

St Gilgen International School

St Gilgen, Austria



Lakeside villas on the Wolfgangsee house a boutique IB day and boarding community spanning ages 9 to 18.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	50/100
Academic outcomes	50/100
University placement	48/100
Prestige & heritage	52/100
Alumni network	50/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	41/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

St Gilgen trades on something few schools can match: a boarding setting on the Wolfgangsee, in St Gilgen, with lakeside villas rather than a conventional campus. That matters. This is not an urban international school with boarding attached as an afterthought; it is a *boutique residential school* in Austria with a day-and-boarding model built into its identity. Founded in 2008, non-religious, and teaching in English and German, it sits in a narrow market segment: families who want the IB, want Europe, and want a small-scale environment rather than a sprawling institution.

The academic proposition is clean. The school declares the IB, covers ages 3 to 18, and holds IBO

accreditation. That gives parents a straightforward read on the offer: international curriculum, international cohort, and an education designed for mobile families. The fee level places it in premium territory rather than stratospheric luxury: an average annual day fee of **€20,000** across the full age range, and an average annual boarding fee of **€45,000**. For a boarding school in Austria with this setting, that is *expensive but not absurd*. The real question is not whether St Gilgen is cheap — it is not — but whether a family wants the combination of scenery, boarding community and IB continuity badly enough to pay for it.

What is special here is the scale and mood. A child who thrives in a *close-quarters international community*, values outdoor life, and does not need the machinery of a giant school will find St Gilgen attractive. A teenager who wants English-medium schooling with German in daily circulation also gets something practical from the location and language mix. This is less compelling for families chasing big-school breadth, vast subject menus or the social anonymity that a larger campus can provide. It suits self-directed, adaptable students, including boarders, who want a *contained, watchful environment* and can live with the intensity that comes when school, boarding and social life all happen in one place.

For a shortlist, St Gilgen earns attention for three reasons: a *rare* Austrian boarding proposition, the clarity of an IB-through-school identity, and a setting that changes the texture of daily life rather than merely decorating the prospectus. Parents need to go in with open eyes. The school does not publish the kind of hard public outcome data that would settle the academic argument at a glance, so the decision rests more heavily on fit, pastoral design and the value of its setting. For the right child, that combination is *distinctive*. For the wrong one, it will feel *small, intense and enclosed*.

STRENGTHS

- IB curriculum throughout ages 3-18
- English and German instruction
- Boarding and day options
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio

TRADE-OFFS

- Boarding fees reach EUR 45,000 annually
- Day fees reach EUR 20,000 annually
- Founded only in 2008

ADMISSIONS

St Gilgen International School takes pupils from ages 3 to 18, so the obvious entry points are the early years, primary, lower secondary and sixth-form stages rather than a single intake year. As an IB school, admissions are likely organised by age and previous schooling, but the school context provided does not publish a detailed breakdown of year-by-year entry routes. Nor does it specify whether assessment is by interview, school reports, entrance testing or a broader review of prior attainment. Parents should therefore expect an age-appropriate admissions process, but the precise format is not publicly stated here.

The school is both day and boarding, with boarding fees and day fees published, which suggests separate consideration for residential applicants. No application deadlines are given in the material provided, so it would be prudent to assume rolling admissions only if places are available rather than fixed annual cut-offs. The context also does not mention bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid, so no claim can be made for assistance provision. Distinctively, the school's bilingual English-German setting may matter in placement, though language requirements are not stated.

WTS RATING 

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