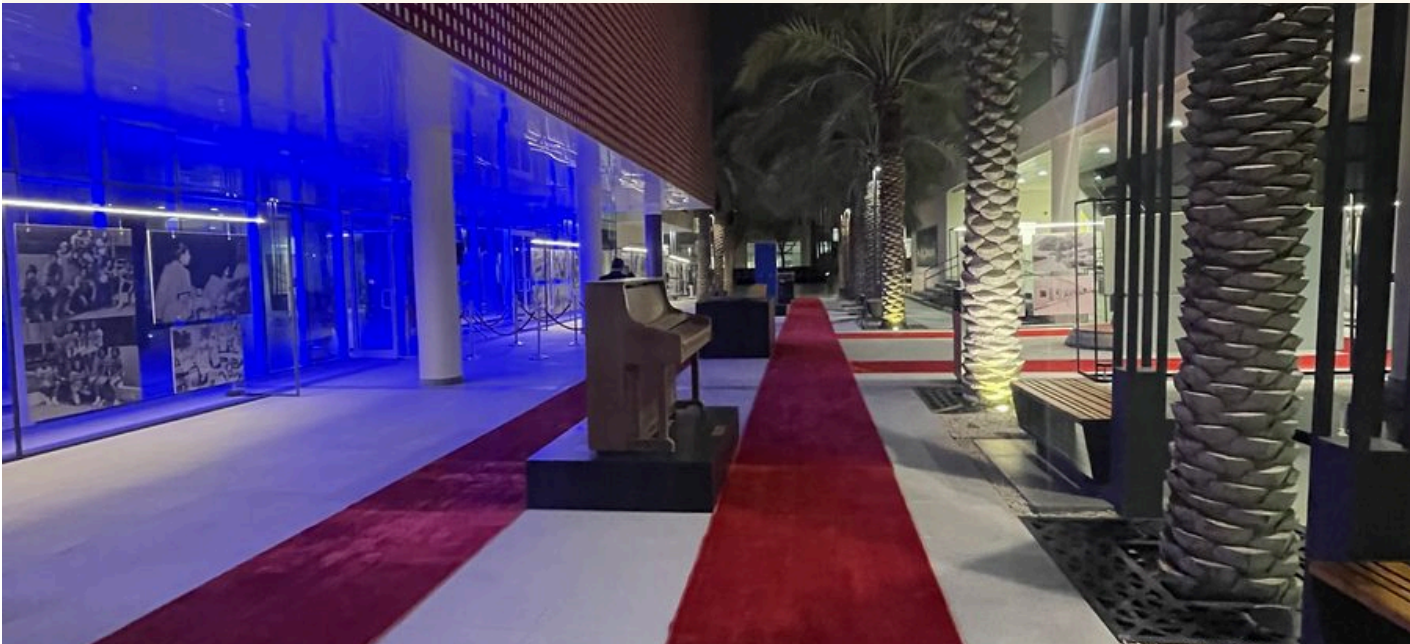


American International School – Riyadh

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



Since 1963, north Riyadh's dual-diploma pioneer pairs an American high school degree with the IB, drawing 65-plus nationalities to one campus.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	72/100
Academic outcomes	73/100
University placement	71/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	72/100
Facilities	76/100
Transparency	72/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

American International School – Riyadh occupies a clear niche in the city: a long-established, non-profit international day school with an American core and the IB Diploma on top. In a market crowded with newer entrants, that matters. Founded in **1963**, AIS-R has institutional memory, a settled identity and a broad international intake: *a genuinely mixed student body*, not a single-nationality enclave dressed up as global. For families who want one school from nursery to sixth form, taught in English, with an American high school pathway that does not shut the door on IB, AIS-R offers a rare two-track proposition. That dual-diploma structure is its strongest selling point and the main reason it belongs on a serious shortlist.

What is special here is not novelty but range and continuity. Students can work within an American-style school structure and still finish with the IB Diploma, which gives the senior school a stronger academic endgame than many US-curriculum schools in the Gulf. The school's reach is also visible in its leavers: **123** graduates in the Class of 2024 and university destinations that include McGill, Brock, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Medical University of Bahrain. This is not a tiny boutique school sending a handful of pupils abroad; it is a mature operation serving a substantial international community in Riyadh. The age span from **3-18** adds another practical advantage: *one-campus continuity*, *less churn at transition points* and a community that families can stay with for years.

Parents should still read the offer with precision. AIS-R is not the choice for families who want a British curriculum, a narrowly local peer group or a school built around selective mystique. Its appeal rests on breadth, not exclusivity theatre. The right student for AIS-R is internationally minded, comfortable in a diverse environment and ready to navigate an American day-to-day academic framework with the option of the IB in the final years. Children who thrive in *a settled, cosmopolitan campus culture*, who value *academic flexibility without constant reinvention*, and who want classmates from **65-plus** nationalities will find the school a strong fit. In Riyadh, that combination gives AIS-R *real staying power* and *unusual strategic value* for globally mobile families.

STRENGTHS

- Founded in 1963, making it one of the longest-established American-curriculum schools in Saudi Arabia, now in its seventh decade of operation on a purpose-built north Riyadh campus.
- Holds dual accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS), and is authorised to offer the IB Diploma Programme alongside the American track.
- A genuinely large and internationally mixed student body, with AIS-R's enrollment reported at more than 1,550 students representing over 65 nationalities.
- Extensive on-campus facilities including more than 100 classrooms, two gymnasiums, two soccer fields, a running track and two learning commons, built to serve a school of this scale.
- Operates a rolling, year-round application process rather than a single fixed intake window, with the cycle for the following academic year opening each August 1st.

TRADE-OFFS

- Sits at editorial rank 524 in the challenger_300 tier, placing it well outside the small group of schools this publication regards as leading international options in the region.
- Tuition falls in a mid-tier to premium band for Riyadh, with primary fees around SAR 90,000-120,000 and secondary/IBDP fees often SAR 105,000-140,000 or more per year, on top of a separate non-refundable capital fee that rises to over SAR 25,000 for grades 9-12.
- Admissions testing is largely onsite: applicants outside Riyadh in most grades are not eligible for remote assessment, since the process requires an in-person interview with assessment personnel, only limited exceptions exist for a Grade 2 applicant.
- As a large, long-running school, demand has outpaced supply in recent years, meaning families should expect a wait pool rather than guaranteed placement even after a successful application.

ADMISSIONS

Admission runs on a rolling, year-round basis, with the application cycle for the following academic year opening each August 1st. All applicants complete an online application and supporting documentation before being considered for testing and the wait pool. Most grades require an onsite assessment and interview; remote testing is offered only in narrow circumstances for out-of-Riyadh applicants in grades 3-12. The school has noted rising demand relative to available seats, and fees include tuition, a one-time capital fee, a seat deposit, and additional charges for English-language learning or extra academic support where applicable.

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_ea5f549c39.