

Academia Cotopaxi

Quito, Ecuador



High above Quito at 2,850 meters, this campus became Ecuador's first IB Diploma school back in 1982.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	63/100
University placement	61/100
Prestige & heritage	63/100
Alumni network	62/100
Facilities	65/100
Transparency	51/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Academia Cotopaxi occupies a rare place in Ecuador’s market: an English-language, independent, non-profit day school with an American curriculum and the IB Diploma on top. Its headline distinction is simple and important. Founded in ****1959****, it became Ecuador’s first IB Diploma school in ****1982****. That matters because longevity in international education is not cosmetic; it signals institutional memory, stable systems and a clearer sense of what the school is for. Parents looking in Quito will find many schools promising global pathways. Few carry this combination of age, non-profit status and long IB tenure. The school’s altitude — ****2,850**** metres above sea level — also gives it a literal and cultural setting unlike lower-density expatriate hubs: **high-altitude intensity**, **a serious academic climate**, and a

campus experience tied closely to Quito rather than sealed off from it.

Why shortlist it? Because it offers a clean proposition. English is the language of instruction, the school runs from ages 3–18, and it covers the full arc from early years to university entry within one institution. For internationally mobile families, binational families and Ecuador-based parents who want an English-medium education without boarding, that coherence counts. The non-profit structure also deserves attention. It does not guarantee excellence, but it does change the school’s logic: the case for fees rests on programme, staffing and facilities, not shareholder return. Recent destinations listed publicly are modest in number — American University, Arizona State University and Boston University, each with **1** student — which tells parents two things at once. First, the school sends graduates into the US higher education system. Second, it does not publish the kind of broad outcomes data that would let families judge university placement depth at a glance. That opacity is a weakness.

The right student for Academia Cotopaxi is academically purposeful, internationally minded and comfortable in an English-speaking environment from an early age. This suits children who want continuity, not churn; students who will use both the American curriculum and the IB Diploma as a route to universities abroad; and families who value *institutional steadiness* over fashion. It also fits pupils who thrive in a school with *earned credibility* rather than a glossy sales pitch. Students who need a highly specialised niche school, extensive public exam data, or a boarding structure need to look elsewhere. For the right family, though, Academia Cotopaxi offers something more durable: *long-range academic preparation* in a school with deep roots in Quito and a *clear international function*.

STRENGTHS

- English instruction throughout ages 3–18
- American curriculum may suit US-bound families
- IB World School offers international diploma pathway
- Non-profit, non-religious independent day school

TRADE-OFFS

- Day school only; no boarding option
- English-only instruction may not suit all families
- American curriculum may not suit other systems

ADMISSIONS

Academia Cotopaxi is a day school in Quito for ages 3 to 18, so the main entry points are inferably the early years, primary, secondary and sixth-form equivalents within that span. As an English-language, American-curriculum international school and IB World School, it is likely to assess applicants for age-appropriate placement, but the school does not publicly set out, in the material provided here, the precise format of any testing, interview or language screening.

Nor does it publish, in the sources supplied, fixed admissions deadlines, rolling-entry arrangements or a distinctive selection mechanism beyond ordinary school admissions. Families should therefore expect to enquire directly about timing, required records and year-group availability. On bursaries or financial aid, nothing in the verified context or source extract confirms that assistance is available, so it would be wrong to assume it. The notable point is simply the school's profile: an independent, non-profit, non-religious, English-based international school founded in 1959, serving the full 3-18 range in Quito.

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_e053757c10.