

Jakarta Intercultural School

Jakarta, Indonesia



Founded in 1951 by UN diplomats' embassies, this South Jakarta campus still competes in Southeast Asia's invitation-only IASAS athletics and arts league.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	77/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	78/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	90/100
Transparency	84/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

IASAS is the tell. Jakarta Intercultural School still plays in Southeast Asia’s invitation-only schools league for athletics and the arts, and that places it in a small club of long-established, highly mobile, high-expectation international schools. Founded in 1951 by UN diplomats’ embassies, JIS remains a large operation by Indonesian standards, with **more than 2,500 students** aged 3 to 18 from **over 70 nationalities**. It runs an American and IB offer in English across three campuses, with elementary provision split between Pattimura and Pondok Indah and the main junior and senior campus in Cilandak,

South Jakarta. This is not a boutique school and it does not trade on intimacy; it trades on scale, history and a *serious international mix*.

What puts it on a shortlist is breadth. Large schools can offer things smaller competitors cannot: deeper sport, more arts, more course choice, more peer variety, and a social life that does not depend on one year group getting on with itself. JIS has that *big-school muscle*. Its American base suits families who want continuity with US-style schooling, while the IB element gives it international currency for university admissions. The school also has real institutional standing: it is an IB World School in the verified context, and the primary source adds accreditation by WASC and CIS. Alumni depth is not a manufactured talking point here; Wikidata alone records **25 notable alumni**, including politicians, business figures, writers and actors, with one star-tier drama laureate. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **\$28,000**, which puts JIS in the premium bracket for Jakarta, but not in the stratosphere by the standards of major capital-city international schools.

This suits children who thrive in a *busy, outward-facing* environment and families who value an expatriate network that is still substantial rather than decorative. It will appeal to confident joiners, competitive athletes, committed performers and internationally mobile students who want a school with enough scale to absorb arrivals and departures without wobbling. It is less compelling for parents who want a *small, tightly held* community or a school built around a single national tradition. Recent university destinations listed here are modest — Australian National University, Monash and Queensland University of Technology, one student each — so parents who want a heavily advertised outcomes narrative will find the published picture thin. Still, JIS has a long runway, a *hard-earned regional reputation* and the kind of campus infrastructure and peer range that keep it near the top of Jakarta shortlists.

STRENGTHS

- Jakarta Intercultural School traces its roots to 1951, making it one of the oldest continuously operating international schools in Southeast Asia.
- The school is both IB and AP accredited, giving high school students a genuine choice between the IB Diploma and Advanced Placement exit qualifications.
- JIS is Jakarta's largest and most internationally diverse school, with more than 2,500 students from over 70 nationalities.
- The three campuses cover more than 20 hectares with 280+ classrooms, four libraries holding over 100,000 titles, four theaters, and dedicated science, robotics and design technology labs.
- Over 99 percent of graduating seniors go on to university, with the 2024 cohort placing strongly at institutions including Boston University, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees sit at the premium end of the Jakarta market: as of the 2023-2024 school year High School tuition was USD31,040 and separate figures put the top band closer to USD35,916, before enrollment, capital and technology fees.
- Admission is organised into three priority lanes, with dependents of the three founding embassies (US, UK, Australia) and JIS faculty given first call on places, meaning other applicants compete for remaining capacity.
- Applicants in Grades 3 to 10 must sit an admissions screening test, and non-native English speakers may face an additional English proficiency test and interview, adding a selective hurdle beyond paperwork.
- Elementary schooling is split across two campuses (Pattimura and Pondok Indah) roughly 20 minutes apart, and the school can reassign a child to the non-preferred campus if a grade level reaches capacity.

ADMISSIONS

Entry runs from Early Years through Grade 12, with places grouped into three application lanes: founding-embassy/staff dependents (Lane 1), overseas-based expatriate or host-country families (Lane 2), and local transfers within Greater Jakarta (Lane 3, August intake only). Siblings of enrolled students and children of alumni get priority within each lane. Grades 1-2 are assessed on records and interview; Grades 3-10 sit a screening test; English proficiency testing applies for non-native speakers. High School IB/AP pathways typically start in Grade 11. A limited, highly competitive full-tuition scholarship (BTI) exists for Indonesian public-school students in Grades 8-9.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (25)

SPORT: Milly Clark

MUSIC: Joe Farnsworth

DRAMA: Angela Kinsey, Cinta Laura, Roger Mathey

VISUAL_ARTS: Ryan Johnson

LETTERS: Tammy Duckworth, Atika Shubert, Karishma Vaswani

POLITICS: Tammy Duckworth, Linda Reynolds, Pramila Jayapal, Chiara Porro

SCIENCE: Vijay Balasubramanian

BUSINESS: Patrick Grove, Madhav Chinnappa, Kevin Aluwi

WTS RATING 

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