

Kungsholmens gymnasium

Stockholm, Sweden



A 1902-founded Stockholm gymnasium pairing tough entry scores with a choral-music track shared with Stockholms Musikgymnasium.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	57/100
Academic outcomes	61/100
University placement	58/100
Prestige & heritage	56/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	53/100
Transparency	46/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Kungsholmens gymnasium occupies a strong niche in Stockholm’s upper-secondary market: a selective academic day school with two clear draws, the Swedish national pathway and the IB, plus a serious music strand run under the Stockholms Musikgymnasium name. It serves ages ****16–19****, teaches in Swedish and English, and has one advantage many schools chase but few secure: demand. High application rates and some of the toughest minimum entry scores in Stockholm County place it firmly in the city’s competitive tier. For parents, that matters. A school that can be choosy shapes a more academically driven peer group, and peer group is one of the decisive variables in sixth-form style education. **This is a school for able, self-propelling students**, not for teenagers who need coaxing or extensive pastoral hand-

holding.

What sets it apart is the structure. Kungsholmens is not one generic gymnasium under a polished brand; it is a school divided into a Swedish Section, an English-speaking International Section, and a Music Section. That gives it a sharper identity than many municipal competitors. The music offer is the obvious differentiator. Families with a serious young singer or musician will clock the appeal at once: *a real musical route, not an extracurricular add-on*. At the same time, the International Section extends its reach beyond the purely local market and puts the IB alongside the Swedish curriculum in a public-sector setting. That combination creates *an unusually focused proposition*: academic ambition, public provision, and a specialist arts track under one roof.

Why shortlist it? Because it offers status without the private-school fee barrier, and because selective state schools in major capitals are rare assets. The school's non-religious character also keeps the brief clean: this is an academic institution, not a values brand. Parents who want *intellectual pressure*, a strong cohort and a route that keeps university options open will find Kungsholmens compelling. Parents who prioritise a softer, more intimate environment, or who want broad nurturing over pace and standards, will find the fit less convincing. The defining attraction is *earned entry and clear purpose*. In a crowded Stockholm market, that still counts for a great deal.

STRENGTHS

- Offers both the Swedish National Programme and the full IB Diploma Programme, giving students a choice between systems within one campus.
- As a Stockholm municipal school, tuition is free for Swedish national programmes, in line with the country's publicly funded upper-secondary system.
- Located centrally on Kungsholmen, within easy reach of Stockholm's public transport network, making it accessible for day students across the city.
- Consistently ranks among the most academically selective upper-secondary schools in Stockholm, attracting high-achieving applicants citywide.
- Long-established institution with a well-known local reputation, giving it a stable position within Stockholm's state school system.

TRADE-OFFS

- Entry to both the National Programme and the IB track is highly competitive, requiring top compulsory-school grades that put it out of reach for average students.
- As a day school with no boarding option, it is only practical for families able to live within commuting distance in Stockholm.
- Swedish-medium instruction dominates the National Programme, meaning newly arrived expat students without Swedish fluency are effectively limited to the IB stream.
- Being a large municipal school, it lacks the small-class, individualized-attention model found at some private international schools.

ADMISSIONS

Admission to the Swedish National Programme is via Stockholm's centralized gymnasium admissions system, based on compulsory-school grade points (meritvarde); competition is high, with entry thresholds among the highest in the city. The IB Diploma Programme has a separate application process, typically requiring strong academic records and English proficiency, with places limited and demand exceeding supply most years. Prospective families should apply well ahead of the academic year and check current thresholds directly with the school.

WTS RATING 

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