

Shanghai Community International School

Shanghai, China



Pioneering Shanghai's IB continuum since 1996, spanning three campuses and sixty-plus nationalities across Puxi and Pudong.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	62/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Three campuses across Shanghai and more than 1,800 students give Shanghai Community International School a scale that few international schools in the city can match, yet its real point of difference is structural rather than cosmetic: this is a full IB Continuum school, offering PYP, MYP and DP across the whole age range from 3 to 18. That matters. Parents who want a single academic philosophy from early years to sixth form get exactly that, without the curricular handbrake turns that can unsettle children in transient expatriate families. Founded in 1996, SCIS also has the advantage of age in a market where many schools are much newer. It was there early, and that long presence in Shanghai still counts.

The school's international character looks substantial rather than tokenistic. SCIS states that its community spans over sixty nationalities and thirty-five languages across six continents, and that breadth is a serious asset for families who want children educated in an environment that feels *genuinely international* rather than merely English-speaking abroad. English and Mandarin are the languages of instruction, which suits globally mobile families who still want daily contact with China rather than a sealed expatriate bubble. Accreditations from WASC, CIS and the IB add institutional weight. None of that guarantees brilliance in every classroom, but it does place SCIS firmly in the top tier of established, globally legible schools in Shanghai.

The trade-off is price and profile. At an average annual day fee of **245,750 RMB**, SCIS sits in the expensive end of the market, and parents are paying for continuity, scale and a mature international ecosystem, not boutique intimacy. Families seeking a tiny school with a highly local feel will find SCIS too large and too dispersed. Families who want a *settled, sophisticated* international school with clear systems, strong peer diversity and a curriculum that culminates in the IB Diploma will see the appeal at once. The best fit is the student who is academically secure, open to people from everywhere, and comfortable in a community spread across multiple campuses. This is a school for children who thrive in a *cosmopolitan, high-expectation* setting, and for parents who value institutional depth over educational fashion.

STRENGTHS

- IB Continuum school: PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme.
- Three campuses across Puxi and Pudong.
- Established in 1996; among Shanghai's first internationals.
- WASC-accredited and IB-authorized.

TRADE-OFFS

- Large scale: over 1,800 students overall.
- Three-campus model may feel less unified.
- Only IB pathway stated; no alternative curriculum mentioned.

ADMISSIONS

Shanghai Community International School is a private international school in Shanghai, established in 1996, with three campuses across Puxi and Pudong. It offers the full IB continuum — PYP, MYP and DP — for pupils aged 2 to 18, so the obvious entry points are early years, primary, lower secondary and sixth form-equivalent IB Diploma years. The school describes its programme as seamless across these phases, but does not publicly set out year-by-year admissions pressure points in the material provided.

On admissions mechanics, the school does not publish enough detail here to describe a definitive assessment format, interview sequence or selection method. Likewise, no application deadlines are given in the supplied sources, so parents should expect rolling or campus-dependent timelines and confirm directly with the admissions team. There is also nothing in the school's published material here about bursaries, scholarships or means-tested financial aid, so it would be unwise to assume these exist. What is distinctive, and relevant to fit, is the school's explicitly international profile: more than 1,800 students, over sixty nationalities and thirty-five languages.

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_26e7262e25.