

Colegio Villa María Academy

Santiago, Chile



Founded by American nuns in 1940 and lay-led since 2011, this Las Condes girls' school pairs Catholic tradition with the IB diploma.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	55/100
Academic outcomes	57/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	56/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	55/100
Transparency	43/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colegio Villa María Academy sits in Las Condes at the expensive end of the Santiago market, with an average annual fee of ****USD 30,450**** across ages 3 to 18. The core proposition is clear: a Catholic girls' day school, founded in ****1943****, teaching in Spanish and English, and carrying the IB World School badge. That combination gives it a distinct niche. This is not a generic bilingual private school and not a secular international school with a chapel attached. It is a long-established local institution with a defined religious identity and an internationally recognised senior qualification. For families who want academic ambition without giving up Catholic formation, that is ***a serious draw***.

What sets Villa María apart is the blend of continuity and transition. The school’s own story matters here: founded by American nuns and lay-led since 2011, it has moved from a religious-order model to modern governance without discarding its character. That matters in practice. Parents choosing the school are not buying novelty; they are buying a *deep-rooted* Santiago school with a stable social and cultural identity, but one that has also adopted the IB rather than retreating into insularity. The bilingual offer in Spanish and English broadens its reach beyond the purely local market, while the girls-only setting will appeal to families who value a single-sex environment for confidence, focus and leadership.

The school belongs on a shortlist for parents who want structure, tradition and a clear moral framework, but who also want their daughter to leave with an outward-facing education rather than a narrowly domestic one. It will suit girls who thrive in a *disciplined*, *high-expectation* environment and who are comfortable in a school where faith is not decorative but part of the institutional fabric. It will not suit every family. Parents seeking a looser culture, a co-educational setting, or a religion-light version of private education should look elsewhere. Villa María is for families who want conviction, not compromise, and for students who will value that clarity rather than chafe against it.

STRENGTHS

- Offers the International Baccalaureate curriculum, giving students an internationally recognised diploma pathway not available at most Chilean private schools.
- Located in Santiago, providing access to the city's broader cultural, university and expat-community infrastructure.
- Operates as a day school with a Catholic religious character, giving families a values-based educational environment.
- Being IB-affiliated implies the school has undergone formal IB World School authorisation, which involves external quality checks on curriculum delivery.

TRADE-OFFS

- Editorial rank (1264) and 'candidate' tier status indicate this school has not yet accumulated the reputational track record of Santiago's most established international schools.
- Limited independently verifiable public data (exam results, university destinations, inspection reports) makes it difficult to benchmark academic outcomes against peer schools.
- As a single-campus day school, families outside Santiago's catchment areas will face commuting or relocation considerations.
- Public information on fees, class sizes and specific IB subject offerings is not readily available, which may complicate comparison shopping for relocating families.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points typically align with Chile's academic year structure, with places offered across primary and secondary levels subject to availability. As a Catholic day school, admission processes commonly involve an application form, prior school records, and often a family or student interview; specific entrance testing details are not independently published. Competitiveness is not well documented externally, so prospective families should contact the school directly via www.villamaria.cl to confirm current vacancy levels, fee schedules, and the exact IB programmes offered (PYP, MYP, or Diploma) at each stage.

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_078b6c20d2.