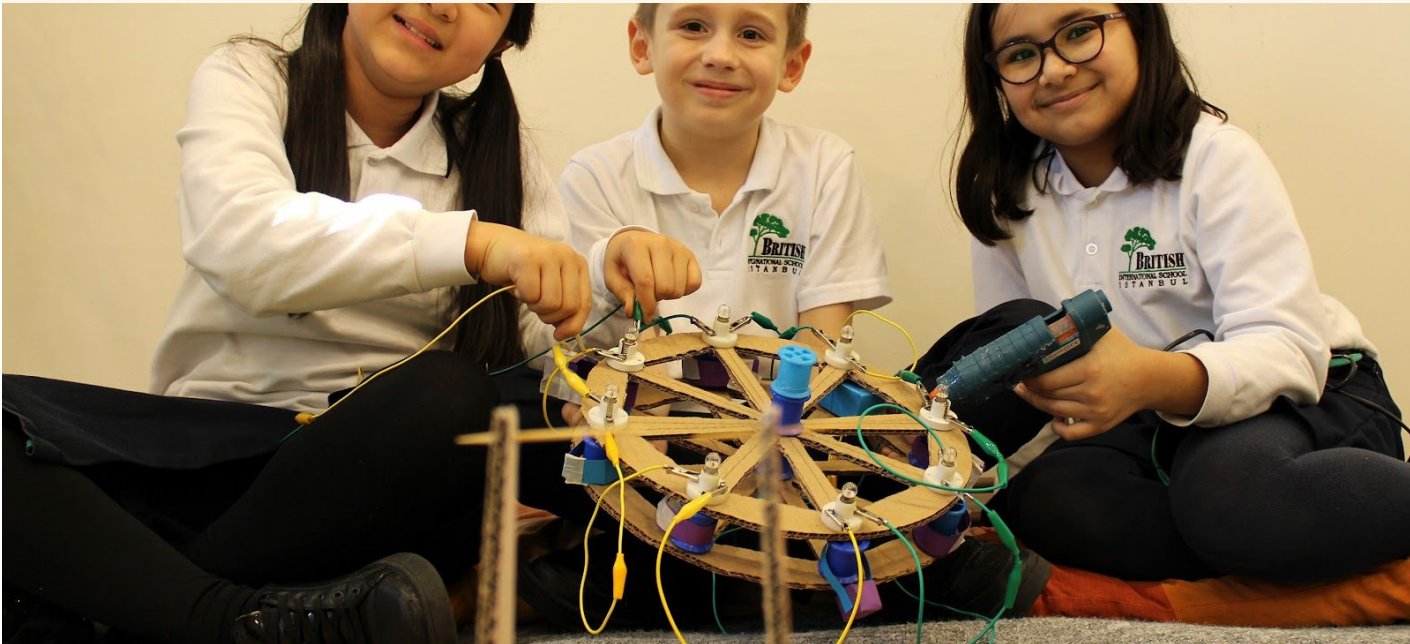


The British International School Istanbul

Istanbul, Turkey



Beside Belgrade Forest, a triple-accredited campus pairs IB rigor with capped classes of fifteen and over 60 nationalities.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	65/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	56/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The British International School Istanbul occupies a clear niche in the city: a full English-medium British school with the IB Diploma at the top, a forest-edge campus in Zekeriyaköy, and rare inspection credibility. Founded in 2000, it runs from ages 2-18 and holds the triple accreditation that many schools invoke and few secure: COBIS, CIS and MSA. In Istanbul, that matters. It gives parents an external check on governance, teaching and safeguarding, not just a glossy prospectus. The school also states that it is the only school in the city with all three accreditations. Add a student body drawn from over **55** nationalities and capped classes of **15**, and the proposition is straightforward: international breadth, tight classroom ratios, and a structure built for families who want academic order without a boarding-

school atmosphere.

What stands out is the combination of **serious academic intent** and a **distinctly family-oriented culture**. BIS is explicit that it is an academic school. The route is conventional and legible: British curriculum foundations, Cambridge through IGCSE, then the IB Diploma Programme. That suits internationally mobile families, children targeting UK and US universities, and parents who want a curriculum sequence that universities understand instantly. The location also matters more than the brochure language admits. Being beside Belgrade Forest gives the campus a **calmer physical setting** than many urban competitors in Istanbul, with room for outdoor provision and a less compressed daily experience. The school also offers learning support, EAL provision, and modern languages including German, Spanish, French and Turkish, which broadens the intake beyond native English speakers.

BIS belongs on a shortlist for parents who want **institutional seriousness** without the scale and anonymity that can creep into bigger international schools. The capped class size is a real commercial advantage if it is delivered consistently across year groups. So is the mix of creative arts, PE and extracurricular provision alongside a plainly academic spine. The school's own public results language is less useful than it could be: "near ****100%**** pass rate" and "above-world average" IB points do not tell parents enough. BIS would strengthen its case by publishing fuller, year-by-year aggregate outcomes. Still, the central offer is strong: **clear curriculum sequencing**, **strong external accreditation**, and a **genuinely international peer group**.

The student who will thrive here is not chasing progressive experimentation or a loose, child-led secondary model. BIS suits students who do well with structure, teacher oversight and formal academic expectations, while still wanting arts, sport and a broad extracurricular life. It also fits children arriving with limited English, because the school states that it supports English as a second language and admits throughout the year. For families in the Sarıyer/Zekeriyaköy orbit, or those willing to trade city-centre convenience for campus space, BIS is a credible choice: **disciplined, outward-facing and ambitious** without drifting into educational theatre.

STRENGTHS

- British curriculum throughout ages 2–18
- English-medium teaching may ease international transitions
- Day school avoids boarding at young ages
- Non-religious ethos suits secular families

TRADE-OFFS

- No boarding option for relocating families
- Only British curriculum is stated
- No bilingual teaching stated beyond English

ADMISSIONS

The British International School Istanbul is a day school for ages 2 to 18, so the obvious entry points are likely to be the early years, primary, secondary and sixth form stages within that span. As an English-medium school following a British curriculum, admissions are typically organised by age and previous schooling, but the school does not publicly set out, in the material provided here, a detailed breakdown of year-by-year intake points.

Nor does the school publicly publish, in the material provided here, the specifics parents usually want most: assessment format, application deadlines, or whether bursaries or financial aid are available. In the absence of verified source material, it would be unsafe to imply interviews, CAT4-style testing, rolling admissions, or scholarship schemes, as these vary widely even among superficially similar schools. Families should therefore expect the usual review of prior school records and age-appropriate placement, but should confirm directly with the admissions office how places are allocated, whether any assessments are required, and whether any fee assistance exists.

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_1cedee2bb6.