Education Guide Singapore

2020-2021

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Introduction

As a nation whose only resource is its people, education in Singapore is taken very seriously. It's reassuring to know that the quality of schooling here is among the top in the world.

Finding the right school is a priority for many families when moving to Singapore. Parents looking for a high-quality education for their children have plenty of options. However, there is also a great deal of demand, as expatriates continue to relocate to this thriving and business-orientated island.

This means that demand for sought-after institutions have grown considerably, and competition for places is intense. Many schools have recently expanded their campuses to cater to this demand. There are over 30 international schools in Singapore, of which may offer an education pathway and curriculum that are similar to those in other countries.

Most expatriate children attend an international school that follows a similar curriculum to their home country. This is especially beneficial if your children have been educated in a language other than English.

When making decisions about which school is right for your child, it's useful to keep in mind the enrolment cut-off date, ability to adapt to the new environment, and the re-integration upon return to home country. Each school has its own admission criteria, so if possible, do place your child or children on a waiting list before you arrive to Singapore.

School options

International schools

All of the international schools in Singapore are fee-paying schools, and is an addition to the registration and application fee. Selecting the right school for your child is often an instinctive decision. However, visiting the schools, seeking advice from the Admissions Officer and speaking to other families about their experiences, can help you make an informed decision. If you are likely to be in Singapore for only a couple of years, the convenient option is to select a school that follows the same curriculum as your home country.

Many of the international schools have students from dozens of nationalities. It is an opportunity for the children to be exposed to a multi-cultured and a vibrant environment. Few international schools cater to the national curriculum.

English is usually the main language of teaching, except in national schools which follows the Mother Tongue as the medium of instruction.

Parents who consider international schooling for their children must start the application process early, as admissions in the popular schools usually have a waiting list, especially for lower grade classes.

The academic year in most international schools begin in August or September which include two to three semesters.

Documents required to facilitate your child's admission process:

- Birth certificate
- Passport copy
- Dependent Pass or Student Pass
- Letters of recommendation
- Child's academic track records, achievements and special mentions

Enrollment requirements

Submit the completed application form, with some or all of the following documents:

- Copies of the applicants' school reports for the current and previous year
- Report copies for each grade of high school completed (transcripts, if available, must be provided)
- One passport-sized photograph
- Photocopy of applicant's birth certificate or passport
- Credit card or a telegraphic transfer made payable to the school (application fees). The application fee is non-refundable/non-transferable.
- Once the application and documents have been received, parents/guardians will be contacted to arrange a date and time for an interview (if available). Admission interview/assessment are only administered at each school by trained staff.

Once the application and documents have been received, parents/guardians will be contacted to arrange a date and time for an interview. Admissions interviews/assessments are administered by trained staff, either at school or via online platforms if out stationed.

List of international schools in Singapore

Australian International School Singapore (AISS)
1 Lorong Chuan, Singapore 556818
Tel: +65 6883 5155
Fax: +65 6285 5255
Email: enquiries@ais.com.sg
Website: www.ais.com.sg

Brighton College Singapore
1 Chuan Lane, Singapore 554299
Tel: +65 6505 9790
Email: info@brightoncollege.sg
Website: www.brightoncollege.edu.sg

British Council Nursery School
30 Napier Road, Singapore 258509
Tel: +65 6653 2963
Fax: +65 6472 1010
Email: contact@britishcouncil.org.sg
Website: www.britishcouncil.org/singapore.htm

Canadian International School (Singapore) (CISS) 5 Toh
Tuck Road, Singapore 596679
Tel: +65 6467 1732
Fax: +65 6467 1729
Email: admissions@cis.edu.sg
Website: www.cis.edu.sg

Chatsworth International School
72 Bukit Tinggi Road, Singapore 289760
Tel: +65 6463 3201
Fax: +65 6463 3202
Email: information.bt@chatsworth.com.sg
Website: internation.chatsworth.com.sg

