

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN JAPAN

By the Numbers

2026 Edition

数字で見る日本のインター

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ハリス・ニコラス

Foreword

FOREWORD

Hi, I'm Nick.

While I was writing my first book, a Japanese-language guide for parents trying to figure out whether international school is right for their kid, I turned into a total numbers nerd. I kept collecting founding years, enrollment, tuition and IB averages until I had a mountain of data, and I wanted to share all of it, but not all of it fit organically into that book. That first book is still Japanese only. An English version is in the works, but this one is a fraction of the length, so it got translated first.

So the leftovers got a booklet of their own, and when I counted, 66 schools had made it into these pages. Forty-seven are international schools, including four that haven't even opened yet, and 19 are Japanese schools where kids can study in English.

Picking the best school is tough because the answer changes from family to family and from kid to kid, but a founding year, an enrollment count, an IB average or a tuition bill looks the same no matter who's reading it, and those are the kinds of numbers you'll find here.

Full disclosure: I've been teaching at an international school in Taiwan since August 2026, and someday I might want a job at one of the schools in this booklet, so I won't be crowning a single "best school."

Numbers only get you so far, though. What happens to these kids after they graduate is the question I keep coming back to, so much so that I started the Tokyo Alumni Podcast to interview international school alumni, most of them from ASIJ; it's past ninety conversations now. Some of what they've taught me ends up in the short box at the end of each chapter, "A Word from Nick," where I talk as a working international school teacher about the things that don't show up in the numbers. Feel free to start on whatever page you like.

Nickolas Hironao Harris

Still at square one?

My first book: うちの子、インターでいいのか？

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0H6FFJBYS>

Why I Made This Booklet

In high school I used to flip through *The Princeton Review's* college guide, packed with stats on every school and ranking lists for everything from the most beautiful campus to the best dorms and campus food. I wasn't applying to most of those colleges, but I read it anyway because it was fun. Then there were the big rankings like U.S. News.

Japan has its own version in the *hensachi* (偏差値) tables that cram schools publish for every school, but international schools have nothing like either. Yearly costs run from about ¥1.2M (US\$7,600) to about ¥11.5M (\$72,800), and for a lot of families that's the biggest thing they'll ever pay for after the house, yet there are almost no numbers out there to compare schools with. Every brochure is gorgeous and every one says it cares about each child, which is nice, but you can't pick a school off that.

So this booklet is my version of those guides, and I hope even a casual reader flipping through finds it as interesting as I found them. It starts out about as "objective" as rankings get, with Chapters 1 to 8 ranking schools on things anyone can look up, like founding years, tuition, enrollment and IB scores. After that it gets more subjective, since Chapters 9 and 10 mix in my own judgment (the Chapter 10 tiers especially are my read of the data, not any official ranking), and from Chapter 11 on, the pages are just lists.

I was an international school kid from age 3 to 18 and graduated from the American School in Japan (ASIJ) in 2005. After college I switched sides and started teaching the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) in Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Bahrain, Honduras and Taiwan, so I've spent fifteen years in international schools as a student and more than fifteen as a teacher.

Almost every number here comes from the schools themselves, and deciding which ones matter and how to read them is where those thirty years on the inside come in. If you're still at the "wait, what even is an international school?" stage, start with my first book.

How to Read This Booklet

The tuition figures are for the 2026-27 school year, and the enrollment and nationality counts are whatever each school had published as of October 2026, with older figures marked by year. Schools that don't publish a number generally aren't ranked for it. Numbers change every year, so check each school's own website before you decide anything; I'll update this booklet every year. "\$" always means US dollars, at ¥158 = US\$1 (October 2026).

My first book (in Japanese)

うちの子、インターでいいのか？

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0H6FFJBYS>

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There's no need to read it in order, so feel free to flip to whatever you're curious about.

Key Terms

IB International Baccalaureate. PYP is the elementary program, MYP the middle school one, and the DP (Diploma Programme) covers the last two years of high school, scored out of 45.

AP Advanced Placement: American college-level courses with exams scored 1 to 5 (3 or higher usually earns credit).

Grade 12 The final year of school (ages 17 to 18). High school means grades 9 to 12.

IGCSE, A Levels The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and A Levels are British exams, usually taken between ages 16 and 18.

Waseda, Keio, Sophia, ICU Waseda, Keio, Sophia and International Christian University (ICU) are top private universities in Japan. The University of Tokyo is the top national one.

Oldest Schools

FOUNDED

1872

Saint Maur International School

Kanagawa / On Yokohama's Yamate hill for over 150 years. Small and Catholic

1902

The American School in Japan (ASIJ)

Tokyo / The flagship American-curriculum school

1904

Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama (DSTY)

Kanagawa / German curriculum. The only school in Japan offering the German International Abitur

1908

International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH)

Tokyo / Catholic girls' school with AP

1909

DSK International (DSKI)

Hyogo / Rokko Island, Kobe. German-rooted, ages 2 to 14, IB PYP

1913

Canadian Academy (CA)

Hyogo / Rokko Island, Kobe. IB from start to finish

1924

Yokohama International School (YIS)

Kanagawa / An IB school since the 1980s, PYP through DP

1946

St. Michael's International School

Hyogo / Nakayamate, Kobe. British-style elementary school founded right after the war

1949

Nishimachi International School

Tokyo / Moto-Azabu. Founded by Tané Matsukata. Japanese every day, K through grade 9

A Word from Nick

Saint Maur is over 150 years old, which makes it one of the oldest international schools anywhere, and even though it's tiny, anyone who went to an international school in Japan knows the name. Second on the list is ASIJ, at 124 years old. Back in 2002, when I was playing JV soccer there, the varsity jerseys had a "100th Anniversary" logo on them, and I remember staring at it and thinking how cool that was! Most pro sports teams in the world will have to wait years to put a 100th anniversary badge on their jerseys. In Japan, a business that survives 100 years earns the title *shinise* (老舗), an old, established house, and quite a few international schools here qualify. Some got their start in the old foreign settlements of Yokohama and Kobe, made it through earthquakes and a war, and are still teaching kids on the same ground. With all the buzz around new brand-name schools, I think this history deserves to be better known.

