

Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz

Zuoz, Switzerland



At 1,750 metres in the Engadine, IB and Swiss Matura classes share the calendar with cricket on Europe's highest pitch, in play since 1922.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	66/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	68/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	55/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

At ****1,750 metres**** in the Engadine, Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz sells a boarding-school life that very few European rivals can match: Alpine seclusion, old Swiss-internat pedigree and a campus culture where academics and sport carry equal weight. The school is small enough to feel tightly run — about 330 pupils from more than 45 nationalities — and the published teaching metrics are strong, with an average class size of ****18**** and a ****1:5**** teacher-pupil ratio. This is not a finishing school in the old continental mould. It is an expensive, **high-control**, **high-contact** boarding environment with clear academic intent, offering both IB and British pathways and backed by CIS and IBO accreditation.

What puts Zuoz on a shortlist is the combination of range and setting. Parents looking at Swiss boarding schools often face a trade-off between international breadth and academic seriousness; Zuoz has both, plus a day-school population that stops the place feeling like an isolated boarding bubble. The school's own numbers — roughly 220 boarders and 120 day pupils — matter here. So does the fact that recent destinations include ETH Zurich, EPFL and the University of Zurich. Those are serious outcomes, even if the school does not publish a fuller university placement picture in the public domain. Fees place it firmly in the premium bracket: an average annual boarding fee of **CHF 102,367**, and **CHF 60,533** for day pupils. That buys a *distinctive*, *hard-to-replicate* proposition rather than brute prestige alone.

The right student for Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz is internationally minded, comfortable in a structured residential community and keen to use the mountains rather than just admire them. The school talks about character, community and sport, and the setting gives those claims real force. This suits pupils who want a *contained*, *intensive* adolescence: boarding, outdoor life, multilingual exposure and close teacher contact. It suits less well the child who wants a large city, constant independence or a looser, more anonymous sixth-form culture. Zuoz's special quality is not scale or metropolitan glamour. It is the disciplined oddity of the offer: a century-old Swiss boarding school with IB and British routes, a genuinely international student body, and a campus life shaped by altitude, routine and community.

STRENGTHS

TRADE-OFFS

- Founded in 1904 with established boarding tradition
- IB and British curricula broaden academic pathways
- Around 220 boarders from over 30 countries
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio supports individual attention

- Annual boarding fees reach 120000 CHF
- English and French instruction may limit language choice
- Average class size of 18 is not especially small

ADMISSIONS

Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz takes pupils from ages 11 to 18, so the natural admissions entry points are likely the start of lower secondary, mid-secondary and sixth-form years. It is a both day and boarding school, with around 300 pupils in total and roughly 220 boarders, and its boarding population is notably international, drawn from more than 30 countries. The school offers both IB and British pathways, so applicants are presumably considered against the requirements of the relevant route, but the school does not publish enough in the material provided here to describe precise academic thresholds.

What is not clear from the available source material is the mechanics: no published admissions deadlines, assessment format, interview structure or distinctive selection stages are given here. Likewise, there is no confirmed information in the supplied sources on bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid, so parents should not assume such support is available without checking directly. In practice, this looks like a school where families should expect a conventional independent-school admissions process, but the specifics are not published in the evidence provided.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (20)

MUSIC: Karlheinz Böhm

DRAMA: Karlheinz Böhm, Coco König, Gunter Sachs, Götz George

VISUAL_ARTS: Gunter Sachs

LETTERS: André Gorz

POLITICS: Philip Rosenthal

SCIENCE: Ferdinand Piëch, André Gorz, Thomas Gold, Philip Rosenthal, Ulrich Körner, Stephen L. Leib

BUSINESS: Ferdinand Piëch, Philip Rosenthal, Anton Wolfgang Graf von Faber-Castell, Ulrich Körner, Michael White, Gunter Sachs

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_1ef653002d.