

Gimnasio Femenino

Bogotá, Colombia



Founded in 1927 to break Bogota's confessional mould, this Montessori-rooted IB campus for girls unfolds across 74 hectares of eastern forest reserve.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	60/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	48/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Gimnasio Femenino occupies a distinctive niche in Bogotá: an old, established girls’ day school with Catholic roots, a Colombian curriculum and the IB, set on an unusually large ****74-hectare**** campus in the eastern forest reserve. That setting matters. In a city where many schools trade on urban convenience, Gimnasio Femenino offers **space to think**, **room to roam** and a daily experience shaped by woodland, not traffic. The school’s Montessori inheritance also sets it apart. Parents looking for a rigid, exam-drilled environment should look elsewhere; this is a school built around autonomy, self-possession

and the expectation that girls will learn to direct their own work.

Its market position rests on that combination: tradition without the stale conservatism that marks parts of Bogotá's old-school sector, religious identity without total cultural narrowness, and academic breadth without the industrial feel of some large bilingual schools. Founded in **1929**, it carries real institutional weight, and that matters in Colombia's status-conscious market. Yet the stronger case for the school is not pedigree but atmosphere: **serious without chill**, **cultured without fuss**, **disciplined without noise**. Families who want a high-gloss international brand with a transient expatriate mix will find other options more fitting. Gimnasio Femenino speaks first to Colombian and internationally minded local families who value continuity, girls' education and a campus life that feels **grounded and calm**.

Why put it on a shortlist? Because few schools in Bogotá combine girls-only education from ages **3-18**, bilingual instruction in Spanish and English, Catholic formation, and the IB within a campus of this scale. That mix gives it a clear identity. The girls who will thrive here are not those who need constant external pressure or a theatrical school culture. This school suits students who enjoy independence, respond to responsibility, and want an education that prizes **intellectual self-command** as much as credentials. It will also suit girls who want the confidence that comes from an all-female environment, where leadership, academic ambition and public voice are not filtered through co-ed dynamics.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1927, Gimnasio Femenino is one of Bogotá's most traditional girls' schools and marked its 90th anniversary with the Colombian Ministry of Education's Cruz de Oro decoration for its educational contribution.
- The school runs the full continuum of International Baccalaureate programmes (PYP, MYP and DP) and is a member of the IB Organization, the Andean Association of IB Schools and UNCOLI.
- Students are bilingual in English from an early age and add a third language, French or Portuguese, from fourth grade, taught by staff described as highly qualified in second or third-language instruction.
- The school maintains an international dimension not always found at single-sex Bogotá schools, with close to 10% of its student body being foreign nationals and about 8% of teaching staff drawn from abroad.
- It has a long-standing sister-school relationship with the all-boys Gimnasio Moderno, giving girls structured co-educational contact through shared academic, cultural, sporting and environmental activities rather than total isolation from boys.

TRADE-OFFS

- It is a single-sex, girls-only institution from Premontessori through Grade 11, which will not suit families seeking a co-educational environment.
- Editorial ranking places it at 252 within the best_300 tier, indicating it sits in the lower half of Colombia's top-ranked schools rather than among the country's academic front-runners.
- Fees sit in the upper-middle band of Bogotá's bilingual private schools (monthly tuition and fees in the low millions of pesos) rather than at the budget end, without being among the very highest-priced options in the city.
- The campus is located in Usaquén in northern Bogotá, which can mean a longer commute for expat families settling in other parts of the city.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions run through a dedicated portal (admisiones.gimnasiofemenino.edu.co) with separate cycles for Premontessori-to-Transicion and for Grades 1 through 10, each requiring purchase of an application form and attendance at information sessions ahead of assessment. As an all-girls Calendar B school with roughly a tenth of students international, places for younger cohorts are the most accessible entry point; mid-year or senior transfers are less common. Families should confirm current fee schedules and testing requirements directly with the admissions office, as costs and criteria are updated annually.

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_1f0c64a1bf.