

Choosing the Best-Fit International School in China

A 2025 Family Checklist

CURRICULUM FIT ASSESSMENT

International Baccalaureate (IB)			
Emphasizes critical thinking and inquiry-based learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offers PYP, MYP, and DP continuum programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suitable for flexible university options worldwide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child is exploratory and interdisciplinary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A-Level (British Curriculum)			
Focuses on subject-based academic depth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellent pathway to UK universities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suitable for students excelling in particular subjects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child prefers focused, specialized study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Placement (AP)			
Appeals to families targeting US admissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offers credit-bearing courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides flexibility in the US system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My child seeks US university preparation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bilingual Curricula			
Integrates Chinese national standards with international curricula	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintains strong cultural grounding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offers academic rigor with cultural balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Decision Questions

Does this curriculum match my child's learning style?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does it align with our long-term academic goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will it provide the university pathways we desire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



FACULTY AND TEACHING QUALITY

Teacher Qualifications

Teachers hold relevant degrees and teaching certifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faculty have international teaching experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Years of experience meet our standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Background checks completed and verified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Professional Development

Ongoing training in educational technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional development in AI integration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular skill enhancement programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current with modern pedagogical approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Retention and Stability

High teacher retention rates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consistent school culture maintained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low turnover in key positions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stable academic leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation Criteria

Can teachers balance academic rigor with emotional support?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do they demonstrate expertise in their subject areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are they trained in personalized learning approaches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



FACILITIES AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Technology Readiness

Smart boards in all classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AI-assisted learning platforms available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seamless digital homework integration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliable internet connectivity campus-wide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robotics laboratories available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coding and programming facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design and makerspaces accessible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern science laboratories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air purification systems installed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural light optimization in classrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green spaces and outdoor areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe and secure campus environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Physical Environment

Adequate classroom sizes for effective learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Modern library and research facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sports and recreation facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and music spaces available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADMISSION POLICIES AND SELECTIVITY

Application Process

Rolling vs. fixed admissions clearly understood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Application deadlines noted on family calendar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12-18 month advance planning accommodated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Required documents identified and prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entrance exams scheduled and prepared for	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interview processes understood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language proficiency requirements met	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Previous school records available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sibling priority policies reviewed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate/relocation packages available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transition support for local school students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waitlist procedures understood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application Strategy

Application calendar created and shared	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple school applications planned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backup options identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial planning aligned with acceptance timeline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TUITION AND VALUE ASSESSMENT

Cost Analysis

Annual tuition budget established (RMB 300,000+ in Tier-1 cities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional fees identified and budgeted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payment schedule accommodated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial aid options explored	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University acceptance rates evaluated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic results compared across schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support services included in cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-term ROI considered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University counseling services available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EAL (English as Additional Language) programs offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enrichment clubs and activities included	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation and meal services factored in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Investment Evaluation

Tuition reflects actual value provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic outcomes justify the investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support services enhance educational experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holistic development opportunities included	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

Student Body Diversity

National diversity in student population acceptable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural learning opportunities available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global perspectives integrated into curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Language diversity celebrated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parental involvement opportunities available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PTA and school event participation encouraged	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteering opportunities offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family-friendly school culture evident	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese language and culture programs available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integration appropriate for local families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural exchange opportunities provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Chinese traditions maintained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Support Systems

Relocation support for expatriate families	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing advice and assistance available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social network building opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural adaptation support provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STUDENT WELL-BEING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mental Health Support

Trained school counselors available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychologists on staff or accessible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crisis intervention protocols in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular mental health check-ins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peer-to-peer wellness initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student mentorship programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support groups for various needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anti-bullying policies enforced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structured approaches to reducing academic stress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Balance between achievement and well-being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mindfulness and wellness programs offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Healthy competition culture promoted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Transition Support

New student orientation programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buddy systems for new arrivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural transition assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic adjustment support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FINAL DECISION CHECKLIST

Before making your final decision, ensure you can answer "YES" to all these questions:

Does the curriculum align with my child's learning style and future goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are faculty experienced and supported by ongoing training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do facilities meet modern learning, health, and safety standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the admissions process manageable within our timeline and resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does tuition reflect real value and outcomes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the location convenient for our family situation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the community supportive and aligned with our family's culture and priorities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are wellness and holistic growth embedded in school life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will my child feel welcomed and valued?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the school support our child's university pathway goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the school stable and well-established?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there opportunities for my child to grow beyond academics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Online Platforms for Further Research

Nova-Ed for school comparisons and reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School websites and virtual tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent forums and community groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational consultants and advisors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next Steps

Schedule school visits for top 3-5 candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange student shadow days when possible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet with current parents and students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Submit applications according to timelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare for interviews and assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This checklist is designed to help families make informed decisions about international education in China. Remember that the best school is one that aligns with your child's unique needs, your family's values, and your long-term educational goals.

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Recommended Use: Print or save digitally for reference during your school selection process