Newest Schools

FOUNDED

2025

NLCS Kobe

Hyogo / Japan school of North London Collegiate School. IB candidate (PYP and MYP)

2023

Rugby School Japan (RSJ)

Chiba / Japan school of Rugby School, which gave the sport its name. British curriculum

2023

Malvern College Tokyo (MCT)

Tokyo / Japan school of England's Malvern College. IB plus British style

2022

Harrow International School Appi Japan

Iwate / Japan school of Harrow, founded in 1572. Full boarding

2022

Hakuba International School

Nagano / Hakuba village. Boarding, built around the mountains

2018

Ascot International School

Hyogo / Kita Ward, Kobe. British curriculum (Cambridge)

2014

UWC ISAK Japan

Nagano / A member of UWC. Full boarding, ages 15 to 18

2011

Doshisha International School, Kyoto (DISK)

Kyoto / Part of the Doshisha group. IB DP. Closing in 2029

A Word from Nick

NLCS also has a school on Jeju Island in Korea, where I used to live. Its IB average was 37 in 2025, and in 2020 ten of its students got offers from Oxford or Cambridge, a record for a school in Korea. ISAK has a big name behind it too, since it's the Japan school of UWC (United World Colleges), a network of 18 schools that started in Wales in 1962 and now has campuses in Canada, Italy, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, the US, Tanzania and more. I've been curious about ISAK for a long time. The name is global, but getting in works nothing like other international schools. Most students are on need-based scholarships, admissions looks for curiosity, motivation and fit with the UWC mission on top of grades, and each class is put together deliberately so that no single country or background takes over. For the right kid, it's hard to beat. What's interesting about Harrow is that it's brand new in Japan but around 450 years old in the United Kingdom. The Japan campus still has to build its own track record, though, so judge the brand and the school separately.

Opening Soon

OPENS

2027

Akiya Hayama International School (AHIS)

Kanagawa / Shonan Kokusaimura, Yokosuka. Opening late August 2027 with age 3 to grade 3, growing to grade 10 (capacity about 470)

2027

Epsom College Tokyo

Tokyo / England's Epsom College with the Kanda Gaigo Group. Ages 3 to 11 (to Year 6), opening fall 2027 in Uchikanda near Kanda Station

2027

Gordonstoun Japan

Wakayama / The school British royals attended. Wakayama City, full boarding, opening with ages 11 to 15 and growing to 18 (planned capacity about 700)

2027

Aoba-Japan International School, Kanazawa

Ishikawa / A new Aoba campus in Kanazawa. Age 3 to grade 10, with an online DP for grades 11 and 12

2028

NLCS Kobe Senior School

Hyogo / NLCS Kobe (opened 2025) moves grade 6 and up to a new campus on Mt. Rokko in August 2028

2028

Brighton College Kansai Gaidai

Osaka / Hirakata, partnered with Kansai Gaidai University. Brighton College (founded 1845) opens a prep school (younger grades) in September 2028 and a senior school (A Levels) in 2029 or 2030

A Word from Nick

The one I'm most excited about is Akiya Hayama International School, mostly because of its head of school, Anna Novick. I truly respect her as a leader because she understands international schools from the inside out. She went to one as a student (Saint Maur), taught IB Biology at one (back at Saint Maur) and worked on its college guidance team, and she's a Harvard grad on top of that. A lot of school heads haven't spent much time teaching, so I have high hopes for a school she's building from scratch. The other one to keep an eye on is Gordonstoun, where Prince Philip and King Charles went to school. You might also notice that a surprising number of the schools on the way are British. I can't say for sure why, but my guess is the system, since IGCSEs and A Levels build up to fixed exams in a way that feels closer to Japanese entrance exams than the American approach does, and that may be easier for Japanese parents to relate to.

Biggest Schools

1	The American School in Japan (ASIJ) A huge campus in Chofu, Tokyo	~1,730 students
2	Lycée Français de Tokyo (LFI)	~1,600 students
3	British School in Tokyo (BST)	~1,400 students
4	St. Mary's (SMIS)	~980 students
5	Yokohama International (YIS)	~830 students
6	Aoba-Japan (AJIS)	~810 students
7	Seisen	~700 students
8	Canadian Academy (CA)	~690 students
9	K. International School Tokyo (KIST)	~670 students
10	Sacred Heart (ISSH)	~580 students
10	Okinawa Christian (OCSI), 2024-25	~580 students

Approximate totals, nursery or pre-K to grade 12 where offered, from each school's website or school profile as of October 2026. Numbers change from year to year. India International School in Japan (IISJ) and GIIS Tokyo don't publish totals, so they aren't ranked, and Laurus counts 1,400-plus only by including its preschools.

A Word from Nick

Big schools have an obvious upside, since more kids means bigger musical casts and deeper sports teams, and ASIJ's theater program is strong partly because it can pull from nearly 600 high schoolers. The flip side is competition, which I've seen up close in years of coaching soccer. One school I taught at in Saudi Arabia had 170 kids per grade, more than ASIJ. Eighty kids tried out for JV alone and only about 25 made it, so kids who would have been starters at most other international schools got cut, and that was hard to watch. Compare that with CAJ, where a lot of my friends went when I was growing up. Back then it was a small school with fewer than 30 graduates a class, and the bright side was that if you wanted to play on the soccer or basketball team, there was pretty much a spot for you. The bigger the school, the fewer chances each kid gets, whether it's a spot on the team, the lead in the musical or just room on the field.

