

# American International School of Guangzhou

Guangzhou, China



*Southern China's oldest American day school since 1981, pairing AP rigor with a Science City campus built for real-world learning.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 71/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 73/100 |
| University placement | 71/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 71/100 |
| Alumni network       | 70/100 |
| Facilities           | 73/100 |
| Transparency         | 66/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

AISG’s strongest claim is simple: it has been in Guangzhou since 1981, which gives it a depth of local knowledge that newer entrants do not have, while still operating as an American, AP-driven school for ages 3 to 18. That matters in a city where families often need continuity as much as ambition. The school is non-profit, co-educational and day-only, with more than 1,000 students and 50-plus nationalities, so this is not a niche boutique operation; it is a large, established international school with scale, history and a clear expatriate brief. The average annual day fee is **\*\*263,345 RMB\*\***, which places it firmly in the expensive tier. Parents paying that level will expect substance, and AISG has some: WASC and CIS accreditation, a **\*\*11:1\*\*** student-teacher ratio, and a two-campus model with elementary provision on

Ersha Island and the secondary school in Science Park.

What is special here is the combination of \*institutional maturity\* and a campus model geared towards older students doing serious academic work. The school talks in the language of future-readiness and innovation, but the more persuasive details are concrete: a state-of-the-art theatre, an innovation lab, two gyms and multimedia spaces, all of which fit an American school that wants learning to extend beyond exam preparation. This is not a stripped-back AP factory. It is a broad day school with enough infrastructure to serve students who want arts, sport and applied learning alongside academics. The recent university destinations published in the context are modest in number — University College London, Hong Kong and Melbourne — so AISG does not trade here on a trumpeted roll call of elite placements. Parents who want exhaustive destination data or aggregate AP outcomes will find the public picture thinner than the fee level invites.

It still merits a shortlist because it offers something \*hard to replicate\* in Guangzhou: longevity, recognised accreditation, a substantial international community and an American curriculum carried through to AP in English and Mandarin. This suits students who thrive in a \*busy, outward-facing\* school rather than a small, intensely sheltered one. The best fit is a child who wants an American-style education, values breadth as well as academic stretch, and is comfortable in a community that is diverse, established and \*decidedly international\*. It is less suited to families who want boarding, a British curriculum, or a school that publishes a more \*granular\* picture of senior academic outcomes.

#### STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1981, AISG is an independent, not-for-profit, coeducational day school, and is described as the oldest and longest established non-profit international school in southern China.
- The school runs its own American-curriculum courses in middle school combined with IB at high school, and graduates earn an American High School Diploma and/or an IB Diploma.
- The Science Park campus athletic centre includes one of the largest natural grass soccer fields of any international school in Guangzhou, an indoor 25-meter pool, two gymnasiums, a dance studio and two climbing walls.
- In the 2020-2021 school year the school had 110 full-time faculty, of whom 84 held at least a master's degree.
- AISG is authorized by the International Baccalaureate Office to offer the Primary Years Programme in the elementary grades and the Diploma Programme in grades 11 and 12.

#### TRADE-OFFS

- Annual comprehensive tuition ranges from roughly RMB 204,000 at preschool level to RMB 270,000 for grades 9-12, and the school's own materials cite an approximate total cost of RMB 4.5 million if a child attends from Pre-Kindergarten to graduation.
- Enrolment figures show 0 host-country nationals among the 1,079 students in 2023-2024, reflecting Chinese regulations that restrict the school to children holding foreign passports rather than local Chinese families.
- While AISG offers ESL support at each campus, it does not enroll into the secondary school children with limited English language proficiency, narrowing the school's suitability for late-arriving non-native English speakers at the secondary level.
- The elementary school is located on Ersha Island in the Pearl River near Guangzhou's Diplomatic and Commercial District, while secondary students attend a separate campus in Huangpu District's Science Park, meaning families face a campus change and commute shift partway through their child's schooling.

## ADMISSIONS

Entry is possible at any grade from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12, via an online application requiring academic transcripts and, per the US State Department fact sheet, a non-refundable RMB 2,000 application fee plus a further enrolment fee for new students. As enrolment data shows no host-country nationals, places are effectively limited to holders of foreign passports, per Chinese regulation. The process typically involves entrance assessment and interview, with places in popular grade levels described as competitive and early application advised.

WTS RATING 

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