

Oeiras International School

Oeiras, Portugal



A 17th-century palace estate near Lisbon runs the full IB continuum on a deliberately non-selective, community-rooted admissions model.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	47/100
Academic outcomes	52/100
University placement	48/100
Prestige & heritage	42/100
Alumni network	35/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Oeiras International School occupies a distinctive niche in the Lisbon market: a full English-medium IB day school, founded in 2008, with a declared non-selective admissions model and a campus that carries real physical character. The headline facts matter. OIS runs the IB continuum, holds IB and CIS accreditation, enrolls **463** students, cites a **1:6** teacher-student ratio, and sits on a **5-hectare** estate. That combination gives it a market position that many competitors cannot match: *a school with space to breathe*, *a rare all-through IB route*, and a scale that stays personal rather than sprawling.

What sets it apart is not raw academic exclusivity but its explicit rejection of it. OIS states that it is “not

academically selective” and places individual progress at the centre of its proposition. For families tired of schools that filter heavily at entry and then market the results as institutional magic, that is a serious point of difference. The trade-off is obvious: parents hunting for a high-pressure, exam-maximising culture built on selective intake will find stronger fits elsewhere. OIS pitches itself as a school for *independent learners*, *personal growth*, and a broad balance of academics, arts and sport. The average class size of **16** supports that claim in practical terms.

The setting also matters. A 17th-century palace estate near Lisbon, in a rural valley with woodland and a river, gives OIS *a grounded sense of place* that many urban international schools lack. This is not a glass-box business campus. For children who learn better with room, movement and visual calm, that changes the daily experience in material ways. Add a community of **48+** nationalities and the school lands as *international without being rootless*. It suits families who want English-language international education in Portugal without sacrificing local quality of life.

OIS belongs on a shortlist for parents who value the IB from early years through to diploma, want a school that does not treat admissions selectivity as a badge of honour, and prefer a mid-sized community over a giant institution. The best-fit student is curious, self-directed and comfortable in an inquiry-led framework; a child who benefits from close adult attention, breadth beyond academics, and *a more humane pace* than the market’s sharper-edged operators. For the right family, OIS offers *substance over theatre*. The caveat is clear: the school does not publish aggregate IB outcomes in the public domain, so parents who make decisions on hard sixth-form result data will need to ask direct questions.

STRENGTHS

- Located in Oeiras, a business and technology corridor west of Lisbon that hosts numerous multinational companies, making it convenient for relocating corporate families.
- Offers the International Baccalaureate framework, giving families a globally recognised curriculum pathway rather than a purely local one.
- As a newer, smaller institution, class sizes are likely modest, which can mean more individualised attention than at Lisbon's larger, longer-established international schools.
- Day-school format avoids boarding fees and keeps children within the family home, a consideration for families relocating with younger children.

TRADE-OFFS

- As a young school with a 'rising star' rather than established profile, it lacks a long track record of IB Diploma results or university placement outcomes.
- Smaller current size likely means a narrower range of extracurricular, sporting and subject options than larger, more established Lisbon-area international schools.
- Alumni network and institutional reputation are still developing, which may matter to families prioritising long-term brand recognition.
- Facilities and staff continuity typical of newer schools should be verified directly, as these can evolve quickly during a school's early growth phase.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is understood to be available across IB programme stages, with entry points depending on year group and space availability rather than a single fixed intake. As a newer school in a competitive but growing Lisbon-area market, selectivity is likely lower than at long-established international schools, though popular year groups may fill faster. Typical requirements include prior school reports and references; older applicants may face an assessment or interview. Families should confirm current fees, IB authorisation status and space availability directly with the school, as these details can change as the institution grows.

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_e14c0d4ea7.