Biggest Graduating Classes

GRADUATING CLASS

4

1	The American School in Japan (ASIJ) Class of 2027 (2026-27 school profile). 586 students in grades 9 to 12	145 students
2	Lycée Français de Tokyo (LFI), class of 2026	91 students
3	UWC ISAK, class of 2026	80 students
4	British School in Tokyo (BST), class of 2026	76 students
5	St. Mary's (SMIS), class of 2027	74 students
6	Yokohama International (YIS), class of 2027	72 students
7	Canadian Academy (CA), estimate	~64 students
8	Aoba-Japan (AJIS), class of 2025	53 students
8	Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ), estimate	~53 students
10	Seisen, class of 2026	48 students
11	Sacred Heart (ISSH), class of 2027	43 students
12	K. International (KIST), class of 2026	38 students
13	Harrow Appi, class of 2026	34 students
13	Saint Maur, class of 2026	34 students
13	Marist Brothers (MBIS), class of 2027	34 students
16	Nagoya International (NIS), class of 2026	32 students
17	Osaka International (OIS), class of 2027	28 students

Size of the graduating class (grade 12), from school profiles and announcements. CA and CAJ are estimated from enrollment in grades 9 to 12 (254 and 213). Saint Maur's is its grade 12 IB candidates in 2026, Lycée Français's its 2026 baccalauréat candidates.

A Word from Nick

Total enrollment and graduating class size are very different numbers, and ISAK shows why. With about 200 students it never makes the enrollment ranking, but since it only teaches the last three years, its graduating class is 80 strong. For college, this is the number to watch: a bigger class means more classmates at your kid's level, more courses and more college info. Smaller schools have an upside too, since teachers know every kid. The American School in Taichung, where I teach now, has fewer than 30 graduates a year, about the size of Osaka International's, and within three months I knew every high school student by name. At my last school, AISR in Riyadh, I couldn't name everyone in the class of 2026 by graduation.

Highest Tuition

1	Harrow International School Appi Japan	Full boarding, room and board included (2026-27). ¥10.55M to ¥11.46M depending on year group	¥11.46M	\$72,500
2	Rugby School Japan (RSJ), with boarding		¥9.53M	\$60,300
3	UWC ISAK, full boarding		¥6.73M	\$42,600
4	Hakuba International, with boarding		¥6.60M	\$41,800
5	The American School in Japan (ASIJ)		¥3.83M	\$24,200
6	Saint Maur		¥3.56M	\$22,500
7	Yokohama International (YIS)		¥3.44M	\$21,800
8	Tokyo International (TIS)		¥3.40M	\$21,500
9	Canadian Academy (CA)		¥3.37M	\$21,300
10	Nagoya International (NIS)		¥3.18M	\$20,100
11	British School in Tokyo (BST)		¥3.07M	\$19,400

2026-27 figures from each school, rounded. The top four are tuition plus room and board; from fifth place down, it's tuition only, for grade 12. Facility and entry fees aren't included anywhere (Rugby and UWC ISAK charge another ¥500,000 a year for facilities, Hakuba ¥530,000). Canadian Academy's optional dorm adds ¥3.5M a year. Nishimachi ends at grade 9 (¥3.13M), so it isn't ranked. Dollars at ¥158 = \$1 (October 2026).

A Word from Nick

At ASIJ, high school tuition is about ¥3.83M (\$24,200), but facility fees bring it to about ¥4.08M (\$25,800) a year, and with entry fees on top, year one runs about ¥5.95M (\$37,700). At Harrow Appi, on top of ¥10.55M (\$66,800) for tuition and boarding, you pay a ¥1M (\$6,300) enrollment fee, a ¥440,000 (\$2,800) deposit, a ¥50,000 (\$300) application fee, about ¥260,000 (\$1,600) for uniforms and ¥200,000 to ¥600,000 (\$1,300 to \$3,800) for school trips. Even leaving out the deposit, which can come back, year one costs about ¥12.1M to ¥12.5M (\$76,600 to \$79,100). At a lot of schools the required extras push the real number 10 to 20 percent above what you see here, and that's before the costs nobody puts in a brochure. In 2013 my brother Max flew to Las Vegas for a soccer tournament, and the trip alone was ¥250,000 (about \$2,500 at the time). Add ¥20,000 (\$200) for the uniform and another ¥20,000 to ¥30,000 (\$200 to \$300) in extras, and my parents were out about ¥300,000 (about \$3,000) for a single two-and-a-half-month season. When I was at ASIJ in the '90s and 2000s, it cost about ¥2M a year (\$12,700 at today's rate), and today it's about double.

Lowest Tuition

1	Okinawa Christian School International (OCSI) High school tuition (2026-27). Facilities, books and tech fees add about ¥190,000 a year	¥1.16M	\$7,300
2	India International (IISJ), Tokyo	¥1.20M	\$7,600
3	Tohoku International (Sendai)	¥1.40M	\$8,900
4	Tsukuba International	¥1.56M	\$9,900
5	Hokkaido International (HIS), Sapporo	¥1.65M	\$10,400
6	Doshisha Int'l, Kyoto (DISK), Sept. 2025	¥1.70M	\$10,800
7	Hiroshima International, private rate	¥1.75M	\$11,100
8	Deutsche Schule Tokyo Yokohama (DSTY)	¥1.84M	\$11,600
9	Columbia International (Saitama)	¥1.94M	\$12,300
10	Marist Brothers (MBIS), Kobe	¥2.12M	\$13,400

Tuition for each school's top grade, from official websites (2026-27, or the year shown). Doshisha (DISK) closes in 2029. Facility and entry fees not included. Hiroshima charges companies that pay tuition a higher rate. Lycée Français isn't ranked because its tuition depends on nationality. Next in line are Fukuoka International and Christian Academy in Japan at ¥2.29M. Osaka YMCA splits its fees into tuition and a development fee; together they come to about ¥2.31M (\$14,600). Dollars at ¥158 = \$1 (October 2026).

A Word from Nick

When people hear “international school,” a lot of them picture something like ¥3M (\$19,000) a year, but nine schools on this page charge less than ¥2M (\$12,700). Most are outside Tokyo, and two of them, the Indian and German schools, follow their home country's system. Tuition comes due every year, so small gaps add up fast. A ¥1.9M (\$12,000) school and a ¥2.9M (\$18,400) school are ¥1M (\$6,300) apart each year, which turns into ¥10M (\$63,300) over ten years, or ¥20M (\$126,600) with two kids. There's usually a reason a school is cheaper, like lower costs outside the big cities or support from a home country or a church, so check the accreditation (WASC, CIS), how many teachers there are and where graduates go. If you want the cheapest way to study in English, look at the Japanese schools in Chapter 13. The IB course at Tokyo Metropolitan Kokusai High School lists tuition of ¥118,800 (about \$750) a year, Tokyo currently waives even that for residents, and the course fees on top run ¥57,000 to ¥235,000 (\$400 to \$1,500) a year. It comes with a Japanese high school diploma, which makes it the best deal in this booklet.