Chatsworth Preschool
3 Piccadilly Circus, Singapore 797641
Tel: +65 6481 5585
Email: information.piccadilly@chatsworth.com.sg
Website: preschool.chatsworth.com.sg

Dover Court Preparatory School
301 Dover Court Dover Road, Singapore 139644
Tel: +65 6775 7664
Fax: +65 6777 4165
Email: admissions@dovercourt.edu.sg
Website: www.dovercourt.edu.sg

DPS International School Singapore
36 Aroozoo Avenue, Singapore 539842
Tel: +65 6285 6300
Fax: +65 6294 8195
Email: admissions@dps.edu.sg
Website: www.dps.edu.sg

Dulwich College (Singapore)
71 Bukit Batok, West Avenue 8
Tel: +65 6338 4771
Email: admissions@dulwich.singapore.sg
Website: www.dulwich-singapore.sg

EtonHouse International School, Singapore
51 Broadrick Road, Singapore 439501
Tel: +65 6346 3333
Email: enquiry@etonhouse.co.id
Website: www.etonhouse.com.sg

French School of Singapore (LFS)
3000 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3, Singapore 569928
Tel: +65 6488 1160
Fax: +65 6487 2821
Email: administration@lfs.edu.sg
Website: www.lfs.edu.sg

GEMS World Academy (Singapore)
2 Yishun Street 42, Singapore 768039
Tel: +65 6808 7300
Email: admissions@gwa.edu.sg
Website: www.gwa.edu.sg

German European School Singapore (GESS)
2 Dairy Farm Ln, Singapore 677621
Tel: +65 6461 0881
Email: info@gess.sg
Website: www.gess.sg/en

Global Indian International School Singapore (GIIS)

- **East Coast Campus**
  82 Cheviot Hill, Singapore 459663
  Tel: +65 6442 6670
  Fax: +65 6442 1136
  Email: admissions@sg.globalindianschool.org
  Website: singapore.globalindianschool.org
- **GIIS Smart Campus**
  27 Punggol Field Walk, Singapore 828649
  Tel: +65 6914 7100
  Email: admissions@sg.globalindianschool.org
  Website: singapore.globalindianschool.org

Hollandse School
65 Bukit Tinggi Road, Singapore 289757
Tel: +65 6466 0662
Fax: +65 6467 7582
Email: adminhsl@hollandseschool.org
Website: www.hollandseschool.org

International Community School (Singapore)
27A Jubilee Road, Singapore 128575
Tel: +65 6776 7436
Fax: +65 6776 7435
Email: info@ics.edu.sg
Website: www.ics.edu.sg

International School Singapore (ISS)

- **K1 to Grade 8**
  25 Paterson Road, Singapore 238510
  Tel: +65 6475 4188
  Email: admissions@iss.edu.sg
  Website: www.iss.edu.sg
- **High School (Grade 9 to 12)**
  21 Preston Road, Singapore 109355
  Tel: +65 6475 4188
  Email: admissions@iss.edu.sg
  Website: www.iss.edu.sg

K12 International Academy Singapore
89 Kampong Bahru Road #02-01, Singapore 169382
Tel: +65 3158 1367
Email: asia@K12.com
Website: www.k12.com/singapore

Nexus International School Singapore
1 Aljunied Walk, Singapore 387293
Tel: +65 6536 6566
Fax: +65 6536 6866
Email: enquiry@nexus.edu.sg
Website: www.nexus.edu.sg

North London Collegiate School (Singapore)
130 Depot Road, Singapore 109708
Tel: +65 6955 1430
Email: enquiries@nlcssingapore.sg
Website: nlcssingapore.sg

NPS International
10 Chai Chee Lane, Singapore 469021
Tel: +65 6294 2400
Fax: +65 6448 2089
Email: register@npsinternational.com.sg
Website: www.npsinternational.com.sg

One World International School Singapore
21 Jurong West Street 81, Singapore 649075
Tel: +65 6914 6700
Email: office@owis.org
Website: www.owis.org

