

International School of Tanganyika

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Named for a country that no longer exists, this 1963-founded Dar es Salaam day school runs the full IB continuum across two peninsula campuses.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School of Tanganyika occupies a clear position at the top of Dar es Salaam’s international market: a **1963**-founded, non-profit day school with the full IB continuum and the kind of institutional depth newer entrants do not match. The name carries history; the proposition rests on substance. IST runs across **2** campuses on the peninsula, with early years and primary separated from secondary, and that split matters. Younger children get a distinct elementary environment rather than being folded into an all-through site, while older students move into a secondary setting built around Grades 6–12. For

families who want a school with established governance, international mobility and a serious academic spine, IST belongs on the shortlist on first pass.

What sets it apart is not novelty but range and maturity. This is an independent, private, not-for-profit school for ages **3-18**, teaching in English and offering the Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma Programmes end to end. In a city where parents can find good schools with one strong phase or one imported curriculum, IST offers continuity. That matters for expatriate families who need clean transitions and for internationally minded local families who want a stable route through to graduation. The school also sells a broad co-curricular life and strong facilities, and in the Dar market that combination has weight: **academic seriousness** without monastic narrowness, **institutional confidence** without religious framing, and a **settled international community** rather than a school still defining itself.

The caveat is plain. IST is not for families seeking a small, intimate school with a highly idiosyncratic culture, nor for those who want a national curriculum or a faith-based environment. It is a large-format international school model, and that brings the strengths and limits of the category: breadth, structure, mobility, and a less boutique feel. Parents who need hard public data on outcomes will find the school's public-facing case stronger on programme and environment than on published aggregate results. That does not weaken its standing in Dar es Salaam; it does define the due diligence sensible parents should do.

The students who thrive here are ambitious, adaptable and comfortable in an international peer group. They benefit from the full IB arc, from **clear academic stretch** in the later years, and from a school built for movement between countries and systems. Children who enjoy a busy campus life, a wide extracurricular menu and peers from many backgrounds will fit. So will families who want **continuity with standards**, **a serious day-school structure** and **a proven expatriate landing place** in Dar es Salaam.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1963, making it one of the longest-established international schools in East Africa.
- Authorised to teach the full IB continuum (PYP, MYP and Diploma Programme), offering curricular continuity from age 3 to 18.
- Accredited by both the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
- Student body historically drawn from a wide range of nationalities, reflecting Dar es Salaam's large diplomatic and NGO community.
- Purpose-built campus with facilities including library, swimming pool, and dedicated performing arts and sports spaces.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition fees are set in USD and sit at the higher end for the region, a real constraint for families not on an employer-sponsored package.
- Single-campus model in Dar es Salaam means families outside the immediate area face city traffic that can lengthen daily commutes considerably.
- As with many IB day schools serving a transient expat population, popular year groups can fill up, creating waitlists at peak entry points.
- Learning support provision is geared to mainstream inclusion; families of children with significant or complex special educational needs should confirm capacity directly with the school.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions run on a rolling basis with entry possible at multiple points during the year, reflecting the transient postings of Dar es Salaam's diplomatic and NGO community. Applicants submit school transcripts, references and, for older students, evidence of prior curriculum; English proficiency is assessed for non-native speakers. Popular grade levels and the IB Diploma years can have limited places, so early application and direct contact with the admissions office about current availability is advisable.

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_c4e3566e3e.