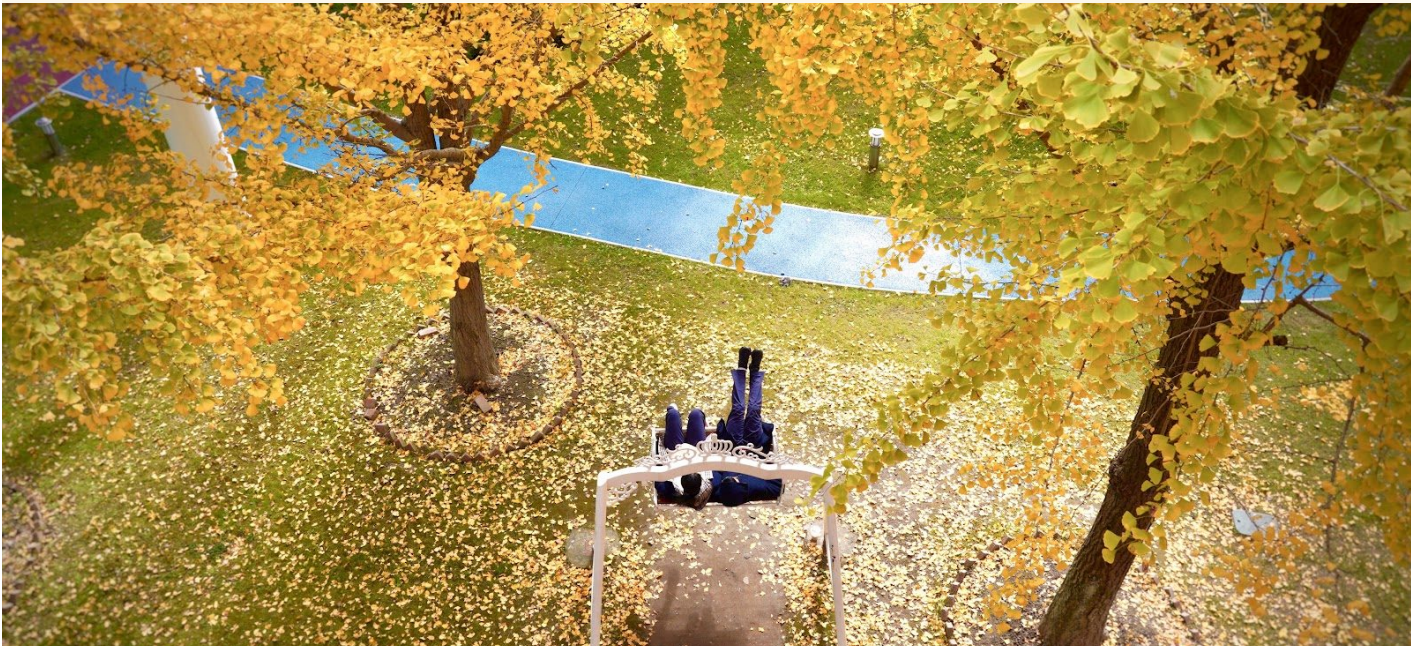


ECNU No. 2 Affiliated High School

Shanghai, China



Anchored to East China Normal University in Shanghai, this campus has quietly become a steady pipeline of physics and math Olympiad gold medals.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	82/100
University placement	76/100
Prestige & heritage	78/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	64/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

ECNU No. 2 Affiliated High School sits in the top tier of Shanghai’s state-sector academic schools, and its distinguishing feature is clear: this is a university-linked, competition-hardened campus with real depth in maths, physics and advanced scientific training. Founded in **1958** and anchored to East China Normal University, it carries the habits of a selective Chinese National curriculum school that expects students to work at speed and with precision. The public face is not polished for international consumption; it is practical, busy and school-centred. That matters. Parents looking for glossy bilingual branding will find

less of that here. Parents looking for a serious academic environment, broad co-curricular infrastructure and a school that still treats intellectual achievement as the core business will find **hard academic steel**.

