

Brisbane Grammar School

Brisbane, Australia



Overlooking Brisbane's CBD since 1868, a boys' school built on its Latin motto: nothing without hard work.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	76/100
Academic outcomes	77/100
University placement	74/100
Prestige & heritage	79/100
Alumni network	78/100
Facilities	80/100
Transparency	74/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Overlooking Brisbane’s CBD, Brisbane Grammar School trades on old-school seriousness rather than progressive fashion. This is a non-religious boys’ school founded in 1868, teaching from ages 5 to 18, with boarding as well as day places, and it keeps a clear academic spine through to the Queensland Certificate of Education. The structure matters: an **11:1** student-teacher ratio and average classes of **22** give boys enough individual attention without pretending to be boutique. The school’s own language points to a broad liberal education, strong cocurricular provision and a substantial outdoor education offer, but the more telling detail is the subject range publicly foregrounded: mathematics throughout Years 5 to 12, Chinese from Year 5, and senior electives such as Engineering, Mathematical Methods and Ancient

History. That reads as a school that still values disciplined scholarship, not one chasing educational trends.

In market terms, Brisbane Grammar sits in the **premium** bracket. The average annual day fee is ****AUD 36,300**** and the average annual boarding fee is ****AUD 71,960****, which places it firmly among Australia’s expensive independent schools. Parents are paying for more than heritage and a central address. They are buying a long-established boys’ environment with scale, a visible academic culture and the infrastructure to support arts, sciences, languages and outdoor programmes under one roof. The school talks openly about ambition — even declaring an ambition to be the best boys’ school in Australia — and that tone runs through the whole proposition. This is not a **soft** or **light-touch** school. It is a school for families who want clear standards, visible expectations and a community built around endeavour.

What puts Brisbane Grammar on a shortlist is that combination of **institutional heft** and academic range. Plenty of old schools have history; fewer show a curriculum broad enough to hold a mathematically strong boy, a linguist and a serious arts student without forcing one narrow definition of achievement. The website also places real emphasis on student wellbeing, leadership and community, which matters in a school with this level of drive. Still, parents should recognise the trade-off. A school with this much tradition and self-belief suits boys who are comfortable in a **high-expectation** culture and who will use the opportunities on offer. The best fit is a boy who is academically engaged, responds well to structure, and wants a busy school life rather than a **cosier** or more experimental education.

STRENGTHS

- One of Australia's oldest schools, established in 1868 as Brisbane's first independent boys school, with a heritage-listed campus on Gregory Terrace since 1881.
- Offers both day and boarding places, having provided on-site boarding since 1886, which suits relocating or regional families needing residential options.
- Strong Rhodes Scholarship record, with 26 Old Boys named Queensland or Australia-at-large Rhodes Scholars over the school's history.
- Notable alumni include author David Malouf and tennis player Roy Emerson, who won 12 Grand Slam singles titles and 16 Grand Slam doubles titles.
- Fee structure is described by the school as substantially all-inclusive, covering a range of sporting, arts and special-interest club activities without separate levies.

TRADE-OFFS

- Single-sex boys school for Years 5 to 12 only, so it will not suit families wanting co-education or seeking places for younger children or girls.
- The school was the subject of a Royal Commission case study into historical child sexual abuse by a former teacher/counsellor in the 1970s-80s, with the school reporting it has settled matters with some 130 former students.
- Entry can be competitive: scholarship places (Trustees' Scholarships) are awarded to only a small number of boys each year based on an ACER exam, and a non-refundable application fee does not guarantee a place.
- Local day fees run to roughly \$29,200-\$34,900 a year depending on year level, with international fees reported as high as \$47,470, placing it among Brisbane's costlier independent schools.

ADMISSIONS

Main entry points are Year 5 and Year 7, with additional places at Years 8-12 subject to availability. A non-refundable \$580 application fee applies and does not guarantee a place; families also pay a \$3,000 confirmation fee up to three years before entry and a \$2,000-\$2,500 advance fee the year prior. A small number of Trustees' Scholarships, awarded via an ACER exam, offer entry to academically strong boys at Year 7 and Year 10. As a long-established GPS school, demand for places is high, so early registration is advised.

WTS RATING 

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