

International School of Lusaka

Lusaka, Zambia



One of Africa's oldest international schools, running the full IB continuum with houses named for Zambia's rivers.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	58/100
University placement	56/100
Prestige & heritage	57/100
Alumni network	56/100
Facilities	60/100
Transparency	47/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The International School of Lusaka occupies a rare position in the Zambian market: an established, non-religious day school founded in **1963**, with the full IB continuum from ages **3-18**. That matters. Plenty of schools claim internationalism; far fewer have sustained it over six decades while offering a coherent IB route from the early years to the Diploma Programme. The school's age gives it ballast, and its houses named for Zambia's rivers add a local frame that stops the place feeling like a generic expatriate transplant. For families who want *institutional maturity*, *clear academic continuity* and a school rooted in Lusaka rather than floating above it, ISL merits serious attention.

Its strongest selling point is structural rather than theatrical. ISL offers a complete pathway in English under one roof, backed by IB World School status and accreditations including CIS, AISA and Cambridge International. That combination places it in the top tier of internationally oriented schools in Zambia. It serves mobile diplomatic and corporate families well, but it also suits long-term residents who want *an internationally legible education* without sending children abroad too early. The school's age range, day format and broad international profile create *a stable social environment* for children who value continuity, routine and a diverse peer group.

Parents should shortlist ISL for seriousness, not glamour. This is not a boutique school built around niche pedagogy or a highly selective academic hothouse trading on published headline results; the school does not publish aggregate exam outcomes in the public domain here, and that opacity matters. Families who need hard performance data before committing will want to ask direct questions about IB Diploma results, university destinations and cohort size. Even so, ISL stands out for *credibility*, *staying power* and a full-spectrum international curriculum in a market where that remains uncommon. The best fit is a student who thrives in a broad, internationally mixed community, wants the option of the IB to **18**, and benefits from *a settled, all-through school experience* rather than repeated transitions.

STRENGTHS

- Offers the full IB continuum (PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme), giving continuity from early years through to university entry.
- Holds dual accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and NEASC, indicating external quality review.
- One of the longest-established international schools in Zambia, giving it institutional stability and a settled expatriate/diplomatic community base.
- Single, purpose-built campus in Lusaka with space for sports fields and specialist facilities, unusual for the region.
- Draws a genuinely international student and staff body linked to Lusaka's embassy, NGO and mining-sector expatriate population.

TRADE - OFFS

- Fees sit well above what most Zambian families can afford, making the school accessible mainly to expatriate or top-income local households.
- As a single-campus day school in Lusaka, families relocating within Zambia have no alternate campus or boarding option if postings change.
- Zambia's small international-school market means limited competitor schools for benchmarking, and fewer extracurricular fixtures against peer institutions.
- Editorial rank (1223) suggests it is not yet a widely referenced or top-tier name outside the Southern Africa expatriate circuit.

ADMISSIONS

Admission is largely rolling, tied to expatriate family arrival dates and vacancy in each year group, rather than a fixed annual intake cycle. Applications require prior school reports, references and, for older students, assessment of English proficiency given the English-medium IB curriculum. Competitiveness is moderate rather than selective, reflecting its role as the default choice for Lusaka's diplomatic and NGO community rather than an academically selective institution. Waiting lists can form for popular year groups given the school's single-campus capacity.

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_782b8959a3.