

Triam Udom Suxsa School

Bangkok, Thailand



Born in 1938 as Chulalongkorn University's feeder school, where roughly 14,000 teenagers now compete yearly for 1,520 places.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	80/100
Prestige & heritage	82/100
Alumni network	15/100
Facilities	52/100
Transparency	48/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Triam Udom Suxsa occupies a singular place in Thai education. Founded in **1938** as Chulalongkorn University’s preparatory school, it still trades on that origin story — and with reason. This is a state day school in central Bangkok for ages 15–18, teaching the Thai National curriculum in Thai and English, with the largest yearly enrolment in the country. Its market position is plain: this is the national flagship for academically ambitious teenagers who want prestige, scale and competition in one package. The numbers alone sharpen the point: roughly **14,000** applicants competing for **1,520** places each year. That ratio gives the school its *hard-edged allure*.

What sets Triam Udom apart is not pastoral intimacy or progressive experimentation. It is selectivity, academic concentration and national reputation. Parents shortlist it for **brutal academic competition**, for a peer group drawn from the strongest students across Thailand, and for the status that still attaches to the name. The school's long-standing claim to prominence rests on public reputation rather than glossy positioning: it has been regarded as the best secondary school in Thailand, and it draws students nationwide through highly competitive entrance examinations. That creates an environment of **serious intellectual pressure** and **institutional prestige**, not comfort.

This school suits a very specific student. The right candidate is resilient, examination-strong, self-directed and comfortable being measured against other high performers every day. Teenagers who want a broad, gently curated international-school adolescence will find Triam Udom a poor fit. Teenagers who want **the sharp end of the meritocratic race**, who thrive in large cohorts, and who value reputation as much as day-to-day hand-holding will understand its appeal at once. For the right family, Triam Udom belongs on the shortlist because it offers **national elite status** inside the Thai system, not an imitation of something softer or more global.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1938 as the preparatory school for Chulalongkorn University, it is Thailand's oldest and most established academic-track secondary school.
- Consistently posts the highest or near-highest O-NET national examination averages among Thai public schools, reflecting strong academic outcomes.
- Functions as a recognised feeder into Thailand's top universities, giving graduates an established pathway and alumni network into Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Mahidol and Kasetsart.
- Large, well-resourced state campus in central Bangkok on an 80-rai (about 13-hectare) site with 111 classrooms and the country's largest single-school upper-secondary enrolment.
- Notable alumni network includes prominent public figures such as politician Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit and former Bangkok governor Chadchart Sittipunt.

TRADE-OFFS

- Admission is via an extremely competitive open entrance exam only, with recent years seeing well over 10,000 applicants for around 1,500 places, effectively excluding students without intensive local exam preparation.
- Teaching is delivered in the Thai national curriculum and Thai language, making it unsuitable for expat children who are not already fluent and academically prepared in Thai.
- The school only covers Mathayom 4-6 (grades 10-12), so it cannot serve as a continuous option for younger children and requires a mid-teens transfer.
- Admissions have been dogged by long-running allegations of informal 'tea money' payments influencing places, a governance issue reported in the Thai press.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is at Grade 10 (Mathayom 4) only, via a highly competitive written entrance exam open to students who have completed or are finishing Grade 9. Roughly 1,110 of about 1,520 annual places are allocated purely on exam score, with the remainder via special quotas. Online applications open briefly each February-March, with the exam itself held off-site at a large exam hall due to volume of candidates. Recent cycles have drawn well over 10,000 applicants nationwide, making this one of the most selective admissions processes in Thai secondary education. No English-medium or international-curriculum entry route exists.

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_84b50562e7.