Overseas Family School (OFS)
81 Pasir Ris Heights, Singapore 519292
Tel: +65 6738 0211
Fax: +65 6733 8825
Email: enquiry@ofs.edu.sg
Website: www.ofs.edu.sg

Sekolah Indonesia
20A Siglap Road, Singapore 455859
Tel: +65 6448 0722
Fax: +65 6444 4831
Email: sis@kbrisingapura.com
Website: www.sis.kbrisingapura.com

Singapore American School (SAS)
40 Woodlands Street 41, Singapore 738547
Tel: +65 6363 3403
Fax: +65 6363 3408
Email: sasinfo@sas.edu.sg
Website: www.sas.edu.sg

Singapore Japanese School (SJS)

- **West Coast Campus**
  201 West Coast Road, Singapore 127383
  Tel: +65 6779 7355
  Fax: +65 6778 9710
  Email: otoiawase@sjscle.edu.sg
  Website: www.sjs.edu.sg
- **Clementi Campus**
  95 Clementi Road, Singapore 129782
  Tel: +65 6775 3366
  Fax: +65 6778 0801
  Email: otoiawase@sjscle.edu.sg
  Website: www.sjs.edu.sg
- **Changi Campus**
  11 Upper Changi North Road, Singapore 507657
  Tel: +65 6542 9600
  Fax: +65 6542 8801
  Email: otoiawase@sjscle.edu.sg
  Website: www.sjs.edu.sg

Singapore Korean School (SKS)
71 Bukit Tinggi Road, Singapore 289759
Tel: +65 6741 0778
Fax: +65 6467 1259
Email: administration@singkoschool.org
Website: www.singkoschool.org

Stamford American International School Pte Ltd
1 Woodleigh Lane (off Upper Serangoon Road),
Singapore 357684
Tel: +65 6602 7247
Fax: +65 6280 3250
Email: admissions@sais.edu.sg
Website: www.sais.edu.sg

Swiss School Singapore (SSS)
38 Swiss Club Road, Singapore 288140
Tel: +65 6468 2117
Fax: +65 6466 5342
Email: info@swiss-school.edu.sg
Website: www.swiss-school.edu.sg

Tanglin Trust School (TTS)
95 Portsdown Road, Singapore 139299
Tel: +65 6770 3188
Fax: +65 6777 5862
Email: admissions@tts.edu.sg
Website: www.tts.edu.sg

United World College of South East Asia

- **Dover Campus**
  1207 Dover Road, Singapore 139654
  Tel: +65 6775 5344
  Fax: +65 6778 5846
  Email: uwcseadover@uwcsea.edu.sg
  Website: www.uwcsea.edu.sg
- **East Campus**
  1 Tampines Street 73, Singapore 528704
  Tel: +65 6305 5344
  Fax: +65 6305 5345
  Email: uwcseaeast@uwcsea.edu.sg
  Website: www.uwcsea.edu.sg

Pre-schools and kindergartens

Kindergartens and pre-schools are located all over the island. It is easy to choose a place to live, and then look for a kindergarten or pre-school in the vicinity. If your needs are simply for your child to spend a few hours a day, meeting peers their own age, participating in play-based learning with a mix of local and expat children, it will be very easy to do so. Some options may reflect a particular country's curriculum, and some may reflect specific pre-school education approaches.

Many kindergartens require the child to wear a uniform, and offer lunch in the school. Children from the age of 18 months, right up to the age of six year old, are enrolled in kindergartens and pre-schools in Singapore.

There are several pre-schools in Singapore offering a wide range of early learning curricula, facilities and services. In almost all areas of Singapore, there is a variety of options to suit parents' needs: from flexible drop-off, pick-up times and calendar dates to full day child care centers with minimal holiday periods. Selecting a pre-school will depend on the proximity, cost, curriculum and learning environment best suited for your child.

