

British School Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



A century-old British foundation in Rio pairs the IB Diploma with Brazil's Ensino Medio in the shadow of Christ the Redeemer.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	73/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	76/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

British School Rio de Janeiro occupies a narrow and valuable space in the city’s market: an established international school with a ****1924**** foundation, a British spine and a full-through age range from ****2-18****. In Rio, that matters. Many schools can offer English-medium teaching; fewer can offer institutional continuity, a clear academic identity and a route that connects early years to sixth form without a change of system halfway through. Here, the defining feature is the dual track at the top end: the IB Diploma paired with Brazil’s Ensino Médio. For families who want international mobility without losing local university recognition, that combination has real force. The setting adds its own pull: **a dramatic Rio backdrop**, **a strong sense of place**, and a school old enough to have moved beyond startup volatility.

What puts it on a shortlist is not novelty but coherence. This is a non-religious day school with teaching in English and Portuguese, and that bilingual reality suits internationally minded families who still want children grounded in Brazil. The British influence gives it shape; the IB gives it global currency. That is a serious proposition, not a fashionable one. Accreditations — BSO, COBIS, CIS and IB World School — do not guarantee excellence, but they do place the school inside demanding international quality frameworks. For parents filtering a crowded market, that reduces guesswork. *Academic portability*, *institutional credibility* and *city-specific character* are the three strongest reasons to look closely.

The best fit is a student who thrives in a structured, outward-facing academic environment and can handle life across two languages. This school suits children from international, binational and globally mobile families, and Brazilian families who want more than a local private school with extra English lessons. It will appeal to students with university options in more than one country, and to families who value a school with history over one chasing educational trends. It also suits pupils who want a day-school life in Rio rather than a boarding culture. *Ambitious without being gaudy*, *rooted yet internationally usable*: that is the core of its appeal.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1924, The British School, Rio de Janeiro (TBSRJ) is a co-educational, non-selective, non-denominational, non-profit school serving ages 2 to 18, giving it a century of continuous operation in the city.
- The school is fully accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS), is a member of the Latin American Heads Conference (LAHC) and is an IB World School, providing external quality benchmarks beyond the school's own marketing.
- Each year some students achieve in excess of 40 points in the IB Diploma and TBSRJ graduates secure places at some of the finest universities around the world including Ivy League, Oxbridge and Russell Group institutions, evidencing a credible track record at the top end.
- Programmes of study include Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and International Primary Curriculum (IPC) for 2 to 11 year olds; Key Stage 3 of the UK National Curriculum for 11 to 14 year olds; Cambridge IGCSE for 14 to 16 year olds; and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma for 16 to 18 year olds, giving a clearly sequenced British-to-IB pathway through a single institution.
- The school has an enrolment of around 2,160 students across 3 school sites in the city: Botafogo (Primary), Urca (Secondary), and Barra (Primary and Secondary), offering families a choice of location across Rio's South and West Zones.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees are not published on the school's own materials; third-party aggregators note that this school does not make their fees public for the academic year 2026/2027, so budgeting requires direct enquiry rather than a transparent published scale.
- Priority admissions are given to British and Commonwealth citizens, siblings of students already on roll, returning families and the children of former The British School, Rio de Janeiro students, which structurally disadvantages unconnected newcomer families competing for scarce places.
- Over 82% of students are Brazilian and the remainder are from over 48 different countries, meaning the school's day-to-day culture is predominantly local Brazilian rather than a broadly mixed expatriate community, despite the 'British' name.
- Students on the Diploma track pursue a demanding dual load, as an IB learner at the school navigates a rigorous dual-curriculum path, simultaneously pursuing the IB Diploma and the Brazilian Ensino Medio, which adds workload compared with a single-curriculum IB school.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is possible at multiple points from Pre-Nursery (age 2) through to the IB Diploma years, across three sites (Botafogo, Urca, Barra). The school states that priority is given to British and Commonwealth citizens, siblings already enrolled, returning families and children of alumni, and that acceptance is not automatic even for priority groups. English proficiency is expected from Upper Primary and Secondary onward, with assessments and interviews forming part of the process. Historically, some Botafogo and Urca year groups have been oversubscribed, so early application in popular entry years (particularly Year 7 and pre-IB) is advisable. Fees are not published and must be requested from the admissions office directly.

WTS RATING



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