



Western International School of Shanghai
上海西华外籍人员子女学校

5 STEPS For Finding A Best-Fit International School



The international school experience is an exciting and excellent opportunity for students to form new and diverse friendships, explore new challenges, and participate in various sports and co-curricular activities.

But for your child to have these experiences, you must first find the right school.

When applying to most international schools, the skills of prospective students are evaluated, and their experiences are considered. This process often includes student placement assessments and interviews with admissions and academic leadership.

However, applying doesn't need to be stressful. We suggest you take your time to find the best fit and consider your child's specific needs as part of the process.

At the Western International School of Shanghai, we understand that one of the biggest challenges parents face is choosing the best-fit school for their child. To assist parents with this important process, we share five expert steps and tips to help you get the most out of your search for that best-fit school.



UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD



MAKE A LIST



EVALUATE AND SHORTLIST SCHOOLS



VISIT SHORTLISTED SCHOOLS



PREPARING THE APPLICATION

Contact
INFORMATION



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1. KNOW YOUR CHILD



The first step in choosing the right school is determining what type of student your child is and what environment they are most likely to succeed in.

Before considering the features of any particular school, parents are encouraged to look at their child's needs, strengths and personality.

2. MAKE A LIST



Armed with a better understanding of your child, the next step is to evaluate your child's needs and your family's needs before researching prospective schools.

It is essential for parents to do their "homework". International Schools generally have quite comprehensive websites. I would suggest that parents start there. Through a web search, you can gain so much insight. From the way that schools present themselves, their curriculum, faculty, sports, news, student achievements, and co-curricular activities. This process will assist you in familiarizing yourself with the available international school options and give you an idea about which school may best fit your child's unique needs.

Some key factors that prospective parents consider include the interests and talents of their child, and what academic, cultural, and co-curricular activities are available to support these.

3. EVALUATE AND SHORTLIST SCHOOLS



Now it's time to look at specific schools to see what they have to offer. Many parents we have spoken to begin by visiting international school fairs. Some parents also look at published school guides and websites, which provide an overview of what's available at international schools.

Other forms of research often include speaking with fellow parents. It is important to note that what other parents say about a school should not necessarily be one of your deciding factors. Just because one child had a positive or negative experience does not mean your child will have the same experience.

We also encourage parents to think beyond school rankings when evaluating best-fit schools for their children. "Parents will often say, 'But that school didn't have a good rating,' and what we ask them is, 'What else do you know about the school? Have you visited the school? Are there elements of the school that fit needs of your child?' In isolation, these ratings are not particularly useful.



4. VISIT SHORTLISTED SCHOOLS



Now that you've done your research and homework, narrow your choices to no more than 3 – 5 schools.

When narrowing down the options to those best-fit international schools where your child can thrive, a visit to the school is a must. Joining an International School Open House event is a great way to get a feel for the school and the campus, experience the culture, explore the facilities and meet with faculty members.

Generally, a visit to the school can be arranged through the Admissions Department. An Admissions Advisor will take you on a custom campus tour and should guide and support you through every step of the school's admissions process.

TIP: Applying to too many schools can get stressful, and it can also get expensive. Most schools have application fees attached, so we suggest setting a budget for the application process.

It is also important to remember that many schools have application deadlines and waiting lists and accept applications more than a year in advance. However, some schools, like the Western International School of Shanghai offer a rolling admissions process, which means new students are accepted and enrolled at any time throughout the school year.

5. PREPARING THE APPLICATION



Armed with a better understanding of your child, the next step is to evaluate your child's needs and your family's needs before researching prospective schools.

Once you've identified the international schools you want to apply to, it's time to fill out applications. These days applications can be completed online, and as long as you have all supporting documentation, like teacher recommendations, report cards, and identification documents, for example, filling out applications is pretty straightforward.

Admission advisors recommend giving as much information as possible on the application, including any learning needs, advanced learning abilities, or any other details on areas and subjects your child shows a keen interest. Being open and transparent can help provide schools with the information they need to make sure they can meet your needs.