List of pre-school and kindergartens

1. **Blue House Nursery – Reggio Emilia Inspired School**Child oriented/teacher framed, 18 months to five and a half years.
   Website: www.bluehouseinternational.com
2. **Eton House International Education Group**
   Registered under both MOE and MCYS, centers all over Singapore, solid reputation in language learning.
   Website: www.etonhouse.com.sg
3. **Little Oaks Montessori Kindergarten**
   Montessori approach, standalone house on Farrer Road.
   Website: www.littleoaks.com.sg
4. **Maple Bear Singapore**
   Focus on literacy and bilingual immersion.
   Website: www.maplebear.sg
5. **Mindchamps**
   Voted as best choice for pre-school.
   Website: www.mindchamps.org
6. **Odyssey**
   Website: www.theodyssey.sg
7. **Pat's School House**
   15 locations in Singapore, bilingual immersion program, flexible full and half-day programs.
   Website: www.patschoolhouse.com
8. **Rosemont International School**
   Website: www.ris.edu.sg
9. **Swallows and Amazons**
   Website: www.swallowsandamazons.com.sg
10. **White Lodge**
    Child–centered learning environment, 18 months to six and a half years, hands-on and community approach, bi-lingual environment, seven locations in Singapore.
    Website: www.whitelodge.com.sg

Local schools

English is the language of instruction in local schools. Most local institutions allow expat children to enrol, but availability is extremely limited. Popular schools have incredibly long waiting lists and preference is given to Citizens before Permanent Residents.

International students who wish to study in a Singapore public school need to apply for a Student's Pass, unless they hold a Dependent's Pass or an Immigration Exemption Order. The Ministry of Education (MOE) conducts an annual admissions exercise during September and October for new international students who wish to join public schools. Further information on this process is below.

Students at secondary level are placed in the Special, Express, Normal (Academic) or Normal (Technical) course, according to how they perform in the PSLE (Primary School Leaving Examinations). The different curricular emphases are designed to match their learning abilities and interests. In secondary school, students take the Cambridge General Certificate of Education "Ordinary" (GCE "O") level examinations.

The areas of literacy, numeracy and bilingualism are emphasized, along with physical and moral education, and creative and independent thinking. Each child is required to learn English. Information Technology is widely used as a teaching and learning resource, to develop communication skills and encourage independent learning. Government schools aim to instil a strong sense of responsibility towards family, community and country, and encourage students to form strong bonds among themselves.

Further details are available through the Ministry of Education (MOE). For full listings of local schools and locations, please go to www.moe.gov.sg

Guidelines on Admission Exercise for International Students (AEIS)

The procedure to get into Singapore local schools is very different from applying to international schools. International students with Dependent Pass or Immigration Exemption Order (IEO), can approach their schools of choice directly to apply for admission or take part in the Admissions Exercise for International Students (AEIS). The Ministry of Education conducts a centralized admissions exercise around September and October annually for new international students who wish to join mainstream public primary and secondary schools in January of the following year. Admissions Exercise for International Students (AEIS) – involves a centralized test on English and Mathematics, and applicants who pass the test will be offered a place in a suitable school. The exercise is for new international students seeking admission into Primary 2–5 and Secondary 1–3. The schools generally do not admit students directly into Primary 6 and Secondary 4 as it would not be in the students' interest to be admitted during these critical examination years.

Besides approaching the schools directly for admission or taking part in the AEIS, the international students should satisfy the age requirements for the levels they are seeking admission into. Admission is subject to availability of vacancies, provided there are no Singapore Citizen/ Singapore Permanent Resident children on the schools' waiting lists, and the international students meet the schools' admission criteria.

For information on school admission of foreign students, you may visit foreign student information website at www.moe.gov.sg/esp/foreign

Local schools that offer a foreign education system in Singapore, for your reference.

