

Deutsche Schule Madrid

Madrid, Spain



A century-old Auslandsschule in Fuencarral where pupils graduate with both the Abitur and the Bachillerato in four languages.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	56/100
Academic outcomes	62/100
University placement	55/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	42/100
Facilities	62/100
Transparency	48/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Deutsche Schule Madrid occupies a distinct niche in the Madrid market: a long-established German day school with a serious academic identity and a clear binational purpose. Founded in **1896**, it is not chasing the broad “international school” label used by half the city. It is a German school in Spain, full stop, and that matters. The draw is the dual exit point: pupils work towards the Abitur while also completing the Spanish Bachillerato, an arrangement that gives families a *rare degree of academic portability* between university systems. For parents who want a school anchored in Europe rather than in the Anglo-American circuit, this is one of the cleanest options in Madrid.

What sets it apart is not novelty but structure. Instruction is in German and Spanish, and the school’s own positioning rests on sustained linguistic and academic immersion rather than a light-touch bilingual offer. The result is demanding. This is not a casual fit for families who want an international badge with minimal adjustment. It suits children who can thrive in a rule-bound academic culture, handle sustained language work, and keep pace in a school with average class sizes of **25**. The four-language proposition in your brief adds to the appeal, but the core fact remains the same: this is a school built for *intellectual stamina*, *cross-border ambition* and *linguistic depth*, not for ease.

Its market position is strong because the proposition is unusually specific. In a sector crowded with schools selling “global citizenship”, Deutsche Schule Madrid offers something harder-edged: a century-old Auslandsschule model, a non-religious setting, and a qualification route with real weight in German-speaking higher education. That puts it on a shortlist for German, Spanish-German and internationally mobile European families first, and for other families only if they actively want that system rather than merely tolerate it. The student who will do best here is academically resilient, comfortable with high expectations from ages **3–18**, and motivated by *serious bilingual scholarship* rather than campus theatre. For the right child, it offers *clarity, rigour and reach*. For the wrong one, it will feel exacting from the start.

STRENGTHS

- The Deutsche Schule Madrid was founded 120 years ago and is one of the oldest German schools in a foreign country, giving it a long-established presence in the city rather than being a recent market entrant.
- The school moved to purpose-built premises at Monasterio de Guadalupe in Montecarmelo in 2015, a project described as the largest civil project of Germany located outside of German territory, with a campus featuring libraries, dedicated rooms for music, art and the sciences, an auditorium, a canteen, and a modern sports hall and football field.
- Teaching is bilingual German-Spanish with English from primary and optional French from later years, so most graduates leave with three or four languages.
- Fees run roughly EUR 5,050 to EUR 7,990, materially cheaper than the British and American options in the city, making it a relatively accessible route to a German-recognised qualification.
- As an official German school abroad partially funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, it graduates students with the Abitur, which is recognised in Germany and Spain and feeds students directly into German-speaking universities.

TRADE-OFFS

- The campus sits in Montecarmelo on Madrid's northern edge (Fuencarral-El Pardo district), a meaningful commute for families based centrally or in the south of the city.
- Secondary students are sorted in an orientation year into Gymnasium or Haupt-/Realschule tracks according to ability, a rigid German-style academic sorting that some parents may find restrictive compared with a single unstreamed pathway.
- Parent ratings are mixed across aggregator sites: one directory shows a rating of 3.4 out of 5 based on 5 existing reviews, while another lists an overall score above 4, suggesting inconsistent family experiences.
- Published fee figures vary between sources and are not fully transparent; to find out the exact price, it is necessary to consult the center directly, complicating budgeting comparisons for relocating families.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Kindergarten through Class 11, with separate contacts for early years and for Primary/Secondary admissions. Families whose children do not speak German can apply via the E-Zweig side-entry track, which provides extra language support before integration into mainstream classes by around grade 9. Waiting lists apply when year groups are full, and the school states that financial assistance is available in certain cases. As a long-established Auslandsschule with a large existing student body, competitiveness varies by year group rather than being uniformly selective; prospective families should contact admissions directly for current places and fee schedules, since these are not fully published online.

WTS RATING 

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