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寻找最适合的 国际学校的 5个步骤



就读国际学校的经历对学生来说是一个令人兴奋且十分宝贵的机会，他们可以与不同背景的同学建立友谊，迎接探索新的挑战，并参加各种体育和课外活动。

然而，要想让您的孩子拥有这些经历，您首先必须找到合适的学校。

在申请的时候，大多数的国际学校会对学生的技能进行评估，并考虑他们之前的经历。这个过程通常包括学生入学评估以及与招生团队和学术团队的面试。

然而，申请学校并不应该是有压力的。我们建议你花一些时间找到最合适的学校，并在这个过程中考虑您孩子的具体需求。

在上海西华外籍人员子女学校，我们了解家长面临的最大挑战之一是为他们的孩子选择最适合的学校。为了帮助家长完成这一重要过程，以下我们分享了五个专业的步骤和提示，来帮助您在寻找最适合的学校时获得最大的收益。



了解您的孩子



拟定一份清单



评估和筛选学校



参观筛选出来的学校



准备申请

Contact
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1. 了解您的孩子



选择一所合适的学校的第一步是去了解您的孩子是什么类型的学生，以及他们在什么样的环境下最有可能取得成功。

在考虑任何一所学校的特点之前，我们鼓励家长先看看自己孩子的需求、优势和个性。

2. 拟定一份清单



在对您的孩子有了更好的了解之后，下一步就是在研究潜在的学校之前评估您孩子的需求和您家庭的需求。

做好“功课”对家长来说至关重要。国际学校一般都有非常完善的网站。我建议家长可以从那里开始。通过网络搜索，你可以获得很多的信息，包括学校展示自己的方式、课程、师资、体育、新闻、学生成绩和课外活动。这个过程将帮助您更好地了解国际学校的选择以及哪所学校可能最能满足您孩子的个性需求。

父母需要考虑的一些关键因素包括他们孩子的兴趣和才能，学校有哪些学术、文化和课外活动可以有助于培养这些兴趣和才能。

3. 评估和筛选学校



现在是时候看看具体的学校了，看看它们能提供什么。我们接触过的许多家长会从参加国际学校博览会开始。一些家长会阅读出版的学校指南和浏览网站，这些网站通常可以提供国际学校的一些概况。

您也可以尝试与其他的家长交谈。值得注意的是，其他家长对学校的评价不应该成为影响您决定的因素之一。仅仅因为一个孩子有积极或消极的经历，并不意味着您的孩子也会有同样的经历。

我们鼓励家长在评估最适合学校的时候，不要只考虑学校的排名。家长经常会说，“但是那所学校的评价不太好”，我会问他们，“您对这所学校还有什么了解？您参观过那所学校吗？学校是否有一些东西能满足您孩子的需求？孤立地来看，这些评级并不特别有用。



4. 参观筛选出来的学校



现在您已经完成了研究和功课，将您的选择范围缩小到了不超过3—5所学校。

当把选择范围缩小到那些最适合您孩子成长的国际学校之后，参观学校是必须的。参加国际学校的开放日活动是了解学校和校园、体验文化、探索设施和与教学团队见面非常好的一个方式。

一般来说，可以通过招生部门安排参观学校。招生顾问会带您参观校园，并指导您完成招生过程的每一个步骤。

提示：申请太多的学校可能会带来压力，而且也可能很贵。大多数学校都有申请费，所以我们建议给申请过程设定一个预算。

同样重要的是，许多学校都有申请截止日期和等候名单，并提前一年多开始就接受申请。然而，有些学校如上海西华外籍人员子女学校采取的是滚动录取的模式，这意味着新学生在整个学年的任何时候都可以申请与入学。

5. 准备申请



一旦你确定了您想要申请的国际学校，就可以开始填写申请表了。现在的申请都可以在网上完成，只要您所有的资料 and 文件，如教师推荐信、报告卡和身份证明文件等，填写申请是相当容易的。

招生顾问建议家长在申请中提供尽可能多的信息，包括任何学习方面的需求、优秀的学习能力，或任何其他您的孩子表现出浓厚兴趣的领域和科目。公开透明可以帮助学校获取他们所需的信息，确保学校能够满足您的需求。

