

NIST International School

Bangkok, Thailand



Founded in 1992 with United Nations backing, Thailand's first not-for-profit IB World School sits amid downtown Sukhumvit.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	74/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	70/100
Facilities	73/100
Transparency	76/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

NIST’s claim to attention starts with two facts that matter in Bangkok: it opened in 1992 with United Nations backing, and it was Thailand’s first full IB World School. That still shapes the place. This is a non-profit, English-medium day school for ages 3 to 18, planted in downtown Sukhumvit rather than on a distant suburban campus, and it leans hard into an international brief. The school runs the full IB continuum while also declaring a British element in its curriculum, and it layers that with its own diploma options, service learning and expeditions. Parents looking for a *plainly international* school rather than a national system exported abroad will understand the distinction at once.

What marks NIST out is breadth with structure. The school advertises more than **300** activities, formal expeditions that build in challenge from the early years onwards, and a service programme tied directly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. That package will suit children who thrive when school extends well beyond classrooms and exams. It will also suit families who want diversity without apology: NIST talks about global citizenship, belonging and language as core parts of the community, not decorative add-ons. The trade-off is obvious. This is not a *narrowly exam-driven* school for families who want a stripped-back academic machine and little else. It is a large, busy, *high-expectation* environment with many moving parts.

The academic offer still carries weight. NIST is accredited by the IBO, and its Class of 2025 sent **121** leavers on to universities including Oxford, Imperial College London and UCL. Those destination details do not prove mass elite placement, but they do show that top-end outcomes are in the mix. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **\$25,000**, which places NIST in Bangkok’s expensive tier, though not at a level that looks irrational for a long-established flagship international school in the city centre. It belongs on a shortlist for internationally mobile families, diplomat and NGO households, and ambitious local families who want a *cosmopolitan*, full-through IB education with substance outside the timetable. The best fit is a student who is academically capable, curious, socially adaptable and willing to throw themselves into a *demanding, outward-facing* school culture.

STRENGTHS

- First school in Thailand to be authorised to offer the full IB continuum (PYP, MYP, DP), a status it has held since 1999.
- Recent IB Diploma cohorts have posted strong results, including average scores well above the global mean and near-100% pass rates in several reported years.
- Operates as a not-for-profit institution governed by a parent-elected Foundation, with fees reinvested into campus and staffing rather than shareholder returns.
- Central Sukhumvit location within walking distance of Asok BTS/MRT station, making it one of the most transit-accessible international schools in Bangkok.
- Accredited by both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

TRADE-OFFS

- Annual fees sit at the top end of the Bangkok market, with 2025/26 tuition reported around THB 628,200-1,094,500 plus a one-off registration fee of THB 265,000 and a refundable campus development fee of THB 575,000.
- The school applies a nationality cap policy (commonly cited around 30% per nationality), which can push families from over-represented nationalities, such as Japanese applicants, into extended waiting pools.
- Older applicants to Secondary (Year 7+) need intermediate-to-advanced English proficiency to access the English Language Acquisition programme, limiting suitability for late arrivals with weaker English.
- The central Sukhumvit site is a compact, vertical campus, and some reviewers note this creates space constraints compared with suburban Bangkok campuses on larger plots.

ADMISSIONS

Entry runs from age 3 (Early Years) through Year 13, with a formal application, non-refundable assessment fee, and an in-house assessment or test at NIST (or a partner location for overseas applicants). Admissions committees weigh test results alongside a stated aim of maintaining nationality diversity, reportedly via a cap of roughly 30% per nationality, which can lengthen waits for over-subscribed nationalities. Applying at least a year ahead of the desired entry year is commonly recommended, and Secondary-level entrants need solid English proficiency given the demands of the MYP/DP curriculum.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (7)

SPORT: Ing Ratanavadi

DRAMA: Praya Lundberg, Pailin Wedel

VISUAL_ARTS: Korakrit Arunanondchai

BUSINESS: Saeranee Charnvirakul, Ing Ratanavadi

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_aa9ed22d19.