

Wellington College International Shanghai

Shanghai, China



Rooted in an 1859 British foundation, this Pudong riverside campus channels house spirit into IB scores averaging 37 points.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	69/100
Academic outcomes	78/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	62/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	78/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Wellington College International Shanghai trades on something more substantial than imported British branding. This Pudong campus opened in 2014 under the Wellington College Education (China) group, with explicit roots in Wellington College in England, founded in 1859, and it uses that inheritance in the part of school life that matters to children: houses, identity and expectation. The school teaches in English and Mandarin, is non-religious, and holds both IBO and CIS accreditation. That combination places it firmly in Shanghai’s premium international bracket, with average annual day fees of ****\$51,748**** across the full age range. Parents paying that level are entitled to demand coherence as well as polish; Wellington’s case rests on a clear one: British-inflected school culture, delivered through the IB, on a

multilingual and explicitly multicultural model.

What puts it on a shortlist is the blend. Plenty of Shanghai schools offer the IB. Fewer pair it with a *properly embedded* house structure and the social grammar of a UK independent school without lapsing into pastiche. The school states a pupil-centric, multilingual and inclusive approach for ages 2 to 18, and that matters in a city where many international schools still divide too neatly between expatriate tradition and globally mobile pragmatism. Wellington's editorial tagline points to IB results averaging **37 points**; that is a strong figure and a serious signal for parents who want an academically credible route without a narrowly exam-drilled atmosphere. The risk, as with many brand-name schools, is that heritage can harden into performance. Families need to decide whether they want that *highly curated* environment or something looser and less codified.

The pupils who thrive here are the ones who want a school with structure, visibility and collective identity. Children who enjoy belonging to teams, houses, productions, councils and a wider campus culture will get more from Wellington than students who want anonymity. It suits internationally minded families who value English-medium schooling but do not want Mandarin pushed to the margins. It also suits ambitious, socially confident pupils who can handle a *high-expectation*, *status-conscious* peer environment. For quieter children, or for families who prefer a more stripped-back academic proposition, the Wellington package can feel *heavily managed*. For the right student, though, that same package is the attraction: a premium Shanghai international school with **ages 3-18** continuity, a recognisable British spine, and IB outcomes that give the brand real substance.

STRENGTHS

- Follows a bilingual British-based curriculum (National Curriculum/IPC) through Year 9, IGCSEs in Years 10-11, then the IB Diploma Programme in Years 12-13, giving a clear academic pathway to age 18.
- Large, well-resourced main campus includes a 500-seat theatre, a black box theatre, two swimming pools, a 400m running track and dedicated robotics and design labs.
- Part of the Wellington College China group and formally affiliated with Wellington College, Berkshire, in the UK, giving access to a shared house system and educational philosophy.
- Serves a large, internationally mixed community of over 1,600 pupils drawn from around 40 nationalities, offering broad social and linguistic diversity.
- Runs a Fellows and Scholars programme for pupils who show exceptional interest or ability in a particular subject area.

TRADE-OFFS

- Enrolment is restricted by Shanghai Municipal Education Commission policy to six defined eligibility categories (e.g. foreign work-permit holders, HK/Macau/Taiwan passport holders, or PRC nationals with qualifying overseas residence); many local Chinese-passport families cannot apply directly.
- Annual tuition runs roughly CNY 273,000-365,000 depending on year group, placing it among the higher-fee schools in Shanghai, with lunch, uniform, transport and individual music tuition charged separately.
- The school only opened in 2014, so it has a shorter operating history and alumni track record than some long-established British schools in China.
- With 1,600+ pupils on one large campus, the scale may suit families wanting a big, facility-rich environment less than those seeking a small, intimate school community.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points run from Early Years (age 2) to Year 13, with IGCSEs in Years 10-11 leading to the IB Diploma in Years 12-13. Applications are submitted via the OpenApply portal with a non-refundable RMB 3,500 fee, school reports, and an age-appropriate assessment. Under Shanghai Municipal Education Commission (SHMEC) rules, places are restricted to six defined eligibility categories covering foreign passport holders, Hong Kong/Macau/Taiwan passport holders, and specific PRC-national circumstances; families should confirm their category before applying. A waiting pool operates once a year group fills.

WTS RATING 

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