What stands out is the combination of high-level academic ambition and visible student activity beyond the classroom. The school foregrounds “卓越课程” — excellence courses — aimed at innovative talent development, an “N个百分百” student development model, upgraded teaching and residential facilities, student clubs, robotics, Model United Nations and national language competitions. That mix gives the school more range than the stereotype of a narrow exam factory. Still, the centre of gravity remains academic. This is not a soft, progressive sixth form built around self-expression. It is a disciplined Chinese day-and-boarding school for ages ***15-18***, with teaching in Mandarin and English, where strong students get stretch, structure and institutional momentum. The market position is **selective, demanding, unsentimental**.

Why shortlist it? Because few schools combine this level of academic seriousness with the credibility of a major university affiliation and a visible record of student distinction across Olympiad-style and enrichment domains. The boarding offer also broadens its appeal for families outside immediate reach of Pudong. The school does not publish the kind of international-facing outcome data many overseas parents now expect, so families need to be comfortable judging it by institutional character, reputation and student opportunities rather than by polished admissions dashboards. That opacity is a weakness. The strength is **deep scholarly culture**, **measured confidence** and a campus model built for students who want to compete, not coast.

The right student for ECNU No. 2 Affiliated High School is academically ambitious, resilient and happy in a structured environment. A mathematically strong pupil, a physics enthusiast, a disciplined all-rounder who likes robotics, debate or research-led extension work — these students will find real traction here. A child who needs constant pastoral cushioning, heavy hand-holding or a broad liberal curriculum with maximum choice will not. This school suits teenagers who are energised by standards, who can thrive in a fast classroom, and who want a peer group that treats achievement as normal. For that family, ECNU No. 2 belongs on the shortlist as **a serious engine room for talent** and **a school with real academic backbone**.

STRENGTHS

- A student from No. 2 High School of ECNU won the IMO gold medal with the only full score, ranking first among competitors, reflecting the school's strength in olympiad mathematics.
- Students from the school have represented China at the International Olympiad in Informatics, following earlier gold and silver medalists from the school, and two students were selected for the Chinese national team in the Physics Olympiad and Asian Physics Olympiad in the same academic year.
- Enrolled foreign and overseas students in the International Division also enjoy all resources of No.2 High School of East China Normal University, which is an experimental and demonstrative high school directly under the Ministry of Education, giving international

TRADE-OFFS

- The school teaches a Chinese National curriculum in Mandarin rather than IB or A-levels, so families without a strong Mandarin base or plans for a Western exam pathway will find the academic offer narrow for their needs.
- Entry to overseas-facing classes is limited to Permanent Residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan or Overseas Chinese, with non-Chinese-heritage applicants needing to consult admissions staff separately, meaning access for ordinary Western expat children is not straightforward.
- The campus sits in Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park in Pudong New District, a location that may involve a longer commute for families based in Shanghai's more central or western expat residential areas.

pupils access to a nationally recognised academic track.

- The International Division of the school was established in 1999 and is one of the earliest schools in Shanghai to engage in international education and is also a member of the UNESCO, giving it a long track record with overseas and returnee families.
- A Postdoctoral Workstation for Training Top Mathematics Talents was established jointly with East China Normal University's School of Mathematical Sciences, extending academic opportunities for gifted students beyond standard secondary provision.
- Public English-language reporting on fees, class sizes and gaokao/university placement outcomes for the International Division is limited, making like-for-like comparison with other international schools difficult.

ADMISSIONS

Domestic-track places are won through Shanghai's competitive senior-high entrance exam (zhongkao), reflecting the school's standing as a Ministry of Education-recognised key school. The International Division, running since 1999, enrolls students aged 12 to 18 twice yearly; applicants submit an application form, guardian guarantee form, passport copy and two years of transcripts, followed by a consultation meeting or interview. A distinct Joint Entrance Exam Class targets Overseas Chinese and Hong Kong/Macau/Taiwan permanent residents entering Grade 10, with other overseas applicants advised to consult admissions staff directly; the process is document- and interview-based rather than a single standardised test.

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_bea05d7d72.