

Saint Maur International School

Yokohama, Japan



Founded by missionary nuns in 1872, Yokohama's Yamate hillside campus still runs Asia's oldest international school, Montessori through IB

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	70/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	70/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	72/100
Transparency	65/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Saint Maur International School has one fact no rival in Japan can match: it opened in **1872** and still occupies a clear place in the country’s international-school history. That age matters. In a market crowded with newer schools selling polished aspiration, Saint Maur offers institutional continuity, a Catholic foundation, and a campus life rooted in Yokohama’s old international quarter rather than a manufactured global-school aesthetic. The academic structure is broad rather than niche: Montessori in the early years, an American programme, and the IB in the secondary phase. For parents who want one school from age 3 to 18, with English-medium teaching and internationally recognised accreditation from CIS, WASC and the IB, Saint Maur earns a serious look. Its own public claim of **100%** matriculation to

four-year universities and colleges is striking; the school does not publish fuller destination depth in the extract here, so parents should press for several years of destination lists, course choices and selectivity.

What puts Saint Maur on a shortlist is not glamour but **durability**, **care**, and a coherent all-through model. This is a day school, not a boarding operation with a commuter annex, and that shapes the experience: families buying into Saint Maur are buying a long relationship, not a two-year exam factory. The school talks hard about pastoral support, safeguarding and community, and the breadth of family-facing provision — extended day care, summer school, CNED support, adult enrichment, parent groups — points to a school built around expatriate and internationally minded family life in practice, not just in slogan. Its recent listed university destinations are modest rather than headline-chasing: National University of Singapore, Singapore Institute of Management and Keio University, with ***1*** student each in the sample given. That does not weaken the school; it places it. Saint Maur fits families who value **steadiness over theatre** and a school that treats character, routine and belonging as core work.

The right student for Saint Maur is one who thrives in a **close-knit** environment and does not need a giant, hyper-competitive peer culture to stay motivated. This suits internationally mobile children, bicultural families in Yokohama and Tokyo, and students who benefit from an English-speaking school with a clear moral frame and a diverse intake across nationalities and faiths. It also suits families who want Montessori at the start and a route through to the IB without another school move. Students chasing a hard-edged prestige culture or a school identity built around selective university bragging may find Saint Maur too grounded, too community-minded, too **quietly serious**. For the right family, that is the attraction: **historic roots**, **genuine continuity**, and a school that has had ***150+*** years to learn what an international education in Japan demands.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Saint Maur International School, established in 1872 in Yokohama within the Greater Tokyo Area, is the oldest international school in Japan. • Average Student/Teacher ratio is 7/1 across roughly 470 students from Montessori through Grade 12, allowing close individual attention in a small-school setting. • The 2024 IB Diploma cohort achieved a 96% pass rate compared with a worldwide pass rate of 80.1%, with a mean total points score of 35.3 out of 45 against a world mean of 30.3. • The school follows a coherent academic pathway from Montessori early years through IGCSE and the IB Diploma, and is accredited by NEASC and IBO, with affiliations to CIS, EARCOS, and JCIS. • The campus sits in Yamate, a historic, residential district known for its international character and central location in Yokohama, with easy rail access from central Tokyo.	• The school carries a Roman Catholic religious affiliation, and is widely described as favouring "tradition and discipline" rather than a liberal, open-plan pedagogical style, which will not suit every family. • A steep one-time registration fee of JP¥950,000 per student is charged on top of annual tuition, making entry costlier than at some comparable Yokohama-area schools. • With only approximately 470 students across the whole K-12 range, subject choice, extracurricular breadth, and facilities are inevitably narrower than at larger international campuses. • Admission is managed as a "waiting pool" based on suitability, not first-come, first-served, so places are not simply secured by applying early or meeting a deadline.

ADMISSIONS

Saint Maur admits students from age 2.5 through Grade 12, with places generally easiest to secure at the youngest entry points and tighter in upper grades. The process centres on an application form, school records, and typically an interview or assessment, with requirements varying by grade level; there is no single fixed exam. Rather than a strict first-come queue, the school operates a waiting pool prioritised by fit, so families are advised to enquire well ahead of their intended start date. A substantial non-refundable registration fee is due shortly after an offer is accepted, separate from ongoing tuition instalments.

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_76718fd3fa.