

Ashbury College

Ottawa, Canada



Tucked among Rockcliffe Park's embassy residences, this century-old IB pioneer turns diplomatic proximity into a genuine global classroom.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	62/100
Academic outcomes	70/100
University placement	68/100
Prestige & heritage	70/100
Alumni network	18/100
Facilities	71/100
Transparency	61/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Rockcliffe Park does a lot of work for Ashbury College. Set among embassy residences in one of Ottawa's most diplomatic enclaves, the school has a natural pipeline to an international parent body and it uses that advantage well: students come from ****over 60 countries****, the school has taught the IB for ****40 years****, and English-medium teaching sits inside a culture that is **genuinely international** rather than domestically Canadian with a thin overseas veneer. This is a non-religious school for ages 3 to 18, with day and boarding provision, founded in 1891 and accredited by both the IBO and CIS. The average class size is ****17****, which matters more than glossy rhetoric; it points to classrooms small enough for close academic oversight without the intensity of a tiny tutorial model.

What puts Ashbury on a shortlist is the combination of old-school Canadian independent education and a *clear global orientation*. Plenty of schools claim to produce global citizens; fewer can point to a student body this international while also running as an established boarding school in the national capital. The curriculum mix matters here too: Canadian, IB and American strands create a broader academic frame than a single-track local school. Ashbury also states a **100% university placement rate**. That figure needs context the school does not publish — no destination breakdown, no selectivity data, no detail on course match — but it still signals a school built around onward progression, not a lifestyle campus trading on atmosphere alone. On fees, this sits in the premium bracket: an average annual day fee of **CAD 40,920** and average annual boarding fee of **CAD 87,660** across the full age range.

The right child for Ashbury is internationally minded, academically organised and comfortable in a school where peers arrive from many countries and families move through diplomatic, public-service and globally mobile careers. Boarders who want a *contained, highly supervised* environment in a capital city, rather than a sprawling rural campus, will find the model appealing. So will day pupils who want strong structure, a visible university-prep culture and classmates whose horizons extend beyond Ottawa. The less suitable candidate is the child who wants a huge school with mass-market subject choice and a looser social tone. Ashbury's appeal rests on something more specific: *cosmopolitan seriousness*, steady scale, and a student mix that gives the school a wider lens than most Canadian independents.

STRENGTHS

- Ottawa boarding and day options
- Founded in 1891
- Offers Canadian, IB and AP
- 10:1 student-teacher ratio

TRADE-OFFS

- High boarding fee: 78,000 CAD
- High day fee: 38,000 CAD
- English-only instruction

ADMISSIONS

Ashbury College is a non-religious independent day and boarding school in Ottawa's Rockcliffe Park, taking pupils from age 3 to 18. In practical terms, that suggests admissions at the usual nursery, primary, middle and sixth-form transition points, with boarding relevant only to the older years; the school does not publish those entry points in the material provided here. Nor does it set out, in the sources given, a standard assessment route, interview format or decision timeline. Families should therefore expect a conventional selective independent-school process, but will need to confirm the detail directly with admissions rather than rely on assumptions.

Academically, the important point is that Ashbury presents a mixed offering: Canadian, IB and AP. It is an IB World School and a CIS-accredited school. The school is relatively small by international standards, with roughly 700 pupils across junior and senior divisions, and published ratios of 10:1 and average class size of 18 suggest a fairly contained admissions pool. No bursary or financial-aid scheme is mentioned in the supplied sources, so this should be treated as unconfirmed rather than presumed.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (23)

SPORT: John Turner, Alexandra Chong, Maggie Cogger-Orr

MUSIC: Donald Steven

DRAMA: Matthew Perry, Stockwell Day, Derek Harvie, Trevor Matthews

VISUAL_ARTS: Daniel Farson

LETTERS: Matthew Perry, Adrian Harewood, Andrew Brewin, Ben Barry, Daniel Farson

POLITICS: John Turner, Stockwell Day, David Berger, Andrew Brewin, Shane Alexander, 2nd Earl Alexander of Tunis

SCIENCE: Douglass North, Donald Steven

BUSINESS: Stockwell Day, David Berger, Ben Barry, E. P. Taylor, Arthur Fogel, Alexandra Chong, Stewart Johnston, Conal Deegan

WTS RATING 

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