

# Colégio Santo Inácio

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



*In Botafogo, a heritage-listed Jesuit campus keeps a 1567 bell and baroque relics at the heart of its courtyard*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 57/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 62/100 |
| University placement | 63/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 74/100 |
| Alumni network       | 11/100 |
| Facilities           | 68/100 |
| Transparency         | 45/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

Colégio Santo Inácio occupies a distinctive niche in Rio: a Jesuit day school in Botafogo with roots going back to **1903**, teaching ages **6–18** in Portuguese and English, and doing so on a campus where Catholic history is not decorative backdrop but daily fact. The heritage-listed setting, the old bell from **1567**, and the baroque religious objects in the courtyard give the school a *strong sense of continuity* that few Rio schools can match. For parents who want education tied to *institutional memory*, *ritual and seriousness*, and a recognisable moral framework, that matters. This is not a generic bilingual school with a cross on the wall; it is a Jesuit school with a real historic centre of gravity.

Its market position rests on that combination of tradition, urban location and educational range. As a Brazilian-curriculum day school, it serves families who want a local academic route rather than an imported international programme, but who still value English in the teaching mix. The school's public-facing calendar also points to a structured, high-participation culture: Easter celebrations, Mass for Saint Ignatius of Loyola, parent week, mock exams, university entrance approvals and profession-focused events. That reads as a school that keeps pupils busy, supervised and moving through a defined sequence. Parents drawn to *\*clear expectations\**, *\*adult oversight\** and *\*a lived Catholic ethos\** will find a coherent offer here. Parents hunting for progressive looseness, a secular atmosphere or a broad menu of international pathways will not.

Why shortlist it? Because Colégio Santo Inácio offers something harder to manufacture than new facilities or branding: *\*identity with substance\**. The school stands out for families who want their child educated in a setting that treats formation, community life and academic progression as one project. The right student for this school is disciplined, comfortable with routine, and receptive to a values-led environment where ceremonies, religious observance and collective life carry weight. A child who thrives in *\*ordered routines\**, *\*shared symbols\** and a school culture with *\*deep roots\** will fit well. A student who wants maximum informality or a culturally neutral campus will not.

#### STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1903 by the Jesuits, making it one of Rio de Janeiro's oldest and most established private schools, with a main building listed as a protected heritage structure since 1990.
- Posted an average ENEM score of 702.52 in 2025, placing it among the higher-scoring schools in Rio's South Zone alongside Colegio Santo Agostinho and Escola Parque.
- Became coeducational in the early 1970s after decades as an all-boys institution, and now enrolls a large student body of roughly 4,000-4,500 pupils.
- Offers an unusually wide span of provision under one roof, from early years through to technical/professional courses and an evening programme for adult students.
- Retains a functioning Jesuit identity within the wider international Society of Jesus network, giving the school a distinct pedagogical and pastoral character beyond exam results.

#### TRADE-OFFS

- Fees rank among the highest in the country: a 2022 Forbes Brasil survey placed it as the 4th most expensive school in Rio and 23rd most expensive nationally, at roughly R\$4,000 a month.
- The school has faced legal scrutiny over allegations of failing to act on student harassment complaints, a governance issue families should weigh alongside its academic reputation.
- Its very large enrolment (well over 4,000 students) means class sizes and pastoral attention are unlikely to match those of smaller, boutique private schools in Rio.
- Instruction is entirely in Portuguese under the Brazilian national curriculum with an explicit Catholic-Jesuit religious formation, offering no international curriculum track for families seeking one.

## ADMISSIONS

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Entry runs through the school's PINA (Processo de Ingresso de Novos Alunos) selection process, with separate annual admission windows for different grade levels, including a diagnostic assessment (sondagem diagnostica), document submission and enrolment payment. A distinct scholarship (bolsas de estudo) competition operates yearly with its own edital and eligibility criteria. Demand for places is high given the school's size and reputation, though it is not a small, ultra-selective institution; numbers of vacancies are published each cycle rather than being uniformly scarce.

WTS RATING 

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