

Frankfurt International School

Frankfurt, Germany



A founding member of the International Baccalaureate since the 1960s, still shaping the diploma from its Taunus forest campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	71/100
Academic outcomes	71/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	71/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	83/100
Transparency	80/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

The defining fact about Frankfurt International School is not that it has been around since 1961, but that it entered the IB at the start and still trades on that inheritance with substance. This is an English-medium, non-religious day school for ages 3 to 18, and its academic identity is tightly tied to the IB rather than bolted on as a prestige finish. The school states that the Class of 2025 averaged ****36 points**** in the diploma, a strong figure by any sensible international-school measure. Add a ****9:1**** student-teacher ratio and you get a school built for close academic attention, not mass throughput. The Oberursel campus, set at the base of the Taunus Mountains and surrounded by forest, gives FIS a physical setting that is more **self-contained** and **deliberately removed** than many city-centre expatriate schools.

In market terms, FIS sits in the upper tier of European international day schools: established, expensive, academically serious and old enough to have institutional muscle. The average annual day fee across the full age range is **€25,403**, which places it firmly in the premium bracket, though not at the most inflated end of the market. What puts it on a shortlist is not glossy rhetoric but a clear combination of factors: genuine IB pedigree, a long operating history, strong diploma results, and breadth beyond the classroom. The school puts real weight on arts, athletics, languages, service and leadership, which matters because strong IB schools need more than exam coaching; they need range. The weak point, at least from the public record here, is university destination depth. We have only a thin snapshot for the Class of 2025 — 136 leavers, with named destinations including Bond University, RMIT and the University of Melbourne — and that does not give parents much to analyse about placement at scale.

The student who will want FIS is the one who thrives in a structured, internationally minded environment and is happy to be educated in English from start to finish. This is a good fit for globally mobile families, for children who value breadth alongside academic pressure, and for students who benefit from a campus culture with room for sport, arts and outdoor life rather than an urban high-rise routine. It is less suited to families who want a nationally anchored German pathway, a religious ethos, or a school whose sixth-form identity revolves around A-level specialisation. FIS suits the child who is ambitious without being narrowly coached: intellectually confident, comfortable across cultures, and ready for a school that expects them to think across disciplines rather than just pile up grades.

STRENGTHS

- One of the founding IB World Schools, established in 1961, running the full IB continuum from PYP through the Diploma Programme.
- Class of 2025 averaged 36 points on IB exams, a high average by European IB-school standards.
- NEASC-accredited with a large university counseling operation; more than 130 colleges and universities visit the school each year.
- Genuinely international community drawing families from more than 60 nationalities across two campuses in Oberursel and Wiesbaden.
- Operates one of the largest private school bus networks in Germany, with over 50 routes serving both campuses.

TRADE-OFFS

- Tuition is high even by international-school standards, reaching approximately EUR 32,710 a year for Grades 11-12, before a one-time EUR 12,300 capital assessment fee and EUR 1,500 registration fee.
- Admission is highly competitive: the school receives hundreds more applications than places each year, and waiting lists lengthen at higher grade levels.
- The school runs the IB exclusively, offering no IGCSE or AP pathway, which narrows options for families wanting curriculum flexibility.
- Main campus sits in Oberursel roughly 23km from central Frankfurt, meaning families outside the Taunus corridor face a longer daily commute.

ADMISSIONS

FIS admits students from age 3 (First Steps) through Grade 12 across its Oberursel and Wiesbaden campuses. Applications are accepted year-round but the school recommends submitting soon after 1 January, ideally before 1 March, for the following academic year. An interview is not usually required, though an assessment may be requested for older applicants or those with additional learning needs. Demand consistently exceeds capacity, producing waiting lists that lengthen at higher grades; the school states it receives hundreds more applications than available spaces annually, so early application and a strong academic record improve chances.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (5)

DRAMA: Jamison Jones, Osman Soykut

LETTERS: Q49005664

BUSINESS: Princess Claire of Luxembourg, Q49005664

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_cedf03b5cb.