

Universal American School

Dubai, United Arab Emirates



A not-for-profit Festival City campus where Grade 11 students choose between the IB Diploma and an AP-enriched US track

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	63/100
Academic outcomes	68/100
University placement	65/100
Prestige & heritage	60/100
Alumni network	55/100
Facilities	74/100
Transparency	68/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Universal American School occupies a useful niche in Dubai: a **serious**, not-for-profit American school on the Festival City campus that does not force sixth formers into a single route. In Grade 11, students choose between the IB Diploma and an AP-enriched US track, which is still an uncommon piece of flexibility in this market. That matters for families who want an American-style school without shutting off the IB, and for students whose academic profile is strong but not neatly suited to one terminal pathway. The school covers ages 3 to 18, teaches in English, and holds both NEASC accreditation and IB World School status, which gives the academic model more weight than the usual Dubai brochure language. Fees are expensive at an average of ****AED 68,237**** a year across the full school.

What is special here is not novelty for its own sake, but *structural choice*. Many schools promise personalisation; this one builds a clear fork into the senior years. That makes Universal American School a better shortlist option for families who want to keep options open between UK-style university preparation through the IB and a broader American route with AP enrichment. The recent destinations published are modest in number but credible: London School of Economics, Imperial College London and University College London each took **1** student. That is not a grand outcomes narrative, and the school does not publish a wider destinations picture here, but it does show access to *high-calibre* universities.

The pupil who will want Universal American School is academically engaged, internationally minded and comfortable in a school that asks older students to choose a direction rather than drift. This is not the right fit for parents who want a pure British school, a bargain fee point, or a brand built on league-table chest-thumping. It is a better fit for families who value a *thoughtful*, university-facing sixth-form structure, want a day school founded in **2005** with a clear American and IB identity, and prefer substance over spectacle. In Dubai terms, that makes UAS a *distinctive* option: not the loudest name in the market, but one with a sharper academic proposition than many of its competitors.

STRENGTHS

- Combined American curriculum and IB pathway across ages 3-18
- World-class co-curricular provision in sport, drama, music and visual arts
- Purpose-built 65,000 sqm campus with a 546-seat theatre, 25m pool and 400m track
- NEASC accreditation and IB World School status provide external validation
- KHDA 'Very good' rating and published multi-year IB Diploma results

TRADE-OFFS

- No boarding option for relocating families
- English-only instruction may limit bilingual immersion
- High teacher turnover reported (39% per external data) is worth probing
- Not among Dubai's most oversubscribed heavyweight names on prestige

ADMISSIONS

Universal American School Dubai is a co-educational day school for ages 3 to 18, so the main entry points are typically in the early years, elementary, middle and secondary phases rather than a single selective sixth-form intake. As a school offering both an American curriculum and IB programmes, admissions are usually tied to age-appropriate placement and previous school records; the material available here does not set out a detailed assessment format or distinctive selection process, so families should expect the usual international-school sequence of application, documentation review and possible age-based assessment, with year-group availability a practical constraint.

The school was founded in 2005 and teaches in English, and is owned by the not-for-profit Al-Futtaim Education Foundation. No fixed annual admissions deadlines are given in the verified information supplied here, which suggests rolling admissions may be possible where places exist, though families should confirm this directly with the school. Likewise, no bursary or financial-aid provision is listed in the available source material, so it would be unwise to assume support is offered.

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_e362d37d91.