

Sotogrande International School

San Roque, Spain



On Andalusia's polo-and-golf coast, a full IB pathway pairs academic rigor with an elite student-athlete program.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Sotogrande International School occupies a narrow but valuable niche: an English-medium IB school in southern Spain with both day and boarding provision, a long-established presence since ****1978****, and a serious commitment to sport. The obvious differentiator is its elite student-athlete track. In a region known for polo, golf and high-end seasonal living, SIS has built a school around that ecosystem rather than borrowing its glamour. For the right family, that matters. This is not just an international school near excellent sports infrastructure; it is a school that uses that setting as part of its identity. The full IB pathway adds academic coherence, and the ****1:8**** student-teacher ratio signals access to staff that many larger prestige schools cannot match.

What puts SIS on a shortlist is the combination of **competitive ambition** and **pastoral containment**. Parents looking at Spain often face a trade-off: lifestyle schools with weak academic edge, or urban academic schools with little room for sport and boarding life. SIS bridges that divide. It offers the IB from early years through diploma level, teaches in English, and holds the standard international accreditations—IB World School, CIS and NEASC—that families expect in this market. The boarding element widens its catchment beyond the Costa del Sol and gives it a more international social mix than a pure local day school. Recent university destinations such as Berkeley, Boston College and NYU show credible access to selective Anglo-American higher education, even if the school does not publish the kind of large-scale destination data that would allow a deeper outcomes analysis.

The ideal SIS student is not a child who wants anonymity in a vast institution or a purely exam-drilled education. This school suits students who thrive in a **tight-knit international community**, want staff attention, and have a genuine interest in balancing academics with a **high-performance sporting life**. It also suits families drawn to **sunlit Mediterranean ease** but unwilling to sacrifice academic structure. Boarders and day pupils with equestrian, golf, polo or wider athletic commitments will find the setting unusually practical. So will internationally mobile families who want an English-language education without the intensity, congestion and cost profile of London, Geneva or Paris.

The caveat is clear. SIS is not the obvious choice for families who want the scale, subject breadth and university-results transparency of the biggest European boarding schools. Its appeal is more **specialist than universal**. But for parents who want the IB, boarding, personal attention and sport woven into one coherent offer, Sotogrande International School has a **rare coastal-market advantage**. In its corner of Spain, few schools match that mix.

STRENGTHS

- IB curriculum throughout ages 3-18.
- English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families.
- Boarding available, unusual in southern Spain.
- CIS and NEASC accreditations add external scrutiny.

TRADE-OFFS

- Only English-medium instruction may deter some families.
- IB-only pathway won't suit British-curriculum seekers.
- Boarding and day provision create different student experiences.

ADMISSIONS

Sotogrande International School admits pupils from age 3 to 18, so the main entry points are likely to be early years, the start of primary, the move into secondary, and sixth form, with boarding relevant to older pupils rather than the youngest. As an IB World School teaching in English, it will be assessing whether applicants can cope with an academically demanding international programme, but the school does not publish detailed public information on assessment format, interviews or testing thresholds in the material provided here.

The school also does not publish specific application deadlines or bursary figures in the source material supplied, so families should assume a rolling process shaped by year-group availability rather than a single universal cut-off. Financial-aid availability is therefore unclear from the published information available here. What is distinctive, and relatively rare in this part of Spain, is the combination of full age-range IB provision with boarding: that tends to make admissions decisions more dependent on fit across both academic readiness and pastoral suitability, particularly for older entrants.

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_587a7e863d.