

Léman Manhattan Preparatory School

New York, United States



New York City's only high-school boarding program sits steps from the NYSE, pairing IB rigor with a Swiss sister-school pedigree.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	65/100
University placement	63/100
Prestige & heritage	64/100
Alumni network	63/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	58/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The hook is straightforward: Léman Manhattan sells something no other New York school can match in the same way — the city’s only high-school boarding programme, planted in the Financial District, steps from the New York Stock Exchange. That gives it a distinct audience from the standard Manhattan day-school crowd. This is a school for families who want New York itself to function as part of the education, and for internationally mobile students who want an American diploma with the option of the IB Diploma Programme in a dense urban setting. It is non-religious, teaches in English, and runs from ages 3 to 18, so it covers the full school journey rather than forcing a break at middle or high school.

The academic proposition is serious and clear. Léman offers both the International Baccalaureate and the US High School Diploma, a combination that widens university options and suits families who do not want to lock themselves into a single system too early. The school’s published **9:1** student-teacher ratio and average class size of **16** point to a scale that still allows adults to know the pupils in front of them. More than 80% of faculty hold advanced degrees and credentials, and the school carries NAIS accreditation, which matters in the US independent-school market. Parents should still note what Léman does not publish here: no aggregate IB outcomes, no university destination pattern, and no hard academic results that would let outsiders test the strength of the sixth form against New York’s most selective day schools. That makes Léman easier to place as a *distinctive* option than as a proven academic heavyweight.

Fees place it firmly in the expensive end of the New York private market: the average annual day fee across the full ladder is **\$62,959**. The premium buys a *rare* package — lower Manhattan location, international intake, boarding at high-school level, and an IB pathway inside a US school structure. The student who will want Léman is not the child who needs acres of green campus or the family chasing a traditional uptown independent-school mould. It suits *self-directed*, city-minded pupils who thrive on movement, density and adult-style independence; international families who value flexibility between curricula; and boarders who want Manhattan, not a rural American campus, as their daily backdrop. For the right child, that setup is *hard to replicate*. For families who want published outcomes, deep athletic infrastructure or a conventional campus experience, the shortlist needs other schools on it too.

STRENGTHS	TRADE - OFFS
• Full PK-12 IB continuum in Manhattan • Rare New York City boarding program • Truly international student community • Strong fit for mobile global families	• Less traditional campus experience • Younger school, limited alumni legacy • Downtown setting won't suit everyone

ADMISSIONS

Families should approach admissions with a clear sense of fit rather than treating Léman as a generic Manhattan independent-school option. The school is especially compelling for students who will benefit from the IB's inquiry-led structure, who are comfortable in a diverse international community and who can articulate why a downtown setting works for them. Boarding applicants should be prepared to discuss maturity, independence and readiness for urban residential life, since the New York location is a distinctive part of the experience.

In conversations and interviews, it helps to explain not only academic strengths but also adaptability: Léman serves many internationally mobile and relocating families, and the school is accustomed to transitions. Parents should ask directly about curricular pathways, upper-school course planning, student support and how new students are integrated socially. For applicants coming from abroad or from other school systems, presenting thoughtful records, teacher recommendations and a coherent reason for choosing IB will matter more than polished branding.

WTS RATING 

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