

The High School Affiliated to Tsinghua University

Beijing, China



Beside the Old Summer Palace and Tsinghua's gates, this century-old Haidian school channels university rigor into elite gaokao prep.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	81/100
Academic outcomes	86/100
University placement	84/100
Prestige & heritage	80/100
Alumni network	79/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The High School Affiliated to Tsinghua University sits in the most competitive part of Beijing’s education market: Haidian, beside Tsinghua and the Old Summer Palace, where academic ambition is not a slogan but a daily operating condition. Its draw is simple. This is a school built for families who want the Chinese National curriculum delivered with the pace, discipline and status attached to a top university orbit. The proposition is **intellectually hard-edged**, **high-pressure** and **deeply aspirational**. For the right student, that has real force. In a city crowded with bilingual and international options, this school keeps its value by offering a domestic route with elite branding, strong peer competition and the cultural capital that comes from the Tsinghua name.

What puts it on a shortlist is not pastoral romance or progressive experimentation. It is the combination of location, legacy and academic seriousness across the **12-18** age range. Parents looking at selective Beijing schools know that proximity matters: access to top universities, a dense tutoring and olympiad ecosystem, and a parent body that treats education as a primary family project. This school belongs squarely in that world. The attraction is **prestige with purpose**: a chance to study in a setting shaped by one of China's most formidable academic neighbourhoods, with expectations set high from the start. That matters to families who want a school that normalises effort rather than apologises for it.

The trade-off is clear. This is not the school for a child who needs a soft landing, a broad menu of low-stakes electives or a loose academic culture. It suits students who are **self-propelled**, **competition-ready** and comfortable in an environment where comparison with able peers is constant. Resilient, disciplined pupils with a taste for structure will find the atmosphere energising; students who wilt under pressure will not. For parents, the appeal rests in focus: a non-religious day school in Beijing, teaching in English, serving a narrow but powerful mission across **7** school years. If your family wants a school that treats academic achievement as serious work, The High School Affiliated to Tsinghua University earns its place on the list.

STRENGTHS

- The school sits directly on the Tsinghua University campus in Haidian District, giving students day-to-day proximity to one of China's leading research universities. Tsinghua University High School is a public secondary school in Haidian, Beijing, China.
- It has a long institutional history, tracing its roots to the 1915 founding of Chengzhi School and later renamed and expanded into today's Tsinghua University High School. The school was founded in 1915, with its predecessor being the "Chengzhi School." It is designated as a Beijing Key High School and a Beijing Model Regular High School.
- Gaokao outcomes for admission to Tsinghua and Peking University have been strong in recent cycles. the school's Tsinghua/Peking University admissions reached 100 students in 2024, up substantially from 80 the year before.
- A dedicated international division (Tsinghua International School) serves foreign-passport, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan students from grades 1-12 and is externally accredited. The school is WASC-accredited since January 2016 and continues to be accredited by 2023, and is also a US College Board member, as well as the testing center for AP, ACT, and SAT.
- The campus and student body are sizeable, giving access to broad facilities and a large peer

TRADE - OFFS

- The mainstream Chinese-curriculum track operates as a public Beijing school under district education authorities, and admission for most students runs through the competitive municipal zhongkao (high-school entrance exam) system rather than an open international application process.
- Day-to-day teaching in the mainstream division is conducted in Mandarin under the Chinese national curriculum, so families without strong existing Chinese-language ability would need to route through the separate, smaller international division instead.
- As a top Beijing public school built around gaokao and zhongkao performance, the academic culture is exam-intensive and college-preparatory in a narrowly domestic sense, offering less flexibility for students seeking a broad, low-stakes pastoral environment.
- The school currently has no independently verifiable public website of its own (the listed site is blank), and prospective families must navigate separate portals for the mainstream school versus the Tsinghua International School division, which can create confusion about pathways and fees.

cohort. Enrollment: 2,500; Campus: Urban,
78,800 sq m.

ADMISSIONS

Entry to the mainstream Chinese-curriculum school is chiefly through Beijing's municipal zhongkao (senior-high entrance exam), a highly competitive route generally requiring local registration and strong exam results, sometimes supplemented by pre-exam 'sign-up' arrangements based on junior-high performance. A separate, smaller international division (Tsinghua International School) enrolls foreign-passport students and those from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan across grades 1-12, requiring a valid Chinese visa and holding open days each March and November; this division is WASC-accredited and serves as an AP/SAT/ACT test center. Overall competitiveness for both tracks is high given the school's standing among Haidian District's leading public schools.

WTS RATING 

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