

# Munich International School

Starnberg, Germany



*Housed in a former 1875 castle on Lake Starnberg, this Bavarian campus channels nearly every senior into the full IB Diploma.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 71/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 71/100 |
| University placement | 71/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 72/100 |
| Alumni network       | 68/100 |
| Facilities           | 82/100 |
| Transparency         | 79/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

The former **1875** castle on Lake Starnberg is not a gimmick here; it is the setting for a mature, internationally minded school with a clear academic spine. Munich International School opened in 1966 and now runs from age 3 to 18, teaching in English and German and accredited by both the IBO and CIS. The school’s defining feature is its commitment to the IB all the way through, in a German market where many international schools hedge their bets with parallel senior pathways. That gives MIS a *\*cleaner academic identity\** than many rivals. Parents who want one curriculum philosophy from the early years to Grade 12 will value that coherence. Parents who want A-levels, APs or a more exam-drilled national route should look elsewhere.

The attraction is not only the campus, though the Alpine views and lakeside setting are *\*genuinely distinctive\**. MIS is a boarding and day school, which widens its catchment beyond Munich’s commuter belt and gives it a different social mix from city-centre expatriate day schools. The average annual fee is **\*\*€25,000\*\*** for day pupils and **\*\*€50,000\*\*** for boarders, placing it in the premium bracket without touching the extreme end of Swiss-style pricing. The school also has real international depth: the source material points to a student body drawn from many nationalities, and that matters at IB level, where classroom discussion, writing and inquiry-based learning benefit from a broad mix of backgrounds.

This is a strong shortlist school for families who want an *\*unmistakably international\** education rather than a national system in English. It will suit self-directed, academically serious students who thrive in discussion, coursework and the long arc of the IB Diploma, not children who need constant external pressure or a narrow test-prep culture. The known university destinations are modestly stated rather than inflated: City, Durham and Goldsmiths each appear in the recent list with **\*\*1\*\*** student apiece. That does not tell you everything about outcomes, but it does tell you the school avoids the boastful destination theatre common in this sector. MIS looks strongest for mobile international families, bilingual or multilingual children, and students who will make full use of a *\*rarely matched setting\** without needing a school to manufacture prestige around them.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1966, MIS was one of the earliest international schools in Germany and has been an authorised IB World School since 1980.
- The Class of 2025 recorded a 95% IB Diploma pass rate with an average score of 35 points, above the 2025 world average of 31.
- Sits on a 55-acre forested campus near the Starnberger See with facilities including an Olympic-sized eight-lane track, performing arts centre and makers' laboratory.
- Fully accredited by the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and recognised by the Bavarian Ministry of Education.
- Draws a genuinely international community of roughly 1,200-1,300 students from more than 55 nationalities across Early Childhood to Grade 12.

TRADE-OFFS

- Curriculum pathway runs almost exclusively through the IB continuum (PYP-MYP-DP), offering little in the way of alternative exit qualifications such as A-Levels for families wanting flexibility.
- Campus is located in Starnberg, roughly 20km southwest of central Munich, with public transport access limited, making many families reliant on the school's fee-based bus network or a car.
- Fee structure is substantial for a day school, with 2026/27 annual tuition ranging from EUR 13,590 to EUR 27,583, plus a EUR 9,421 first-year entrance fee per child.
- As a single, well-established campus rather than a multi-site network, options for switching locations within Germany are not available, unlike some larger international school groups.

## ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Early Childhood (age 4) through Grade 12, though families are advised to confirm space availability with admissions before applying, since places at popular grade levels can be limited. Applications are submitted via an online dashboard, with a EUR330 non-refundable application fee per child. Accepted students pay a EUR9,421 entrance fee in year one, reducing in years two and three. As a non-profit institution serving mainly relocating international families, demand tracks Munich's expatriate cycles, so early application ahead of an intended start date is recommended.

## NOTABLE ALUMNI (9)

MUSIC: Susanne Pechel

DRAMA: Nina Eichinger, Dimitri Abold

LETTERS: Felix Finkbeiner

POLITICS: Bartosz Jałowiecki

SCIENCE: Felix Finkbeiner

WTS RATING 

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