

Amsterdam International Community School

Amsterdam, Netherlands



A public alternative to Amsterdam's private international schools, running the full IB continuum from a climate-neutral campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	64/100
Alumni network	63/100
Facilities	65/100
Transparency	53/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Amsterdam International Community School occupies a distinct place in the Dutch market: a state-funded international school with the full IB continuum, rather than a private school with international branding. That matters. In Amsterdam, where private international education is expensive and places are tight, AICS offers a more accessible route into an English-medium IB education for families who want academic continuity from early years to graduation. Founded in **2003**, it is no legacy institution, but it has scale and clarity: ages **4-18**, more than **2,000** students, and a two-campus structure under the Esprit Scholengroep umbrella. The proposition is straightforward — *serious international education without private-school gloss*.

What sets it apart is the combination of public status, size and social mix. Many international schools talk about diversity; AICS operates at a scale where diversity is structural, not decorative. A large student body from multiple nationalities brings energy and breadth, but also complexity. Parents should not expect the *cosy small-school intimacy* of a boutique campus. This is a substantial organisation, and that has consequences: more systems, more movement, more institutional character than hand-held warmth. For many families that is a strength. AICS gives students a *real-world international environment* rather than a curated expat bubble, and the climate-neutral campus adds a modern civic note that fits Amsterdam well.

It belongs on a shortlist for parents who want the IB from start to finish, need English as the language of instruction, and prefer the logic of a public school to the polish of a private one. It also suits families who value *breadth over exclusivity* and who want children to grow up in a school that reflects the city rather than standing apart from it. The best fit is a student who is adaptable, socially confident and comfortable in a large community: a child who thrives in *a busy, diverse setting* and does not need constant individual curation. Families seeking a tiny campus, a highly rarefied atmosphere or overt prestige signalling will find stronger matches elsewhere. Families seeking *substance, scale and access* should take AICS seriously.

STRENGTHS

- IB curriculum from ages 4 to 18
- English-medium teaching suits mobile international families
- Two campuses may widen catchment across Amsterdam
- Over 2,000 students from varied nationalities

TRADE-OFFS

- Two campuses may complicate logistics for siblings
- Large enrolment may feel less personal
- No boarding; unsuitable for families needing residential option

ADMISSIONS

Amsterdam International Community School is a non-religious day school in Amsterdam for pupils aged 4-18, with two campuses in the south and south-east of the city. Given the age range, the clearest entry point is at age 4, with admissions also likely to arise at later stages where places become available across primary and secondary years. The school states an IB curriculum and teaches in English. It is part of the Esprit Scholengroep and, according to the source provided, serves more than 2,000 students from a wide mix of nationalities.

Beyond that, the school does not publish enough in the material provided here to describe its admissions mechanics with confidence. No public detail is given in these sources on assessment format, interview process, application deadlines, waiting lists, priority criteria, or any distinctive selection method. Likewise, there is no information here on bursaries or financial aid. Parents should therefore expect a standard place-availability process, but will need to check directly with the school for year-by-year deadlines, required documentation and whether any fee support exists.

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_b4484f173a.