

Chiang Mai International School

Chiang Mai, Thailand



Founded by returning missionaries in 1954, this Ping River campus was Thailand's first international school outside Bangkok.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	61/100
Academic outcomes	63/100
University placement	61/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	61/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The point that matters first is historical and local: Chiang Mai International School opened in 1954, which makes it Thailand’s first international school outside Bangkok. That gives it a different market position from the newer premium imports. CMIS is not trading on a borrowed British name or a glossy launch narrative; it has been part of Chiang Mai’s international community for decades, on a Ping River campus, with a clear American curriculum for ages 3 to 18 and English as the language of instruction. It is also openly Christian and interdenominational. Parents need to read that plainly. The school talks about a “caring Christian community” and a spiritual life that maintains its Christian heritage while welcoming families of other faiths. For some families that is a **distinct advantage**; for others it is a reason to look

elsewhere.

Its appeal sits in stability, breadth and community more than in hard-edged academic theatre. CMIS serves students from preschool to Grade 12, says it enrolls children from 30 countries, and holds accreditation from Middle States, ACSI and EARCOS. That mix places it firmly in the established international-school bracket rather than the boutique or ultra-luxury end of the market. The average annual fee is **453,025 THB**, which is substantial for Chiang Mai but not at the city's *flashiest* edge. The school's public identity leans towards *settled, values-led schooling* with a strong co-curricular and pastoral emphasis: student life, spiritual life and community sit prominently alongside academics. What is missing is just as important. The school does not publish headline exam outcomes or university destination data in the public domain, so parents seeking a school that leads with measurable academic results will find the picture *too opaque*.

The child who will do well here is not the one chasing a high-pressure, status-conscious environment. CMIS suits internationally mobile families who want an American K-12 education, a campus with institutional memory, and a community with an explicit moral and spiritual frame. It also suits parents who value cultural range without wanting a school that feels corporate. Children who thrive in *close-knit*, community-minded schools, and whose families are comfortable with Christianity as part of the school's life, will find a good fit. Families who want an academically aggressive, data-rich proposition, or a secular environment stripped of religious identity, should keep CMIS on the longlist rather than the shortlist.

STRENGTHS

- One of the longest-established international schools in northern Thailand, tracing its roots to the 1950s as a school for missionary families.
- Offers an American curriculum through to grade 10, transitioning into the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in grades 11-12.
- Holds accreditation from both WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and the Council of International Schools (CIS).
- Single day-school campus in Chiang Mai keeps class sizes small, allowing closer teacher-student contact than larger metropolitan schools.
- Chiang Mai location offers a lower cost of living and less congestion than Bangkok, appealing to long-term expatriate families.

TRADE-OFFS

- Editorial rank of 1095 indicates the school sits outside the top tier of internationally benchmarked schools.
- Smaller student body than major Bangkok international schools limits the range of extracurricular activities, arts programmes and competitive sports.
- Chiang Mai's smaller expatriate and university-counselling ecosystem offers fewer networking and higher-education advising resources than the capital.
- The school's missionary founding history may be a consideration for secular or non-Christian families seeking a strictly neutral religious environment.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is available at multiple entry points from early years through high school, with rolling applications rather than a single fixed intake. Families typically submit prior school transcripts, references and undergo an English-language assessment; interviews are standard for older applicants. As a day school with a comparatively small enrolment base relative to Bangkok's international schools, competitiveness is moderate rather than acutely selective, though places in popular grade levels can fill during peak relocation seasons.

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_df29da3d29.