One-Time Entry Fees

Money you pay once at enrollment and never get back, such as application fees, enrollment fees and building funds. Figures are for a first child entering grade 1 or above (2026-27 unless noted).

Highest

1	The American School in Japan (ASIJ)	¥1,875,000	\$11,900
2	Yokohama International (YIS)	¥1,530,000	\$9,700
3	St. Mary's (SMIS)	¥1,450,000	\$9,200
4	Tokyo International (TIS)	¥1,430,000	\$9,100
5	Horizon Japan (HJIS)	¥1,295,000	\$8,200
6	British School in Tokyo (BST)	¥1,220,000	\$7,700
7	Nishimachi International	¥1,155,000	\$7,300

Lowest (two schools tie for 7th, so eight are listed)

1	India International (IISJ)	¥20,000	\$130
2	GIIS Tokyo	¥40,000	\$250
3	Doshisha International, Kyoto (DISK)	¥270,000	\$1,700
4	Tsukuba International	¥320,000	\$2,000
4	UWC ISAK, 2025-26	¥320,000	\$2,000
6	Hakuba International	¥325,000	\$2,100
7	Hokkaido International (HIS)	¥330,000	\$2,100
7	Osaka YMCA International (OYIS)	¥330,000	\$2,100

From official fee schedules (Doshisha's has no year; it closes in 2029). A few schools add smaller one-time costs for some students, such as a laptop at St. Mary's. Rugby (¥1,040,000) and Malvern (¥1,064,000) just miss the list.

A Word from Nick

Entry fees never show up in a tuition ranking. ASIJ's ¥1,875,000 (\$11,900) is more than a full year of tuition at India International, and you pay it per child. Some schools offer a sibling discount for a second or third child, but it usually only covers tuition. Nishimachi ends at grade 9, so moving on to another international school for high school means paying entry fees all over again. Entry fees can also jump with a new campus: Tokyo International School's went from ¥1,230,000 to ¥1,430,000 (\$7,800 to \$9,100) when it moved to Takanawa Gateway in August 2026.

Highest IB Averages

1	K. International School Tokyo (KIST)	Class of 2026 average (maximum 45 points). 31 of the 38 graduates took the full IB Diploma. World average: 30.88 (May 2026)	42.7 pts
2	Yokohama International (YIS), 2026		36.0 pts
3	Saint Maur, 2026	28 of 34 sat the DP	35.3 pts
4	St. Mary's (SMIS), 2026		35.0 pts
4	Tohoku International (Sendai), 2026		35.0 pts
6	UWC ISAK, 2024		34.5 pts
7	Osaka International (OIS), 2026	23 of 27 sat the DP	34.0 pts
8	GIIS Tokyo, 2026		33.5 pts
9	Seisen, 2026	35 of 48 sat the DP	33.0 pts
9	Aoba-Japan (AJIS), 2023		33.0 pts
9	Nagoya International (NIS), 2026	25 of 32 sat the DP	33.0 pts
12	Canadian Academy (CA), 2026		32.6 pts
13	Horizon Japan (HJIS), 2025		32.5 pts
14	Osaka YMCA International (OYIS), 2025		31.4 pts

IB Diploma averages as published by each school for its latest year (GIIS Tokyo's comes from a group announcement; UWC ISAK's from its 2024-25 profile). AP schools such as ASIJ, Sacred Heart and CAJ can't be compared here (latest AP averages: ASIJ 4.0, Sacred Heart 4.1). Kaichi Nihonbashi's 34.4 is from November 2025. Small gray text shows how much of the class sat the full DP, where a school publishes both numbers. Marist Brothers (32 in 2026) isn't ranked because it averages diploma holders only.

A Word from Nick

KIST's 42.7 is up there with the best in the world, which is amazing when the world average is just under 31. KIST also skips the MYP: after the PYP, kids do KIST's own middle school program and the IGCSE, and only then the DP, an unusual path that still ends up on top in Japan. One school I rate highly is Yokohama International, where 62 students sat the exams in 2026 and averaged 36, one of the biggest DP groups on this list. The more kids who take the test, the more the average usually drops, so a high score from a big group means a lot more than one from a small, elite group. The Japanese schools in Chapter 13 are worth a look too, since some post very impressive IB scores, like Kaichi Nihonbashi's 34.4, and if your goal is a strong IB education at a much more reasonable price, they're a great option.

Most Nationalities

1	UWC ISAK (Karuizawa)	Students from 84 countries (2025-26), all boarding. Pretty much the whole world on one campus	~84 countries
2	Tokyo International (TIS)		~70 countries
2	British School in Tokyo (BST)		~70 countries
4	Lycée Français de Tokyo (LFI)		~60 countries
5	The American School in Japan (ASIJ)		~60 countries
6	Yokohama International (YIS)		~50 countries
7	Horizon Japan (HJIS)		~45 countries
8	Sacred Heart (ISSH)		~43 countries
8	St. Mary's (SMIS)		~43 countries
10	Canadian Academy (CA)		~42 countries
11	Aoba-Japan (AJIS)		~41 countries
12	Seisen		~40 countries
12	Fukuoka International		~40 countries
14	Nagoya International (NIS)		~38 countries
15	K. International (KIST)		~36 countries

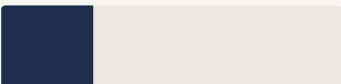
As published on school websites and profiles (October 2026). All counts are approximate. Lycée Français, Seisen, Fukuoka and Horizon publish "more than" figures. Where a profile and website differ, I used the profile: KIST 36 (website "over 50"), St. Mary's 43 ("about 60"), Aoba 41 (46). Just below the cut: Saint Maur, Nishimachi and Marist Brothers (about 35) and OIS (more than 35).

