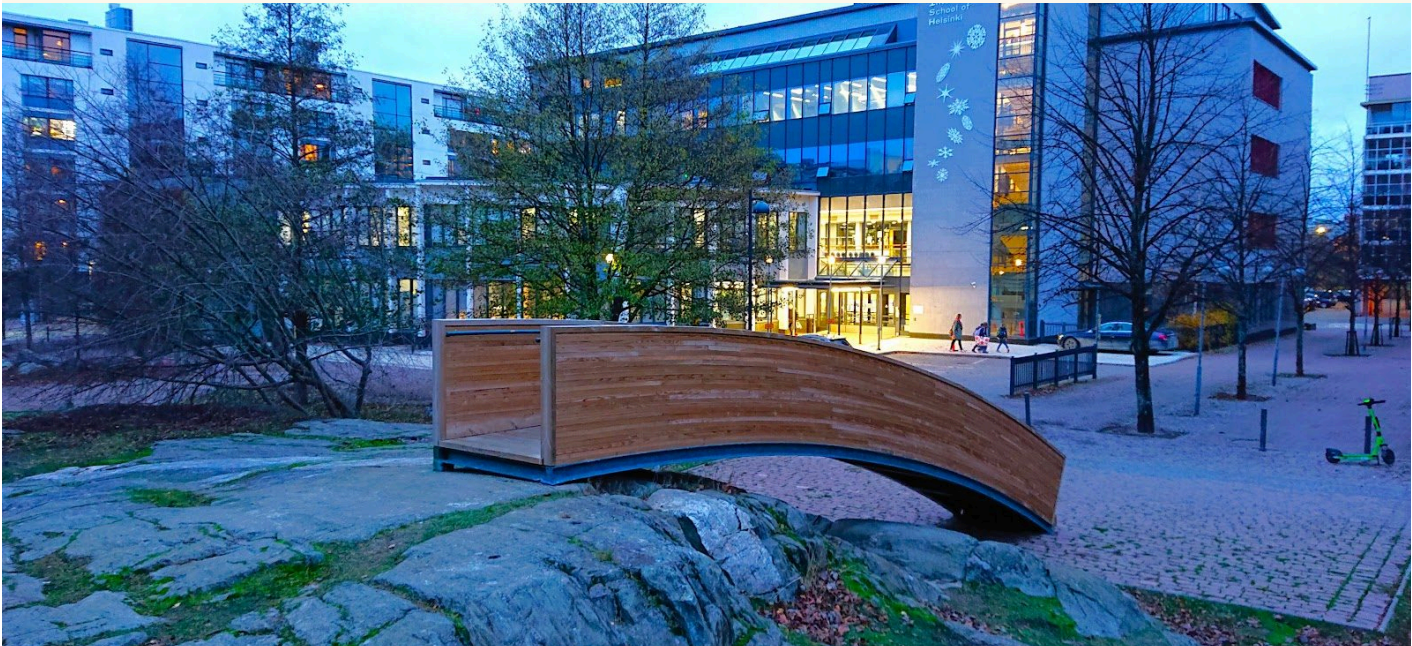


International School of Helsinki

Helsinki, Finland



Founded in 1963 and based in Helsinki, it became Finland's first school fully authorized across all three IB programmes.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	65/100
Academic outcomes	67/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	66/100
Alumni network	65/100
Facilities	68/100
Transparency	57/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School of Helsinki occupies a clear niche: a long-established, English-medium, non-religious day school for internationally mobile families who want a full IB pathway in Finland. Founded in **1963**, it has institutional age that many international schools in smaller markets lack, and its claim to note is straightforward: it became Finland’s first school fully authorised across all three IB programmes. That matters. In a market where some schools offer only one or two IB stages, ISH gives families a single academic spine from age **3–18**. The proposition is *coherent*, *portable* and *hard to replicate locally*.

The school belongs on a shortlist for parents who value continuity over spectacle. Helsinki does not trade on the mega-campus model common in Dubai or Singapore, and ISH’s appeal sits elsewhere: established presence, full-IB structure, English as the language of instruction, and accreditations that carry weight with relocating families — IB World School, CIS and NEASC. This is a school for parents who want an education that travels cleanly across borders and back into other international systems without unnecessary curriculum friction. It also suits families drawn to Finland but unwilling to move their child into Finnish-language schooling. The advantage is **clarity** and **stability**, not flash.

The student who thrives here is academically serious, internationally minded and comfortable in a community shaped by transience as well as commitment. Children who need endless institutional theatre or a highly traditional British independent-school culture will find a mismatch. Students who do best at ISH are those who respond to the IB’s demands for organisation, discussion, writing and independent thought. For that cohort, the school offers a **structured**, **cosmopolitan** route with a **serious academic centre**. In a city with a limited supply of established international schools, that alone gives ISH real market weight.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Founded in 1963; long-established in Helsinki. • IB school from ages 3–18. • English-medium teaching suits internationally mobile families. • CIS and NEASC accreditation add external scrutiny.	• Day school only; no boarding option. • English-only instruction may limit local-language immersion. • Non-religious ethos may not suit faith-based preferences.

ADMISSIONS

The International School of Helsinki is a non-religious day school in Helsinki for ages 3–18, teaching in English and offering the IB. That gives the obvious entry points: early years, primary, middle years and the final pre-university stage, though the school does not publicly set out, in the material provided here, which year groups are easier to enter than others. Nor does it publish, in these sources, a fixed admissions calendar or named application deadlines. Families should therefore expect rolling enquiries to be possible, but should verify timing directly with the school rather than rely on assumption.

On selection, the public information supplied here does not specify the assessment format, whether there are interviews, language screening, prior-school reports or age-related testing. Equally, no bursary or financial-aid provision is mentioned in the material provided, so it would be unsafe to imply that support exists. What can be said is that ISH has been operating since 1963, originally founded as the British Preparatory School, and is now accredited as an IB World School as well as by CIS and NEASC.

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_c56be1f378.