

Saigon South International School

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Vietnam's only Apple Distinguished School, pairing full IB Diploma depth with AP breadth on a non-profit Phu My Hung campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	76/100
Academic outcomes	84/100
University placement	82/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	66/100
Facilities	80/100
Transparency	84/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Saigon South International School earns shortlist status for one reason above all: it gives students both full IB Diploma depth and AP breadth in the same school, and in Ho Chi Minh City that is a *genuine market distinction*. The curriculum base is American, the language of instruction is English, and the school runs from ages 3 to 18 on a non-profit model tied to Phu My Hung. That combination matters. Parents who want a US-style school without losing access to the IB at sixth-form level get a cleaner academic proposition here than at schools that force an early binary choice. The accreditations are solid rather than decorative — WASC, CIS and IB World School status — and the school’s Apple Distinguished School label adds a modern teaching signal, not a substitute for substance.

This is not the place for families chasing a bargain. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **760,674,071 VND**, which puts SSIS firmly in the *premium* end of the Ho Chi Minh City market. The school counters that price with structural strengths that parents can measure: **ages 3–18** on one campus, an average class size of **20**, and a long-established foundation date of **1997**. The non-profit status also sets it apart in a market full of investor-owned schools. That does not guarantee brilliance, but it does change the conversation: families are buying into an institution with a settled mission and a stable campus model rather than a fast-expanding brand exercise. The school also states that four high school guidance counsellors support university applications, which signals serious attention to post-18 planning, even if the school does not publish aggregate destinations data in the facts provided here.

The student who will thrive at SSIS is academically ambitious, comfortable in English, and keen to keep options open. A teenager who wants the *discipline* of the IB Diploma while still having access to AP courses will find rare flexibility here. So will students who value a *settled, full-range campus* over a more fragmented K-12 operation. Socially, the school reads as *community-minded* rather than flashy, and that will suit families who want a close parent body and a school culture that is student-centred without turning soft. The trade-off is clear enough: SSIS offers a *serious academic platform* and unusual curricular range, but at a fee level that demands scrutiny from even affluent families.

STRENGTHS

- One of the few schools in Vietnam authorised to offer both the IB Diploma Programme and a full Advanced Placement slate, giving students unusual curricular flexibility in Grades 11-12.
- Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and a member of CIS, giving external validation of institutional quality.
- Operates as a not-for-profit school with no shareholders, with tuition revenue directed toward facilities, staffing and programs rather than investor returns.
- Opened a 7,100 sqm STEAM Design Center in 2024 with a two-story makerspace, robotics lab and dedicated science and research labs.
- Enrolls over 1,500 students from more than 48 nationalities, giving a genuinely international, non-dominant-nationality campus culture.

TRADE-OFFS

- Annual tuition runs from roughly VND 479 million to VND 882 million depending on year group, placing SSIS in the ultra-premium price band for Ho Chi Minh City.
- The campus sits in the Phu My Hung area of District 7, meaning families based in the more established District 2/Thao Dien expatriate corridor face a longer commute.
- Admissions operate on a rolling basis with limited seats; popular grade levels fill and place qualified applicants on a waiting list rather than guaranteeing entry.
- Non-refundable application, registration and enrollment deposit fees are levied on top of tuition and are forfeited if a place is later declined or lost.

ADMISSIONS

SSIS runs rolling admissions for Early Childhood through Grade 12, but space is limited and popular grades can require a waiting list. All applicants sit an interview and an academic/English-proficiency screening (developmental observation for early years; written and math assessments for Grade 1 and up). Families are advised to start the process by January for an August start. A one-time application fee (VND 10,000,000) and a non-refundable registration fee (VND 60,000,000) apply, plus an annual enrollment deposit. A separate scholarship exists for one Vietnamese Grade 10 entrant from local schools.

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_66eb3357d7.