A Word from Nick

At the American International School of Riyadh (AISR), my history students worked with World War II primary sources, mostly English translations. I happened to have a French speaker and a German speaker in that class, so they read the originals and compared them with the translations, and the rest of us saw where the two versions differed. You can't plan a moment like that; it's what a wide mix of countries gives you. It isn't the only thing worth having, though. At ASIJ as a student and at AISR as a teacher, the part I hated was watching 15 to 20 percent of the kids leave every June, and you get far less of that with a more domestic student body. A school where most kids share a passport gives you friends who stay for years, a community that's easy to settle into, and for a Japanese family, often a softer landing. The number on this page tells you which kind of school you're looking at, not which one is better.

Biggest Campuses

Bar: Harrow Appi = 100%

1	Harrow International School Appi Japan about 1.9 Tokyo Domes. Appi Kogen, Iwate. Full boarding, surrounded by nature		22.2 acres
2	The American School in Japan (ASIJ) about 1.2 Tokyo Domes		14.3 acres
3	St. Mary's (SMIS) about 0.8 Tokyo Domes		9.0 acres
3	Canadian Academy (CA) about 0.8 Tokyo Domes		9.0 acres
5	Nagoya International (NIS) about 0.6 Tokyo Domes		7.5 acres
6	UWC ISAK about 0.5 Tokyo Domes		6.0 acres

Approximate areas from various sources. Harrow Appi: 90,000 m² per its opening announcement. ASIJ: 14.33 acres. UWC ISAK: 24,300 m² when it opened in 2014, plus 30 hectares of neighboring forest leased from 2019. St. Mary's and CA: 9 acres each. Nagoya International: 7.5 acres. In Japan, big spaces get measured in Tokyo Domes; one is about 47,000 m², or 11.6 acres (building footprint). Rugby isn't ranked because I couldn't confirm its site area, and Hakuba's "9-acre school forest" is hard to compare with a campus. Among Japanese schools, Ritsumeikan Uji covers about 135,000 m² (33 acres).

A Word from Nick

When it comes to campuses, bigger is pretty much better, because more space means more you can do, whether it's sports, theater or science labs. The catch is cost, since more land means more money, and that's also why the top two are both outside Tokyo's 23 wards, where land like that is next to impossible to find. Beyond that, how much it matters depends on whether your kid is into sports. I lived for sports in middle and high school, so that big ASIJ field meant a ton to me. At the other extreme is a top international school I know in Bangkok, a pricey one right in the middle of the city, kind of like a school in the heart of Shibuya. Everyone from kindergarten to grade 12 shares a single field, which is tough on kids who play sports.

Best Access in Tokyo

Central Tokyo (the 23 wards) only. I gave about equal weight to train lines, distance from the station, how livable the neighborhood is and how close it is to central Tokyo.

1	Nishimachi International Azabu-Juban Sta. about 8 min (Namboku and Oedo lines)	walk from station 8 min
2	Sacred Heart (ISSH) Hiroo Sta. 3 min (Hibiya line)	walk from station 3 min
3	Laurus International School of Science Mita Sta. 2 min, Tamachi Sta. 5 min (JR Yamanote and Keihin-Tohoku, Asakusa and Mita lines). Shiba campus	walk from station 2 min
4	British School in Tokyo (BST) Azabudai Hills (connected to Kamiyacho and Roppongi-itchome stations) for nursery to Year 6. Secondary in Sengenjaya	walk from station 2 min
5	Tokyo International (TIS) Sengakuji Sta. 6 min, Takanawa Gateway Sta. 9 min (moved August 2026)	walk from station 6 min
6	K. International School Tokyo (KIST) Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Sta. 30 seconds, says the school (Hanzomon and Oedo lines)	walk from station 1 min
7	New International School of Japan (NewIS) Zoshigaya Sta. 3 min, Ikebukuro Sta. 9 to 10 min (JR plus five lines)	walk from station 3 min
8	Shinagawa International (SIS) Aomono-Yokocho Sta. 3 min (grade 4 up), Shinagawa Seaside Sta. 5 min (grades 1 to 3)	walk from station 3 min
9	Canadian International School Tokyo Nakameguro Sta. 7 min (elementary). Kindergarten and secondary near Osaki Sta. (Kita-Shinagawa)	walk from station 7 min
10	Lycée Français de Tokyo (LFI) Shin-Itabashi Sta. 6 to 7 min (Mita line), Itabashi Sta. 9 to 10 min (JR Saikyo). Takinogawa, Kita Ward	walk from station 6 min

Tokyo International School moved from its old Mita campus (Minami-Azabu) to Takanawa Gateway City in August 2026.

Walking times are from school websites (KIST's 30 seconds is rounded up). BST doesn't publish a time, so its figure is a map estimate. Nishimachi lists "5 to 10 minutes"; I used the midpoint. Train lines are mine where a school doesn't list them.

A Word from Nick

Location matters. Being 5 minutes from school versus 50 minutes away is the difference between 10 minutes and 1 hour 40 minutes of commuting a day. That's 90 extra minutes, which can be really hard, especially on elementary school kids, not to mention expensive. With that said, some schools are also just in better locations or closer to the station. As for my old school, ASIJ, there's really nothing around it (sorry, ASIJ), because it traded location for space.

College Placement

I sorted schools into tiers by where graduates go, their IB, AP and A Level results, and class size, with stronger schools first in each tier. The tiers (S, then A to B) are my own, borrowed from video-game tier lists. "Matriculation" means where graduates enrolled; "acceptances" are offers, which look better since one student can get several.

A number after a university is how many students went there (for NIS, how many got offers); only ASIJ, CA, CAJ and NIS publish these now (YIS and BST did in earlier years). Abbreviations are spelled out on page 25, and schools that cap applications (ISSH at 10, CA at 12, YIS at 15; Seisen suggests 10) have shorter lists. French, German and brand-new schools are left out; Japanese schools are in Chapter 13.



