

British International School of Cracow

Kraków, Poland



In Krakow's Old Town, three decades of British schooling meet the IB Diploma, small classes, and Tatra ski-week traditions.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	56/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	56/100
Prestige & heritage	56/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	45/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

British International School of Cracow occupies a distinct niche in Kraków: a small, long-established English-medium day school in the Old Town that runs a British pathway into the IB Diploma. That combination matters. Many international schools can offer one or the other; fewer can offer both in a setting this intimate. The school traces its roots to **1995** and now enrolls about **220** students from more than **35** countries, which gives it the scale of a genuinely small school rather than a diluted big-campus operation. Parents looking for *close adult attention*, *small-class teaching* and a school where children are known individually will put BISC high on a shortlist.

What stands out is not glamour or scale, but continuity and coherence. BISC serves ages 3-18 in English, remains non-religious, and carries meaningful external recognition through BSO, COBIS and IB World School status. It also sits under Polish educational supervision, with students receiving the official Polish school certificate alongside its international offer. That dual track gives the school practical value for families who want mobility without losing local standing. The school also leans into old-fashioned international-school character: a mixed expatriate and internationally minded intake, a long-running ski-camp culture, and a leadership team with deep institutional memory. There is **a strong sense of community** here, and **a serious international mix**, not a cosmetic one.

The limitations are plain. This is not the choice for families who want a vast campus, heavy facilities language, or the social breadth that comes with a much larger student body. BISC’s appeal rests on **personal scale**, **academic clarity** and cultural variety, not on spectacle. Publicly available outcome data are thin: the school does not publish aggregate IB results or broad leavers’ destinations in the extracts we have seen. Parents who want hard comparative performance data will need to ask directly. Even so, for families who value access, individual support and a British-to-IB route in central Kraków, BISC remains **a persuasive option**.

The best fit is a student who thrives in a compact, international environment and does not need the anonymity or range of a large school. Children who benefit from teacher attention, settle well in mixed-age school communities, and enjoy a straightforward academic structure will do well here. Older students targeting the IB Diploma in a school with **a settled, human scale** will find BISC attractive. So will internationally mobile families who want English-medium schooling with recognised qualifications and a foothold in Poland.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Offers both the British National Curriculum through to IGCSE and the IB Diploma Programme, giving families a choice of exit qualification routes. • Situated in Kraków, one of Poland's largest expat and international business centres, useful for relocating families needing continuity of English-medium education. • Day-school structure keeps pupils embedded in family and local life rather than boarding, which suits shorter-term postings. • Dual-curriculum model (British plus IB) is relatively unusual in the region, giving some flexibility if a family's onward destination or university plans change.	• Sits at candidate tier in independent editorial rankings, meaning it does not yet have the long, externally verified track record of top-tier regional schools. • Public information on exam results, university destinations, fees and inspection reports is limited, making outcomes harder for families to benchmark before committing. • Kraków has fewer British/IB school alternatives than Warsaw, so families have less local choice if the school proves a poor fit. • As a single-campus day school, facilities and extracurricular scale are likely more modest than large multi-campus international groups elsewhere in Europe.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions typically run on rolling entry with places offered subject to availability across year groups, common for mid-sized international schools in secondary cities. Applications generally require previous school reports, an assessment or interview, and evidence of English proficiency for older applicants. Entry is not understood to be highly selective compared with flagship international schools in capital cities, though space in popular year groups (e.g. IB Diploma entry) may be tighter. Families should confirm current fee schedules, term dates and specific entry requirements directly with the school, as these are not consistently published.

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_118792f2ad.