

International School Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand



Opened in 1951 as Thailand's first international school, it pioneered the country's IB Diploma and runs a wilderness campus in Phetchaburi.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	75/100
Academic outcomes	72/100
University placement	75/100
Prestige & heritage	77/100
Alumni network	76/100
Facilities	85/100
Transparency	83/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

International School Bangkok has two claims that matter in practice, not just in school lore: it opened in 1951 as Thailand’s first international school, and it still operates at the top end of the Bangkok market. The average annual day fee across Pre-K to Grade 12 is ****THB 1,097,000****, which places it firmly in the expensive bracket. Parents paying that level want breadth, institutional confidence and a school that has already built the machinery for multiple university routes. ISB offers exactly that. The school declares IB and British in the verified context, while its own description makes clear that the academic structure is broader than a single-track IB model: students can pursue the IB Diploma, an ISB Diploma, AP courses or hybrid pathways. That matters for families who want strong academic choice rather than being forced

into one senior-school mould.

The other point in ISB's favour is scale with purpose. It runs from age 3 to 18 on one campus in Nichada Thani, with more than **60** nationalities in the community and English as the language of instruction. It is non-religious, independent and not-for-profit, and it pioneered the IB Diploma in Thailand. Those are not cosmetic distinctions. They tell parents that this is an old, deeply established international school with the confidence to build its own identity rather than borrowing prestige from a chain or a religious foundation. The wilderness campus in Phetchaburi adds another layer: this is not a school confined to classrooms and exam corridors. There is a *serious commitment* to outdoor education and to the American-style idea that school life should extend beyond narrow academics.

This belongs on a shortlist for families who want a *full-service*, *high-cost*, internationally mobile education in Bangkok and who value optionality at the top end of secondary school. It will suit students who thrive in a large, *unusually cosmopolitan* setting, want access to both IB and AP routes, and are comfortable in a school with a long-established expatriate culture. It will appeal less to families seeking a small, intimate environment or a tightly traditional British school. Recent destinations listed in the verified context — Griffith University, Monash University and RMIT — do not give a full picture of outcomes, and the school does not publish aggregate destination patterns here. Even so, the age, fee level, breadth of pathways and alumni footprint — **22** notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata, including politicians, scholars and actors, plus **1** verified major award laureate — mark ISB out as a *heavyweight institution* with real depth.

STRENGTHS

- International School Bangkok was the first international school in Thailand, founded in 1951 when it initially opened on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy, and it was the first school in Thailand to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program.
- ISB serves approximately 1,700 students on a purpose-built campus, drawn from a diverse community of more than 60 nationalities, situated on a 37-acre campus in a gated, family-oriented community where children can walk or ride their bikes to school.
- The school carries external accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in the United States.
- Published outcomes show a 98% IB pass rate, 16% scoring 40+, and a ten-year track record averaging around 35, with results beating the global IB average of 30.58 by at least 2.5 points.
- As a proudly independent and not-for-profit school, ISB reinvests entirely in the growth and well-being of its students rather than distributing profits to owners.

TRADE-OFFS

- Fees sit at the top of the Bangkok IB market: one independent comparison puts oldest-year tuition at approximately US\$34,000 per year, and on a results-per-dollar basis it is the most expensive IB point in Bangkok.
- The campus is located within the community of Nichada Thani, just outside the bustle of Bangkok, meaning a longer commute for families based in central Bangkok who choose not to relocate nearby.
- English-proficiency thresholds apply from the upper grades: there is a minimum English language proficiency level for entry to Grades 5-12 which increases by division, narrowing the entry pool for older, non-native-English applicants.
- Support for additional learning needs is not guaranteed: each applicant identified as needing support services is considered based on whether ISB can meet their needs and if there is space in the program.

ADMISSIONS

Admission runs Pre-K (age 3) through Grade 12, with applications handled directly by the ISB Admissions Office and a Thai education (ED) visa required for the student. There is no English requirement for Pre-K to Grade 4, but proficiency thresholds rise for Grades 5-12, and an English assessment is part of every non-native speaker's application. A registration fee of 260,000 baht (one-time) plus a 4,700 baht application fee applies. Places for students needing learning support depend on capacity and fit, so competitiveness varies by grade and profile rather than being uniformly selective.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (22)

SPORT: Amalie Iuel

MUSIC: Lydia Sarunrat, Maria Poonlertlarp

DRAMA: Mary-Louise Parker, Madolyn Smith Osborne, Lenore Kasdorf, Charles Leavitt, Charm Osathanond, Michael Young, Lydia Sarunrat, Maria Poonlertlarp

VISUAL_ARTS: Michael Young

LETTERS: Mary-Louise Parker, Richard Powers, Tammy Duckworth

POLITICS: Timothy Geithner, Susan Schwab, Johannes Peterlik, Tammy Duckworth, Thant Myint-U, Pamela J. H. Slutz

SCIENCE: Timothy Geithner, Susan Schwab, Thant Myint-U, Michiel Van Oudheusden

BUSINESS: Timothy Geithner, William Heinecke, Ho Kwon Ping

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_c583f36f08.