S tier

140-plus students a grade, with acceptances at the most selective universities nearly every year

● The American School in Japan (ASIJ)

145 in the class of 2027 (586 in grades 9 to 12). 378 students took 999 AP exams in 2026; the latest average is 4.0, with 94% scoring 3 or higher. Matriculation 2024-26: UBC 16, Toronto 15, UCLA 14, UC Berkeley 8, USC 8, Harvard 6, Waseda 6, Chicago 5, Cornell 5, Brown 5, Duke 5, Sophia 5, Yale 3, University of Tokyo 3, Princeton 2, Columbia 2, Stanford 2, ICU 2, UCL 2, Dartmouth, Penn (students at all eight Ivy League schools), MIT, Oxford, LSE, Imperial



A tier

Top students reach the world's best universities, and mid-class students get into selective ones

● K. International School Tokyo (KIST)

33 to 39 per grade, 82 to 97% taking the DP. IB averages: 42.1 (2022), 41.1 (2023), 41.5 (2024), 42.0 (2025), 42.7 (2026), with a 100% pass rate five years running. In 2026, seven students (23% of candidates) scored a perfect 45, and 94% scored 40 or more. Matriculation 2024-26: Stanford, Brown, Chicago, Carnegie Mellon, Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial, LSE, UCL, Toronto, University of Tokyo, Keio, Waseda. Acceptances since 2020 also include Princeton, Cornell and Dartmouth

● UWC ISAK

70 to 90 graduates a year lately (80 in 2026); about 75% are on scholarships. IB average 34.5 in 2024 (89 candidates, 96.5% pass), 33 to 36 in 2022-23. Matriculation 2022-24: Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Brown, Chicago, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Swarthmore, Pomona, Toronto, McGill, UCL, KCL, NUS, Peking, Keio, Waseda, ICU. Alumni have also gone to Yale, Penn, Oxford and the University of Tokyo. The Davis UWC Scholars Program helps pay for top US colleges

● St. Mary's International School (SMIS)

74 in the class of 2027, about 93% taking the full DP. IB averages: 37 (2022), 35 (2024), 34 (2025), 35 (2026). SAT middle 50%: 1270 to 1460 (class of 2027). Matriculation 2022-26: Dartmouth, Penn, Brown, Chicago, Northwestern, Rice, Carnegie Mellon, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL, KCL, Edinburgh, Toronto, McGill, UBC, University of Tokyo, Keio, Waseda, Sophia, ICU

● The British School in Tokyo (BST)

76 in the class of 2026 (1,400-plus students overall). A Level A* to A: 59% in 2025, 51% in 2026. IGCSE 9 to 7: 68%, then 72%. Matriculation (class of 2026): Cambridge, Imperial, LSE, UCL, Durham, Warwick, St Andrews, Princeton, Yale, Chicago, NYU, McGill, Toronto, UBC, Waseda. Class of 2025: 10 to UCL and 3 to Imperial, plus Cambridge, LSE and Williams. The IB DP started in 2025, with first results in 2027

College Placement (cont.)



A- tier

Reliably reach selective universities; top-school acceptances vary by year

● Saint Maur International School

30 to 36 per grade (23 to 29 full DP candidates). IB averages: 38.5 (2022), 33.1 (2023), 35.3 (2024), 34.2 (2025), 35.3 (2026), 96 to 100% pass. In 2026, 14% scored 40 or more and 32% earned the bilingual diploma. Matriculation (selected, no years given): Cambridge, KCL, Edinburgh, Penn, Johns Hopkins, UC Berkeley, McGill, Toronto, Keio, Waseda, ICU, NUS, Karolinska

● International School of the Sacred Heart (ISSH)

43 in the class of 2027 (girls' school). AP average 3.95 in 2023 (238 exams), 4.1 in 2026 (303 exams, 91% at 3 or higher). Acceptances 2024-26: Harvard, Yale, Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Penn, Duke, Northwestern, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Toronto, McGill, University of Tokyo, Keio, Waseda

● Yokohama International School (YIS)

72 in the class of 2027, 57 to 68 DP candidates a year. IB averages: 35 (2022), 35 (2023), 34 (2024), 32.4 (2025), 36 (2026), 95 to 100% pass. Matriculation 2021-24: Toronto 14, UBC 10, Waseda 7, University of Washington 5, ICU 5, Sophia 5, Cambridge 2, Penn 2, Cornell, Chicago, UC Berkeley, Imperial, UCL, University of Tokyo PEAK, Keio. 36% to the US and 14% to Asia (2021-24)

● Osaka International School (OIS)

27 to 28 per grade, 23 to 25 DP candidates. IB averages: 35 (2025), 34 (2026), with every candidate passing both years. In 2026, nearly a third earned the bilingual diploma. SAT average 1288 to 1330. Matriculation 2022-26: Princeton, Yale, USC, Michigan, Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, KCL, McGill, Toronto, UBC, Osaka, Kyushu, Okayama, Keio PEARL, Waseda, Seoul National

● Seisen International School

About 48 per grade (girls' school), 35 to 44 DP candidates. IB averages: 34 (2023), 34 (2024), 35 (2025), 33 (2026), 94 to 98% pass, with 4 to 8 students at 40 or more each year. Destinations of 2020-26 graduates: Brown, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Amherst, Pomona, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCL, KCL, Edinburgh, Toronto, McGill, University of Tokyo, Kyoto, Keio, Waseda, KAIST



B+ tier

Current results published; steady placement at major universities in North America and Japan

● Canadian Academy (CA)

About 64 per grade (254 in grades 9 to 12). DP candidates more than doubled, from 22 (2023) to 57 (2026), while the IB average went 35.1, 34.6, 33.8, 33.4, 32.6 (2022-26). Matriculation 2022-26: Toronto 11, UBC 9, McGill 5, HKU 5, ICU 5, Sophia 5, Waseda 5, Imperial 2, Stanford 1, Oxford 1

● Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ)

A Christian school. 82 students took 199 AP exams in 2026, and 89% of them scored 3 or higher. SAT middle 50%: 1110 to 1330 (class of 2027). Matriculation 2023-26: Waseda 19, ICU 9, Sophia 6, Keio 4, UBC 3, Michigan 3, Toronto 2, UCLA 2, Harvard, Cornell, Northwestern

● Nagoya International School (NIS)

32 in the class of 2026, 25 of them DP candidates. IB average 33 (2026). Acceptances (class of 2026): UCLA, UCL, KCL, Warwick, Toronto 3, UBC 2, McGill, University of Tokyo, Waseda 3, Sophia 3, Keio 2, ICU. Since 2016 also Stanford, Brown, Penn, Duke, Cambridge, Imperial and LSE

College Placement (cont.)



