

# The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School

Melbourne, VIC, Australia



*Selective by exam, housed in a 1934 heritage-listed landmark by Albert Park Lake, with a VCE record built over decades.*

## RANKING DIMENSIONS

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Overall              | 69/100 |
| Academic outcomes    | 90/100 |
| University placement | 78/100 |
| Prestige & heritage  | 76/100 |
| Alumni network       | 9/100  |
| Facilities           | 55/100 |
| Transparency         | 65/100 |

## EDITOR'S VERDICT

Mac.Rob occupies a narrow, powerful niche in Melbourne: a government selective girls’ school for Years 9–12, with entry by competitive examination and a statewide catchment. That combination matters. Parents are not choosing a polished all-round private school with broad admissions; they are choosing an academically filtered public institution built for high-ability students who want pace, pressure and intellectual company. The school’s own framing leans on belonging and challenge, and that aligns with the model: this is a place for students who want to work hard among peers who do the same. The setting adds another layer. The school sits by Albert Park, close to the CBD and public transport, in a **\*\*1934\*\*** heritage-listed landmark that gives the school a distinct civic weight and a sense of *\*serious purpose\**.

What puts Mac.Rob on a shortlist is not mystique but structure. It is one of Victoria's **4** selective entry high schools, and the only statewide provider for girls in Years 9-12. That gives it a clear market position: the public-sector answer for academically ambitious girls who want an exam-selected cohort rather than a comprehensive intake. The scale of competition sharpens that point. Wikipedia notes up to **8,000** candidates competing for about **960** places across the four selective schools. Mac.Rob does not need inflated claims about excellence; selectivity, longevity and sustained academic reputation already do the work. The weakness, if one wants one, is built into the same model: families seeking a softer, more varied school culture, or a campus where academic intensity does not dominate, should look elsewhere. This is a school for *driven minds*, not for students who need coaxing into serious study.

The student who will thrive here is bright, organised and internally motivated. She enjoys being stretched, does not wilt in a competitive peer group, and values being surrounded by other high achievers across maths, sciences, humanities, arts and sport. She will also want a girls' environment with a strong public-school ethos rather than the social theatre of fee-paying independents. Mac.Rob's appeal rests in that mix of *earned entry*, *intellectual momentum*, *public-sector credibility* and a *focused academic culture*. For the right student, it offers something rare in Australia: a selective girls' school without private-school fees, but with the expectations, calibre of cohort and long institutional memory that ambitious families actively seek.

#### STRENGTHS

- Academically selective government school with VCE median study scores consistently among the highest in Victoria, ranked first in the state for seven consecutive years from 2002 to 2008.
- No tuition fees are charged, as it is a government-funded selective entry school, with only voluntary parent contributions requested annually.
- Recently added the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme alongside VCE, broadening senior pathway options since 2022.
- Heritage-listed 1934 Art Deco building in Albert Park holds National Trust classification, giving the school a distinctive historic campus.
- Sister-school relationship with Melbourne High School and a long-established alumnae network through the Mac.Rob Foundation and Palladians Association.

#### TRADE-OFFS

- Entry is solely by competitive examination, with roughly 8,000 candidates competing annually for about 960 places across Victoria's four selective entry schools, making admission highly uncertain.
- Single-sex day school for Years 9-12 only, so it offers no primary years, co-education, or boarding option for relocating families.
- As a state school drawing government funding, facilities and extracurricular scale may be more modest than fee-charging independent schools with large endowments.
- Statewide selective intake means no local zoning priority, so proximity to the Albert Park campus provides no admissions advantage.

## ADMISSIONS

Entry is by the Victorian selective entry examination administered for Year 9 (with limited Year 10 places), open statewide with no zoning restriction. Around 8,000 students compete each year for approximately 960 places across Victoria's four selective schools combined, so competition is intense and there is no fixed pass mark; rankings shift yearly. About 85% of places go by exam rank, up to 10% via equity criteria, and 5% at principal's discretion. The school does not enrol international fee-paying students, and there are no tuition fees, only voluntary contributions.

WTS RATING 

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