Anglo-Chinese School (International) Singapore (ACS International)
61 Jalan Hitam Manis, Singapore 278475
Tel: +65 6472 1477
Fax: +65 6472 0477
Email: admission@acsinternational.com.sg
Website: www.acsinternational.com.sg

Chinese International School Singapore (CNIS)
60 Dunearn Road, Singapore 309434
Tel: +65 6254 0200
Fax: +65 6252 5120
Email: admin@cnis.edu.sg
Website: www.cnis.edu.sg

Hwa Chong International School (HCIS)
663 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 269783
Tel: +65 6464 7077
Fax: +65 6464 7060
Email: admin@hcis.edu.sg
Website: www.hcis.edu.sg

SJI International (SJII)
490 Thomson Road, Singapore 298191 Tel: +65 6871 5204
Fax: +65 6354 3103
Email: info@sji-international.com.sg
Website: www.sji-international.com.sg

Special needs

Special education encompasses a range of specialized teaching programs in special education (SPED) schools which cater for children with autism, intellectual, sensory, physical or multiple disabilities. Depending on the degree of their disability, some of these children may still be able to cope with parts of the mainstream school curriculum with some support. Other children may benefit from special curricula taught by suitably qualified teachers. Some schools will allow special needs lessons to take place in school as an alternative to the usual compulsory second language lesson. Parents often choose to set up separate sessions for their children outside the school curriculum.

DAS Academy/DAS International Education
73 Bukit Timah Road, #05-01 Rex House,
Singapore 229832
Tel: +65 6336 2555
Email: info@dasacademy.edu.sg
Website: www.dasacademy.edu.sg

Genesis School for Special Education
9/11 West Coast Road,Singapore 127296
Tel: +65 6733 1172
Email: info@genesisschool.com.sg
Website: www.genesisschool.com.sg

Integrated International School Education
41 Sunset Way, #02-03/04 Clementi Arcade,
Singapore 597071
Tel: +65 6235 9602 and +65 6466 4475
Email: info@iis.com.sg
Website: www.iis.com.sg

Kits4Kids Special School
No. 107A Telok Kurau Road, Lorong L, Singapore 425542
Tel: +65 6345 8812
Email: divinity.esp@gmail.com
Website: www.k4specialschool.weebly.com

Melbourne Specialist International School
75C Loewen Road, Singapore 248853
Tel: +65 6634 8891
Email: principal@msis.edu.sg
Website: www.msis.edu.sg

St. Clare School for Special Education
102B Upper Aljunied Road, Singapore 367881
Tel: +65 62841909
Email: info@saintclare.com.sg
Website: www.saintclare.com.sg

St. Gerard's International School
231 Mountbatten Road, Block B, #01-01, Singapore 397999
Tel: +65 6333 9226
Email: enquiry@stgerards.com.sg
Website: www.stgerards.com.sg

School grades and year level equivalents

Academic Year 2020/21

Child age	U.S. system	U.K. system
3 – 4 years	Pre-kindergarten	Nursery
4 – 5 years	Kindergarten 1	Reception
5 – 6 years	Kindergarten 2	Year 1
6 – 7 years	Grade 1	Year 2
7 – 8 years	Grade 2	Year 3
8 – 9 years	Grade 3	Year 4
9 – 10 years	Grade 4	Year 5
10 – 11 years	Grade 5	Year 6
11 – 12 years	Grade 6	Year 7
12 – 13 years	Grade 7	Year 8
13 – 14 years	Grade 8	Year 9
14 – 15 years	Grade 9	Year 10
15 – 16 years	Grade 10	Year 11
16 – 17 years	Grade 11	Year 12
17 – 18 years	Grade 12	Year 13

Typical school holidays

A typical school term normally starts in the beginning of August or September and ends in June or July. The four main holidays throughout the year are as follows:

The exception is the Australian International School which follows the southern hemisphere custom. Australian International School year starts in January and ends in December.

Holiday	Month	Duration
Christmas	December and January	Two weeks
Lunar New Year	February	One week
Easter	March	Two weeks
Summer	June/July or August	Six weeks

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