval to attend, or if there is a shortage of MOE approvals to offer all applicable students, the Singapore Citizen student will need to discontinue their enrollment at SAS.

ADMISSIONS

SAS admits students from preschool through grade 12 on a rolling basis, but places are allocated through a priority-lane system that favours US citizens, Green Card holders, corporate-sponsored families and SAS legacy applicants; others may be waitpooled for up to two years. Applications require a non-refundable SGD 2,500 fee, transcripts and standard documentation, with grades 9-12 entrants needing to arrive at a semester start. Competitiveness therefore depends less on uniform academic selectivity than on lane status and grade-level vacancy. Singapore citizens, including dual nationals, must separately obtain Ministry of Education approval before enrolling.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (9)

DRAMA: Lynn Collins, Julia Nickson-Soul

VISUAL_ARTS: Rainer Halama

LETTERS: Tammy Duckworth, Jim Baker

POLITICS: Tammy Duckworth

SCIENCE: Michelle M. Schmitz, Sarshan R Pather, Rainer Halama

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_de3e58651f.