

Colegio Mayor Secundario Presidente del Perú (COAR Lima)

Chaclacayo, Peru



Founded as Peru's original high-performance campus, it pulls top provincial scorers into a free IB boarding life on the edge of the Andes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	72/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	42/100
Facilities	66/100
Transparency	53/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colegio Mayor Secundario Presidente del Perú, now known as COAR Lima, occupies a rare position in Latin American schooling: a state-backed, selective boarding school built for high-achieving teenagers from across Peru. Founded in **2010**, it was the country’s original high-performance campus and remains unusual for pairing the Peruvian curriculum with the IB in a fully residential setting. That combination matters. This is not a comfortable local day school with an international badge attached. It is a national talent pipeline, designed to take academically strong pupils aged **14–17** out of their home

regions and place them in an intensive, structured environment on a boarding campus in Chaclacayo. For families who want **intellectual stretch**, **serious academic company** and a school culture shaped by merit rather than social status, it earns a place on the shortlist quickly.

What sets COAR Lima apart is access and purpose. It is a boarding school without the usual luxury-market framing: the draw is not prestige architecture or polished parent amenities, but a rigorous public mission. The school serves students at a formative point, with an average class size of ****20**** and instruction in Spanish and English, giving able pupils a route into demanding study without the fee barrier that defines most IB boarding options in the region. That gives it a **hard-edged sense of purpose**. It also gives it a narrower social texture than many private international schools. Families looking for broad extracurricular excess, heavy hand-holding or an insulated expatriate bubble should look elsewhere. COAR Lima is for students ready to live away from home, work among other top performers and accept a culture where academic standards come first.

The right student for COAR Lima is bright, self-disciplined and resilient. They need to cope with boarding, competition and a curriculum that asks for stamina as well as ability. Pupils who thrive here will value **earned opportunity**, **strong routines** and **ambitious peers**. They will not need constant reassurance. They will want a school that treats education as a public good and personal responsibility, not as a lifestyle purchase. For the right teenager, that can be **quietly transformative**. For the wrong one, it will feel austere, demanding and unforgiving. That clarity is part of the school's strength.

STRENGTHS

- Delivers the full IB Diploma Programme alongside the Peruvian national curriculum, at no cost to families.
- Fully state-funded, covering tuition, boarding, meals and materials for all admitted students.
- Part of the COAR network created in 2015 by Peru's Ministry of Education to support top-performing public school students nationwide.
- Admission is based purely on academic merit through national standardized testing, not family wealth or connections.
- Residential structure allows intensive focus on academics, arts and sports beyond a typical day-school schedule.

TRADE-OFFS

- Admission is effectively restricted to graduates of Peru's public school system, which excludes most expatriate and private-school applicants.
- The program covers only the final three years of secondary school (grades 9-11), not a full K-12 pathway.
- Entry is extremely competitive, with a limited number of places allocated against a large national applicant pool each year.
- As a boarding school enrolling early teenagers, extended separation from family can be a difficult adjustment for some students.

ADMISSIONS

Entry occurs at the start of the third year of secondary school, roughly age 14, through a national selection process run by Peru's Ministry of Education. Candidates are ranked using results from the Evaluacion Censal de Estudiantes (ECE) and must pass a further entrance examination. Places are limited per region and competition is intense. The school is oriented toward high-achieving students from Peru's public education system rather than open international enrolment, so overseas or private-school applicants are not typically eligible outside this national process.

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_70865b776f.