

King's College, Soto de Viñuelas

Madrid, Spain



On a 12-acre campus between Madrid and the Sierra de Guadarrama, the only school in the capital offering both A-Levels and the IB in English.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	72/100
Prestige & heritage	73/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	79/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The draw here is clear: King’s College, Soto de Viñuelas gives Madrid families an English-medium education from ages 3 to 18 on a ****12-acre**** campus, with a sixth-form choice that remains rare in the city. It offers both A-levels and the IB, which matters for families who want to keep UK and international university routes open without changing schools at 16. That alone puts it in a ***small, serious category*** of schools. The setting between Madrid and the Sierra de Guadarrama adds another distinction: this is not an urban high-rise international school but a long-established day school, founded in 1969, with room to build a fuller sports and co-curricular life around the academic core.

The school's market position is premium but not absurdly priced by Madrid international standards: the average annual day fee across all year groups is **€15,000**. For that, parents are buying a British school with English and Spanish as languages of instruction, non-religious, and inspected through ISI. The school makes heavy claims for academic strength and university ambition, and the verified destinations support a degree of substance: recent leavers went to University College London, the University of Nottingham and Duke. That is not a scattergun destinations list; it points to a school with a *clear university-prep agenda* and a student body aiming beyond Spain.

What is special about King's Soto is not novelty but combination: a long-running British model in Madrid, a bilingual operational reality, and dual post-16 pathways under one roof. That will suit students who are academically driven, comfortable working in English, and interested in keeping choices open between the UK, Europe and the US. It will also suit families who want a school with *strong outward ambition* rather than a softer, more progressive ethos. Children who thrive here will value structure, recognised qualifications and a campus life that extends into sport and the arts. Families looking for a *hard-edged academic track* with international university exits should have it on the shortlist; families wanting a cheaper local option or a looser educational culture should look elsewhere.

STRENGTHS

- Long-established school founded in 1969, with a 12-acre purpose-built campus in Tres Cantos featuring a heated indoor pool, 400-seat auditorium and equestrian facilities.
- Offers a genuine choice of exit qualifications in Sixth Form, with pupils able to follow either A-Levels or the IB Diploma Programme.
- Solid recent IGCSE results, with 48% of 2025 grades at A and 77% at A*-B.
- Boarding is available alongside day places, which suits relocating families needing flexibility during a transition period.
- Part of the Inspired Education Group, giving access to inter-school exchanges, summer camps and a wider international network of sister schools.

TRADE-OFFS

- A large cohort of around 1,580-1,600 pupils across Pre-Nursery to Year 13 means class sizes and pastoral groups are sizeable rather than boutique.
- IB Diploma average sits around 34.5-35.5 points, respectable but not exceptional against the top international schools in Spain.
- Campus is in Tres Cantos, north of the city, so day families based in central Madrid face a meaningful commute despite bus and rail links.
- Published fee ranges vary widely by source (roughly EUR 5,000 to over EUR 30,000 a year), making it hard for prospective parents to pin down exact costs without a direct quote.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Pre-Nursery through Year 13. From Year 4 onward, applicants sit an online CAT4 cognitive ability test plus an English written assessment (non-refundable EUR 30 fee); Sixth Form and all boarding candidates additionally attend an interview with the Headmaster or a senior academic staff member. Pupils joining Years 10-11 from another curriculum may take a one-year reduced IGCSE programme. Acceptance is confirmed once a non-refundable enrolment fee (and boarding deposit, if applicable) is paid. Given its size, day places appear less competitive than boarding or Sixth Form entry.

WTS RATING 

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