

Swiss International Scientific School Dubai

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



The largest Swiss school outside Switzerland, running a bilingual IB continuum along Dubai Creek in French or German.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	67/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	63/100
Alumni network	53/100
Facilities	82/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Swiss International Scientific School Dubai sits in a narrow part of the market and does it with unusual clarity. Opened in 2015 on Dubai Creek, it runs an IB school with boarding and a bilingual spine that few rivals in the city match at scale. The distinctive feature is not the usual international-school claim to “global mindedness”, but the hard structure of the offer: bilingual pathways in French or German, Swiss patronage through the Canton of Valais, and a full 3-18 school that the KHDA rates Outstanding for 2023/24. For families who want an IB education without surrendering serious language learning, this is a **rare proposition**. For families who want a standard English-medium Dubai day school with a few language lessons on the side, it is not.

Its market position is straightforward: premium, ambitious and internationally mobile. The average annual day fee across the full ladder is ****AED 97,346****; boarding averages ****AED 249,780****. That places SISD in Dubai’s expensive bracket, and the school needs to justify that through programme breadth and institutional coherence. On paper, it does. The regulator-attested curriculum is IB, the school holds CIS and IBO accreditation, and the boarding offer gives it a reach beyond the local day market. The school also benefits from being part of Nord Anglia, though the more telling identity marker here is its Swiss claim: the largest Swiss school outside Switzerland, with an explicit relationship to a bilingual Swiss canton. That gives SISD a more **defined educational identity** than many glossy Dubai competitors that sell facilities first and philosophy later.

The child who will thrive here is academically sturdy, linguistically open and comfortable in an environment with **high expectations**. This is a good fit for internationally minded families who value multilingualism as a core discipline rather than a decorative extra, and for parents who want the IB all the way through rather than a patchwork of curricula. Boarders and expatriate families with cross-border futures will also find the model attractive. It is a weaker fit for children who need a softer, more relaxed school culture, or for families who want maximum curricular choice outside the IB. SISD belongs on a shortlist because it offers something concrete and hard to replicate in Dubai: an Outstanding-rated, accredited IB school with boarding, Swiss ties and bilingual pathways that are **more than branding**.

STRENGTHS

- KHDA Very good rating (2023/24 inspection)
- IB-led curriculum (IB PYP, MYP, DP and CP, plus BTEC Level 3) attested by KHDA
- Bilingual dual-language IB programme, distinctive in Dubai
- Low 10:1 student-teacher ratio and average class size of 18
- Full on-campus boarding option, one of only two in the UAE
- Published IB DP results, including a record 35.6 average in 2026

TRADE - OFFS

- IB-led, dual-language model is less suited to families wanting a conventional single-track British or American education
- Founded only in 2015, so a comparatively short alumni and results history
- Fees sit in Dubai's ultra-premium bracket
- WSA records teacher turnover of 21%, worth probing at visit

ADMISSIONS

Swiss International Scientific School Dubai serves ages 3–18 as an all-through school and, unusually for Dubai, offers both day and full boarding places, so the main entry points span early years, primary, middle, secondary and sixth form. The regulator-attested and website-confirmed curriculum is IB-led — IB PYP, MYP, DP and CP, with BTEC Level 3 available in the senior years — so admissions are best framed around the IB continuum. The school's site confirms applications for the 2026–2027 academic year are open, with dedicated admissions, entry-requirements and tuition-fees pages. For a school spanning this age range, admissions are handled by year group and subject to availability, and parents should expect the usual age-appropriate assessment used by Dubai schools.

Prospective families should consult the school directly on assessment format, boarding entry requirements and deadlines, as these are set out on its admissions pages rather than fixed to a single annual cut-off.

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_a985bfb94a.