

Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama

Yokohama, Japan



Since 1904, East Asia's oldest German school pairs Abitur rigor with a Borussia Dortmund football academy on its Yokohama campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	59/100
University placement	57/100
Prestige & heritage	57/100
Alumni network	56/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	46/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama occupies a niche no other school in Japan can claim: it is the country’s only school offering the German International Abitur, and it has done so from a base that dates back to 1904. That matters. For German-speaking families who want a full German school pathway in Japan, this is not one option among several; it is the reference point. The school runs from age 3 to 18 on a single Yokohama campus, which gives it continuity that many expatriate families value and many international schools struggle to deliver. It is also a day school, non-religious, and teaches in German and English, with the school itself placing multilingualism and cultural exchange with Japan at the centre of its model.

What sets it apart is not polished global-school branding but a *clear, specific identity*. This is a German overseas school first, not a generic international school with a bit of German attached. The “Excellent German School Abroad” accreditation reinforces that point, as does the school’s insistence on German-language development across the age range. Parents need to be clear-eyed about the implication: this is a strong fit for families who want academic and cultural continuity with the German system, and a weaker fit for those shopping for an Anglo-international curriculum with broad university-prep flexibility. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **JPY 1,756,666**, which places it in the serious-fee bracket but not in the upper reaches of Tokyo-area international schooling.

The other distinguishing feature is breadth on campus. The school describes a wide site, modern facilities, co-curricular provision, its own school bus network from Tokyo and Yokohama, and a role as a hub for the German-speaking community in Japan. That combination gives DSTY a *community-school heft* that smaller niche schools often lack. The Borussia Dortmund football academy link in your verified context sharpens the picture further: this is not a cloistered academic outpost, but a school with a defined extracurricular edge. A child who will thrive here is one who can handle the demands of the German Abitur track, wants German language and identity to remain central, and benefits from a campus that feels *settled, structured and culturally anchored*. Families seeking an all-purpose, globally standardised international school experience have many alternatives. Families seeking a *distinctly German education in Japan* have one obvious shortlist school, and this is it.

STRENGTHS

- Offers the full German Abitur, recognised by German universities and accepted for university entry across the EU.
- Instruction follows the accredited German curriculum, allowing children of relocating German families to reintegrate smoothly into schools back home.
- Located in Yokohama, giving access to a large German and international expatriate community in the Kanto region.
- Small class sizes typical of German international schools abroad allow closer teacher attention than large international curricula competitors.
- Multilingual exposure through German, English and Japanese language instruction as part of the core programme.

TRADE - OFFS

- Curriculum is delivered primarily in German, which limits accessibility for families without German language background.
- As a niche national curriculum school, it has a narrower academic and extracurricular breadth compared to large IB or British curriculum schools in the same market.
- Location in Yokohama means a longer commute for families based in central Tokyo.
- Small overall student body relative to major international schools may mean fewer subject options at senior levels.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is generally open to children of German-speaking families, including diplomatic, corporate and NGO postings, as well as some non-German families seeking German-medium education. Entry can occur at various age points, with placement dependent on German language proficiency, particularly at higher grades. Applications are handled directly through the school office, requiring prior school reports and, in many cases, a language assessment or interview. Places for the youngest cohorts are less competitive than for placements later in the school, where language readiness becomes decisive.

WTS RATING 

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