

International School Utrecht

Utrecht, Netherlands



State-subsidised IB continuum from age four to nineteen, relocating to a purpose-built Utrecht Science Park campus by 2027.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	51/100
Academic outcomes	52/100
University placement	50/100
Prestige & heritage	50/100
Alumni network	49/100
Facilities	51/100
Transparency	39/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School Utrecht sits in a niche that matters: a state-subsidised international school in one of the Netherlands’ strongest university cities, running the full IB continuum from age ****4**** to ****18****. That combination is rare. Many international schools can offer the IB; fewer can do it with public backing, a non-religious footing and a clear through-line from PYP to DP. Founded in ****2016****, ISU is still a young school, and that youth cuts both ways. It lacks the institutional heft and alumni depth of older competitors, but it also has the chance to define itself without legacy clutter. The planned move to a purpose-built Utrecht Science Park campus by ****2027**** adds real substance to its next phase. For families who value **continuity without drama**, **a serious academic spine** and direct access to a major

Dutch education and research hub, that is enough to put ISU on the shortlist.

What is special here is not mystique; it is structure. ISU offers a clean, intelligible proposition: English-medium teaching, IB from primary through diploma, and admissions that screen for fit between the school's provision and a child's needs. The school talks heavily about curiosity, compassion and connection. Plenty of schools use that language; the stronger point is that ISU ties it to an all-through model and a diverse staff community rather than to glossy branding. The Utrecht setting also counts. This is not a remote campus selling seclusion. It is an urban international school in the *heart of the Netherlands*, serving families who want a globally portable education without stepping away from Dutch civic and academic life. The weakness is also plain: public information does not give parents much hard outcome data. The school does not publish aggregate IB diploma results in the excerpts we have seen, so families who rank sixth-form outcomes above all else will need to ask sharper questions.

The students who fit best are internationally minded children who benefit from *a stable runway* across phases, and families who expect school to feel like a community rather than a transactional service. This will suit mobile professional households, academic families linked to Utrecht's knowledge economy, and students who thrive in discussion-led, concept-driven learning rather than narrow exam cramming. It also fits children who need *belonging without fuss* and *clear pastoral scaffolding* in an English-speaking environment. Less suitable are families chasing old-school prestige cues, vast legacy sporting culture, or a highly selective, hard-edged atmosphere. ISU's appeal is steadier than that: *thoughtful internationalism*, continuity, and a credible IB route in a city that gives the school more context than cachet.

STRENGTHS

- Offers the full IB continuum (Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Programmes) under one roof, allowing continuity from early years through school-leaving.
- Operates within the Dutch publicly funded education system, which typically keeps fees markedly lower than fully private international schools in the Netherlands.
- Located in Utrecht, a compact, well-connected city with strong rail links to Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Schiphol, easing commuting for relocating families.
- Smaller, newer campus community can mean lower staff-to-student ratios and a closer-knit school culture than larger, long-established international schools.

TRADE-OFFS

- As a comparatively young school, it lacks the multi-decade track record and long-run IB Diploma results history of more established international schools in the region.
- Utrecht attracts fewer multinational corporate relocations than Amsterdam or The Hague, so the expat peer group and alumni network are smaller.
- Admission and place allocation, as part of the Dutch public system, can be subject to local municipal placement rules rather than pure open-market selection.
- Editorial ranking places it outside the established top tier of internationally benchmarked IB schools, reflecting its still-developing reputation.

ADMISSIONS

Entry points typically align with Dutch school-year transitions, with places available across the primary, middle and diploma years subject to capacity. As a government-subsidised international school, admission can involve local authority or municipal placement criteria alongside standard application forms, transcripts and an English-language proficiency check. Demand fluctuates with expat relocation cycles in the Utrecht region; popular year groups may have waiting lists, so early application is advised for families arriving mid-year.

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_b81b9c5d85.