B tier

Solid university results, but little or old published data

● Doshisha International School, Kyoto (DISK)

IB average 34 (diploma holders); 83% earn the bilingual diploma. Offers and destinations (Feb. 2025): UCL, Toronto, Melbourne, ANU, Northeastern, Osaka, Waseda, Sophia. Closing in 2029; no new grade 11 or 12 students

● Aoba-Japan International School (AJIS)

53 in the class of 2025 (35 in the IB; the rest take its own Global Leadership Diploma). IB average 33 (2023). Acceptances (the running list in its profile, not one year): Chicago, Carnegie Mellon, UC Berkeley, Michigan, Imperial, UCL, KCL, Edinburgh, Toronto, UBC, McGill, University of Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Waseda, Keio, Sophia, ICU

● Marist Brothers International School (MBIS)

A small Kobe school (34 in the class of 2027). IB average 32 in 2026 (diploma holders only). Acceptances (cumulative, undated): Cornell, Rice, Northwestern, UC Berkeley, Michigan, KCL, UCL, Toronto, UBC, Waseda, Keio, Sophia, ICU. Thin data, but impressive names for its size



First graduates just coming out (not tiered)

● Rugby School Japan (RSJ)

First 10 graduates in 2025 (offers from UCL, KCL, McGill, Edinburgh and Waseda). Class of 2026 (size not published): A Level A* to A 68%, A* 28%. Destinations include Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL and Sophia; all got their first choice, the school says

● Harrow International School Appi Japan

First graduating class of 34 in 2026 (12 nationalities). 146 offers from 81 universities, 64 of them from QS top-100 universities, including UCL, KCL, Edinburgh, Toronto, UBC, Carnegie Mellon, Tsinghua, Waseda, Keio and Sophia. No matriculation data yet

A Word from Nick

This is a small slice of Japan's 100-plus international schools, the ones I rate highest, so just making this list is very impressive. ASIJ, my old school, sits alone in S because with 140-plus kids a grade, acceptances at the most selective universities roll in almost every year. A and A- schools look alike at the top; the gap is where the fifteenth kid in the class lands. The tiers aren't set in stone, but after crunching every school profile, the order almost matched my gut as a teacher and former student. Where your kid ranks in the school matters a lot too. The valedictorian at Saint Maur will almost certainly end up at a better university than a student in the middle of the pack at St. Mary's, so it's dangerous to think, "My kid goes to such-and-such school, so they'll get into a good university." Tokyo International School, a preschool in 1994, only recently added a high school; its first class graduates in 2027. I can't wait to see which new school catches the old guard first.

British Schools

Big-name UK schools setting up shop in Japan, then the British-curriculum schools already here.

UK brand-name schools (open now)

- **Harrow International School Appi Japan**
Iwate, opened 2022 / Parent school founded 1572
- **Rugby School Japan (RSJ)**
Chiba, opened 2023 / Parent school founded 1567, the birthplace of rugby
- **Malvern College Tokyo (MCT)**
Tokyo, opened 2023 / Parent school founded 1865. IB plus British style
- **NLCS Kobe**
Hyogo, opened 2025 / Sister school of North London Collegiate (1850), a top UK girls' school; Kobe is coed

UK brand-name schools (coming)

- **Epsom College Tokyo**
Tokyo, 2027 / With the Kanda Gaigo Group. Ages 3 to 11
- **Gordonstoun Japan**
Wakayama, 2027 / Where British royals studied (founded 1934). Full boarding, ages 11 to 18
- **Brighton College Kansai Gaidai**
Hirakata, Osaka, Sept. 2028 / With Kansai Gaidai University. A Levels from 2029 or 2030

British schools already here

- **The British School in Tokyo (BST)**
Tokyo, founded 1989 / Moving to the IB DP from 2025 (last A Levels in 2026)
- **St. Michael's International School**
Kobe, founded 1946 / British-style elementary school
- **Ascot International School**
Kita Ward, Kobe, opened 2018 / British curriculum (Cambridge)

A Word from Nick

UK school brands keep arriving in Japan, but the Japan campus usually isn't run by the original school. A separate company licenses the name and the teaching approach. Most of these schools already had campuses in other countries: Harrow has more than ten, Rugby has one in Thailand, Malvern in Hong Kong, NLCS on Jeju in Korea, and Epsom in Malaysia. Gordonstoun is the exception: Japan is its first school outside Scotland. How involved the original school is varies a lot, so ask at the open house. BST has been here since 1989; a newcomer still has to prove it will last, and that takes a few graduating classes.

Boarding Schools

Schools where students can live on campus, split into full-boarding schools and schools where boarding is optional.

Full boarding (everyone lives on campus)

- **Harrow International School Appi Japan**
Appi Kogen, Iwate / Opened 2022, full boarding. About 350 students
- **UWC ISAK Japan**
Karuizawa, Nagano / About 200 students, ages 15 to 18
- **Gordonstoun Japan**
Wakayama / Opening September 2027. Full boarding, ages 11 to 18 at full size

Boarding available

- **Rugby School Japan (RSJ)**
Chiba / Day, weekly or full boarding
- **Hakuba International School**
Hakuba, Nagano / About 70 students, boarding. First graduates in 2027
- **Canadian Academy (CA)**
Kobe / Rokko Island, with a dorm
- **Hokkaido International School (HIS)**
Sapporo / Dormitory for grades 9 to 12, plus a Niseko campus
- **Linden Hall School**
Chikushino, Fukuoka / Japanese secondary school (ages 12 to 18) with student dorms
- **Gyosei International School**
Chiba / A long-established Japanese school with dormitories
- **Ritsumeikan Uji Junior and Senior High School**
Uji, Kyoto / New on-campus dorm (RUD) for high schoolers since 2026. A Japanese school with the IB DP
- **NLCS Kobe**
Hyogo / Day and boarding planned at the Mt. Rokko campus (grade 6 and up) from August 2028

A Word from Nick

Boarding is still rare among Japan's international schools. In a dorm, kids have to handle everything on their own, from laundry to roommate drama, and from what I've seen at boarding schools abroad, boarders grow up fast. With the yen as weak as it is, boarding here has also gotten a lot cheaper for families earning in other currencies, so I wouldn't be surprised if more families from nearby Asia start sending their kids to Japan for school. Still, sending a young kid away from home is a big call for any family.

