

Lower Canada College

Montreal, Canada



Rooted in an 1861 boarding-school lineage, the only English-language Quebec school running both IB Middle Years and Diploma Programmes side by side

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	26/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	66/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Lower Canada College occupies a narrow and valuable niche in Montreal: an English-language, non-religious day school with a long independent-school lineage, founded in 1909, and the only English-language school in Quebec running both the IB Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme side by side. That matters. In a province where language and school structures shape parental choice at every turn, LCC offers a route that combines Quebec secondary graduation with a serious international overlay, rather than forcing families to choose between local recognition and global portability. The school also

declares a Canadian, IB and American mix, which tells you this is not a narrow single-track institution. It is a school for families who want options kept open.

The draw is not mystery; it is clarity of proposition. LCC serves ages 3 to 18, teaches in English, and carries both IBO and CIS accreditation, which places it firmly in the internationally benchmarked tier rather than the local-private-school-only category. The average annual day fee is ****33,707 CAD****, expensive by Montreal standards and squarely aimed at families prepared to pay for facilities, programme breadth and a full independent-school experience. The school talks heavily about community, resources and opportunity; stripped of brochure language, the substance is that LCC is a large, established day school with enough institutional weight to offer breadth across four divisions and to sustain a strong co-curricular life. The recent university destinations published here — Bishop’s, Brock and Carleton — are modest rather than headline-grabbing, and parents should note that the school does not disclose broader destination patterns in this extract. Academic ambition is part of the culture; outcome transparency is thinner.

The student who thrives here is **high-functioning**, engaged and comfortable in a school with a strong sense of identity. LCC will suit children who want a structured, **well-resourced** environment, who can use the flexibility of multiple curricular strands well, and who are happy in a community where belonging, service and participation carry real weight. It will also appeal to internationally minded Montreal families who want English-medium schooling without giving up recognised Quebec credentials. This is not the obvious choice for parents hunting for a **bare-bones academic hothouse** or for those who want a cheap route to an English education. It is for families buying into an established institution with ****1909**** roots, a clear social fabric and a more global academic architecture than most local competitors.

STRENGTHS

- LCC is the only English-language school in Quebec offering both the IB Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme alongside the Canadian curriculum, giving university-bound students a wide choice of academic pathways.
- The school is accredited by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) and belongs to QAIS, FEED, NAIS and NEASC, and has been a member of the worldwide Round Square association since 2007.
- For 2025-2026, LCC awarded financial aid to almost 20% of high school and Pre-University students, indicating meaningful bursary provision relative to its size.
- LCC athletes fill roughly 70 teams across 20 sports and play over 500 games a year, and over 85% of students in grades 7-11 participate in the athletics program.
- The school was founded on Royal Avenue in 1909 and traces its roots to an 1861 boarding school, giving it a long-established institutional history and alumni base.

TRADE - OFFS

- LCC does not offer English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, a significant gap for relocating families whose children are not yet fluent in English.
- Annual fees run C\$31,065 to C\$33,520, and new international students residing in Quebec for less than three years are charged an additional \$7,500 per student per year, adding materially to the cost for newly arrived expat families.
- As an independent day school, LCC has no on-campus boarding; international families are directed toward homestay arrangements rather than a residential campus.
- The Junior School curriculum is delivered roughly 70% in French and 30% in English, a structural feature that suits bilingual-track families but may surprise those expecting an English-medium primary program.

ADMISSIONS

Lower Canada College enrolls students from Kindergarten through Pre-University (Grade 12). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, but Round One deadlines fall well ahead of entry -- for 2026-2027, November 2025 for Kindergarten, October 2025 for Grade 7, and January 2026 for other grades and Pre-University -- with second-round applicants placed in a wait pool. International applicants must demonstrate English proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS or CAEL), since the school provides no ESL support. Older applicants, notably for Pre-University, face an admissions essay and interview. Selectivity appears moderate rather than ultra-competitive, and need-based aid is available.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (11)

- DRAMA: Michael Hastings
- VISUAL_ARTS: Willard Boyle
- LETTERS: Jacques DesBaillets, Stuart McLean, Michael Hastings
- POLITICS: W. David Angus, Henri Lafleur
- SCIENCE: Willard Boyle, Tiff Macklem
- BUSINESS: Willard Boyle, Tiff Macklem, Lorne Webster

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_965e853c17.