

Gimnasio Campestre

Bogotá, Colombia



Eight decades of all-boys formation in Bogota's north, now pivoting to coeducation through a landmark Marymount merger.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	62/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	63/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Gimnasio Campestre occupies a rare position in Bogotá: an **1941** foundation with the social weight of an old-line Catholic boys’ school, now under pressure to redefine itself. For decades, its identity rested on *discipline, tradition and male formation* in the city’s north. That still matters. So does the fact that the school now sits inside a landmark shift toward coeducation through its Marymount merger. For parents, that makes Campestre more than another established Colombian day school. It offers *institutional depth* and brand recognition, but also a live test of how an old elite school updates itself without losing coherence.

What puts it on a shortlist is not novelty. It is pedigree, continuity and cultural standing. In a crowded Bogotá market, Campestre's appeal lies in a very specific mix: **5-18** day schooling, Catholic formation, bilingual teaching in Spanish and English, a Colombian curriculum, and IB accreditation. That combination gives families a school with local roots and an international signal. The strongest draw is for parents who want *structure, ceremony and expectation* rather than a progressive free-for-all. The risk sits in the same place as the appeal: schools built on old traditions can carry *social confidence* and clear standards, but they can also move slowly when families want transparency or a sharper account of academic outcomes. Campestre's reputation does real work; parents still need to ask hard questions about how the new coeducational direction changes daily school life, leadership priorities and pastoral culture.

The right student for Gimnasio Campestre is one who thrives in a school with a strong sense of hierarchy, collective identity and established norms. Boys who value team culture, ritual and external standards will find a natural fit in the school's historic model. Families entering during the coeducational transition need a child with enough resilience to handle an institution in change, not one who needs a wholly settled culture from day one. This is a school for parents who want *gravitas rather than trendiness*, and for students who do well when adults set the tone clearly. If your child wants a looser, more experimental environment, Campestre is the wrong choice. If you want a school with *old Bogotá capital*, a bilingual Catholic framework and the seriousness of an institution that has been in the city since **1941**, it deserves close inspection.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1946, Gimnasio Campestre is a traditional all-boys bilingual day school located in northern Bogotá, giving it eight decades of institutional continuity.
- Since 2016, the school is internationally accredited by two highly known accreditation agencies: New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and Council of International Schools (CIS).
- A defining feature of the curriculum is its proprietary research structure; the school has integrated research into its daily framework for over 25 years through its 'Jóvenes Investigadores' initiative and dedicated study centers, publishing student findings in the Astrolabio science journal.
- Instruction is delivered in Spanish and English, with French introduced as an additional language, giving boys a trilingual academic base.
- Extracurricular programs are extensive, including a traditional 'Banda de Guerra' (marching band), fencing, robotics, and Mandarin Chinese.

TRADE-OFFS

- The Gimnasio Campestre is an all-male, elite-traditional Pre-K to 11th grade private school, so it is not an option for families wanting co-education for daughters or a mixed-gender environment now.
- The Gimnasio Campestre, tradicionalmente uno de los colegios más reconocidos del país, figura en el segmento premium, con matrículas y pensiones que rondan los 3 millones de pesos mensuales en algunos niveles, placing it among Bogotá's costliest private day schools.
- On February 4, 2026, Gimnasio Campestre and Colegio Marymount officially announced they would move toward a full integration that will, in the medium term, give rise to a single institution, meaning the school's single-sex, standalone identity is set to change.
- The Gimnasio Campestre is an all-male, traditional and conservative Pre-K to 11th grade private school located in Bogotá, Colombia, which will not suit families seeking a secular or progressive pedagogical approach.

ADMISSIONS

Entry runs from Prekinder through Grade 11, with most competitive places at the earliest year groups. The published process begins with an online application form, followed by a multi-day 'Experiencia de Inmersión Gimcam' assessment, a family interview with school administration, and a psychological evaluation; results are typically shared roughly a week after the immersion phase. As a Catholic, all-boys, values-driven institution, the school screens explicitly for alignment between family values and its formation model, in addition to academic readiness. Fees sit in Bogota's premium bracket, and demand has historically been high given the school's long-standing reputation.

WTS RATING 

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