Japanese Schools in English

They teach in English but are legally Japanese schools (*ichijōkō*, 一条校), so students earn a regular Japanese diploma. Yearly costs are approximate (2025-27; entry and boarding fees extra). About 50 Japanese schools offer the IB Diploma, most of them partly in Japanese; the full list is at ibconsortium.mext.go.jp.

Private schools teaching core subjects in English (no IB)

- **Hiroo Gakuen, International Course AG**
Minami-Azabu, Koishikawa / Since 2007. Nearly all English; AP from grade 11. ¥890,000 (\$5,600)
- **Mita Kokusai Science Gakuen, International Class**
Setagaya / Core subjects in English. AP or an Australian dual diploma. ¥930,000 (\$5,900)
- **Salesian International (Akabane and Setagaya)**
Kita and Setagaya / Advanced Class does math, science and social studies in English; Setagaya renames it VISTA in 2027. About ¥760,000 to ¥900,000 (\$4,800 to \$5,700)
- **Shizuoka Seiko Gakuin, International Course (Advanced Class)**
Shizuoka, boys / From 2027. Mostly English; a Cambridge International School. ¥1.04M (\$6,600)
- **Showa Women's Univ. Showa Elementary, International Course**
Setagaya / Since 2024. 60% English; a Cambridge International School. ¥1.67M (\$10,600)
- **Kichijoji Gakuen International School**
Musashino / Grade 1 opens 2027, secondary later. 70% in English. ¥1.8M (\$11,400)

Japanese schools with the IB Diploma

- **Tokyo Gakugei University International Secondary School**
Nerima, national / Since 2007. MYP and DP, in English and Japanese. National-school tuition
- **Tokyo Metropolitan Kokusai High School, IB Course**
Meguro, public / English DP since 2015, 25 a year. ¥118,800 (\$750), waived by Tokyo's government
- **Kaichi Nihonbashi Gakuen**
Chuo / MYP, DP. About ¥1.07M (\$6,800) for DP students (2025). IB average 34.4 (sixth cohort)
- **Tamagawa Academy, IB Class**
Machida / MYP since 2009, DP since 2010. Mostly English. About ¥1.79M (\$11,300, 2026)

Japanese Schools (cont.)

Japanese schools with the IB Diploma (cont.)

● Gunma Kokusai Academy (GKA)

Ota, Gunma / Since 2005, grades 1 to 12. 70% of subjects in English; all students do the MYP and DP. About ¥1.07M (\$6,800), plus ¥480,000 (\$3,000) a year for the IB in grades 10 to 12

● Katoh Gakuen Gyoshu, Bilingual Course

Numazu, Shizuoka / IB since 2000, the first Japanese secondary school with it. About 75% in English in high school. About ¥970,000 (\$6,100)

● Seirei Christopher, Global School Course

Hamamatsu, Shizuoka / Since 2022. Subjects other than Japanese in English. PYP 2024, DP 2025 (first DP classes 2026). High school fees not yet posted; grades 7 to 9 are ¥924,000 (\$5,800, 2027)

● Nagoya Kokusai, IB Class

Nagoya / DP since 2014, the first at a Japanese school in the Tōkai region; MYP since 2024. One IB class of about 25; the DP is in English except Japanese. About ¥873,000 (\$5,500) for the first year of high school (2027)

● Osaka Kokusai, IB Course

Moriguchi, Osaka / DP since 2022. About half in English in grade 10, then nearly everything; classes of up to 15. Regular tuition plus ¥450,000 (\$2,800) a year for the IB

● AICJ, IB Course

Hiroshima / IB since 2009, the first Japanese school in western Japan with it. English immersion from grade 7; about 30 a year in the IB course. About ¥842,000 (\$5,300, 2027)

A Word from Nick

Japanese schools like these are where the growth is. Twenty years ago almost none taught math or science in English; now they're adding AP, Cambridge and the IB. For families settled here whose kids speak Japanese, I recommend them: most cost a third to a half of international school tuition, and the road to Japanese universities is much wider than at some international schools, where Japan-bound kids tend to land at the same two or three.

Before You Go

Thanks for sticking with me through all of these numbers.

Still, a 42 IB average doesn't make a school right for your kid, and neither does a one-minute walk from the station, so once the numbers have narrowed your list, go see the schools in person. Get a feel for each place, and watch your kid's face while they take it all in.

International schools call this "best fit," which means looking for the school that fits your child best rather than the best school, and if even one number in this booklet helps you find it, I'll be a happy guy.

My first book, written in Japanese for Japanese parents, was about whether to send your kid to an international school in the first place. This second one is a booklet, and it looks at international schools through the numbers. Those numbers will be out of date by next fall, so I'll update this every year. If you spot something that has changed, or a school I should add, please let me know, since the best corrections come from parents and teachers who see these schools up close. As for book three, I haven't quite figured it out yet, but it's coming.

Until next time.

Nickolas Hironao Harris

My first book (in Japanese)

うちの子、インターでいいのか？

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/dp/B0H6FFJBYS>

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Abbreviations: ANU = Australian National University; SAT = US college admission test; HKU = University of Hong Kong; ICU = International Christian University; KAIST = Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology; KCL = King's College London; LSE = London School of Economics; MIT = Massachusetts Institute of Technology; NUS = National University of Singapore; NYU = New York University; Penn = University of Pennsylvania; UBC = University of British Columbia; UC Berkeley, UCLA = University of California, Berkeley and Los Angeles; UCL = University College London; USC = University of Southern California