

The American School Foundation of Guadalajara

Guadalajara, Mexico



Founded in 1908, a bilingual Jalisco campus pairing UNAM-certified diplomas with U.S. accreditation and a LEED Gold campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	67/100
Academic outcomes	69/100
University placement	67/100
Prestige & heritage	68/100
Alumni network	67/100
Facilities	70/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

A school founded in **1908** on a bilingual campus in Guadalajara has had time to decide what it is. The American School Foundation of Guadalajara is not a casual international school with a thin U.S. label attached. It runs in English and Spanish, awards UNAM-certified diplomas alongside U.S. accreditation, and adds the IB to the mix. That combination matters in Mexico. It gives families a route that keeps local academic legitimacy in view while preserving an outward-facing international framework. The LEED Gold campus adds a modern, practical advantage rather than a branding flourish: this is an established school that has invested in physical infrastructure, not just reputation.

Its accreditations tell you where it sits in the market. Middle States gives it recognised U.S. institutional oversight; IB World School status confirms that the IB is a real part of the academic offer, not decorative language; SEP anchors it in the Mexican system; AASSA places it firmly in the Americas international-schools circuit. The average annual day fee is **203,807 MXN**, which puts it in Guadalajara’s *premium* bracket rather than the broad middle market. Parents paying that level should expect a school with academic range, bilingual seriousness and administrative maturity. The founding date, the accreditations and the dual local-international orientation justify that expectation.

What is special here is not novelty but *structural depth*. Many schools can claim bilingualism; fewer can combine English and Spanish instruction with American and IB curricula, Mexican recognition, and a campus built to contemporary environmental standards. That mix suits families who do not want to choose between local rootedness and international portability at age 16 or 18. It also suits students who can handle a *demanding* academic environment across two languages and who benefit from moving between different academic cultures rather than staying in one neat lane. Children who need a narrow, low-pressure setup will find this less comfortable. Students who are adaptable, linguistically confident and *intellectually mobile* will get the most from it.

This school belongs on a shortlist for parents in Jalisco who want scale, history and a credible cross-border academic proposition in one place. It is *not a boutique option* and not a budget one. It is for families who value institutional permanence, care about recognised accreditation, and want a school that can carry a child from age 3 to 18 without forcing a choice between Mexico and the wider international system. In a crowded market, that is a *serious* distinction.

STRENGTHS

- One of the longest-established American-curriculum schools in Guadalajara, tracing its founding to the mid-20th century.
- Offers a dual pathway combining a US-style high school diploma with the IB Diploma Programme, giving families flexibility on university destination.
- Operates as a bilingual institution, with instruction split between English and Spanish across the curriculum.
- Single, purpose-built day campus serving PreK through Grade 12, allowing continuity from early years through graduation.
- Long-standing ties to the US overseas schools network, which has historically supported curriculum alignment and teacher recruitment.

TRADE - OFFS

- Editorial rank and rising_star_400 tier indicate a school still building broader international recognition rather than a long-established global reputation.
- Day school only, with no boarding option, so relocating families must independently arrange housing in Guadalajara.
- Guadalajara offers fewer direct international flight connections than Mexico City, a practical consideration for frequently mobile expat families.
- Published tuition figures and detailed university placement data are not consistently available in public sources, making cost and outcomes harder to verify in advance.

ADMISSIONS

Admissions run on a rolling basis with primary entry points in PreK, Kindergarten and Grade 9, though openings at other grades depend on space. The process typically involves an application form, submission of prior school records, an assessment or interview (age-dependent), and an admissions committee review. Spanish and English proficiency levels are considered for placement. Competitiveness varies by grade level and is generally moderate rather than highly selective, reflecting the school's role as a mainstream option for expatriate and bicultural Mexican families in Guadalajara.

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_d0304c987d.