

Top Boarding Schools in India (North-South Regional Focus)

India is rapidly emerging as the top destination for world-class education. Attracting international families from all over the world. Expat families seeking global-standard institutions can find numerous options in India. These boarding schools integrate students with independent decision-making, social development, and provide academic autonomy in a multicultural environment.

Some of the top **boarding colleges in India**, such as the Doon School, are located amidst the beautiful Himalayan foothills. A scenic environment, an international curriculum, and remarkable extracurricular activities make it a perfect fit for any expat family seeking a second home for their kids.

The learning system often combines modern and traditional education with Indian practices. It enables students to broaden their global knowledge while remaining connected to their heritage.

Traditional schools are known for integrating self-discipline and life skills that help make a self-reliant individual. International day schools are more focused on academic excellence. Have a look at the difference between traditional and day school.

Difference between Traditional and Day Schools

Family with international careers are either planning to relocate or seeking a home for their kids while they are away. It's a crucial decision to choose the right school. While both boarding and international schools offer similar curricula and learning environments, the choice comes down to the duration of stay, stability, and preference for a home-like environment, along with a focus on extracurricular activities.

Feature	Boarding School	Day school
Curriculum	International curriculum - Extensive academic programs with fewer children in class	International curriculum - Students may feel more pressure to focus on studies due to limited hours
Independence	Development of independence, decision-making power,	Students may be more dependent on their parents for day-to-day tasks and routine
Routine	A properly crafted routine for kids includes meals, play time, and study, in a 24/7 campus environment	Monday to Saturday arrangement
Home-like support system	Full support by staff, teachers, and counselors	Students rely on their families for help and support

Social life	Chance to forge long-term relationships under one roof	Friendship develops during school hours
Discipline	Well-disciplined environment at a 24/7 operating campus	Teachers are focused on routine learning during the set hours
Extracurricular activities	Strong emphasis on extracurricular activities to strengthen personality and physical health	Primary focus on academics along with extracurricular activities
Time management	Each activity is time-bounded for developing time management skills	Students are dependent on the set routine.

Significance of Boarding Schools for NRI families

Boarding school has been a part of the education system for a long time. It plays a crucial role in a child's personal growth. Students study, play, and stay together. Students solve problems and face daily life independently without immediate family support, which builds confidence, develops problem-solving skills, and fosters independence. The method of staying on campus for 24 hours is derived from the Gurukul system of learning. Among other benefits, personality development and independence are one of the major benefits of studying in **top boarding schools in India**.

- **Academics and character development:** International boarding schools offer a globally recognized curriculum like ICSE/ISC, and IGCSE/IBDP (Doon School, Mayo College in Ajmer, etc). Strong focus on character development and teaching Indian values to the students.
- **Stable home environment amidst mobility:** Parents moving to India or willing to stay out of India due to international careers can provide a stable home environment to kids at boarding schools. Students make friends, get support from teachers and mentors, regardless of parents' availability.
- **Builds confidence:** In boarding schools, students learn and grow together under one roof. They face and solve problems every day, which builds confidence and resilience. Students learn essential skills, such as time management, and develop leadership qualities. Day schools tend to focus more on academics due to their limited time. Students get parental guidance for day-to-day activities.
- **Time management:** Students follow the fixed routine. It helps them manage time effectively. Day schools emphasize studies during set school hours. Students take guidance from parents for homework and other activities.
- **Cultural and extracurricular:** The most crucial benefit of studying in a boarding school is the chance to reconnect with Indian values and daily participation in extracurricular activities. The Indian boarding schools provide a multicultural environment to all kids. Also, give importance to language, festivals, and sports, helping build a well-grounded personality.

- **Social development:** the boarding school becomes a second home to kids. They forge long-term relationships with other students coming from different parts of the world. They have a support system at the school to help them combat loneliness when parents are away.

Top-rated boarding schools in India

The Doon School, Uttarakhand (1935): Also known as 'Eton of India', Doon School is located at the scenic foothills of the Himalayas. It is a fully residential boys' school and is counted among the best boys' all-boarding schools in India. It offers an IGCSE curriculum for 10th-grade students. Students can choose the Indian school certificate or IB curriculum in the final two years.

- They have a vibrant extracurricular program: cricket, football, tennis, squash, hockey, swimming, and athletics. Music, fine arts, sculpture, and photography.
- Entry in 7th or 8th grade,
- Organize outdoor activities like trekking, camping, and Himalayan expeditions.
- Diverse student body
- Orientation programs for NRI students for an easy transition to school routines and Indian culture.
- Participation in festivals, interhouse competitions, and celebrations

Mayo College, Ajmer (1875): Located amidst the Aravali range of Rajasthan, Mayo College is an all-boys school with a princely reputation - HH Maharaja Singh of Alwar was the first student. Ranked among the top **10 boarding schools in India**. It has a beautiful Indo-Saracenic campus with high-tech facilities and a royal touch of Rajasthan. Makes it perfect for expat families. Offers CBSE and IGCSE curriculum and a strong emphasis on academic excellence, tradition, Indian values, and community service.

- Offers classes from grades 4th to 12th
- A range of activities like Polo, horse riding, tennis, golf, etc.
- Academics club for robotics, debate, astronomy, and mathematics body
- Vibrant outdoor programs like camping, nature conservation
- Culturally rich campus with beautiful Rajasthani heritage
- Highly diverse student body from different counties.
- Supported environment for NRI students

Welham Girls' School offers the CISCE curriculum with a strong focus on academics, following modern teaching and ITC-enabled learning. The school is also famous for its rich extracurricular activities, including dance, art, and vibrant sports. The basketball team has won many awards and represented Uttar Pradesh at the national level.

Students get an opportunity to participate in IAYP (International Award for Young People), a self-development program that encourages personality development through core areas.

- Grade 4th to 12th and follow ICSE for class X and ISC for class XII
- Admission process through online application
- Follow the flipped classrooms method, where students prepare content before class and discuss during class time.
- Hitech ICT-enabled learning equipped with audiovisual and WIFI.
- Participation in the Greater Education Programme. Invite speakers from all over the world.
- The school has a wide range of activities such as music, dance, craft, and sports. The sports include hockey, swimming, badminton, tennis, shooting, etc.
- Celebration of festivals.

Kodaikanal International School (KIS), Tamil Nadu (1901): one of the prestigious co-educational schools in India, has been ranked 3rd among the best residential schools in India in 2020-2021. KIS follows the IB program for nursery to 12th-grade classes. It is known for hands-on learning and cultivating global-mindedness through teaching. The school is located in the Palani Hills of the Western Ghats and is known for its beautiful natural surroundings.

- Co co-educational school follows the IB curriculum from nursery to 12th grade.
- The admission process includes an online application, an interview, and a final round of interviews after the placement test.
- Strong focus on arts, music, dramatics, and sports.
- KIS has a diverse student body from 25 countries, which makes it suitable for NRI families
- Believes in holistic development
- Outdoor teaching amidst the Pillani hills

The International School Bangalore (TISB): TISB was established in 2000. It is equipped with a 140-acre campus featuring hi-tech classrooms, sports facilities, and art spaces. The school has a strong reputation in both academics and community programs. They believe in the holistic development of students, offering a wide range of co-curricular activities. Their mission is to inspire students and achieve their full potential in life. Perfect for expat families seeking a globally recognized curriculum and a supportive environment.

- IB curriculum in primary classes, IGCSE for 9th and 10th grade
- Sports like football and swimming. The Art and Drama club organizes the Bman fest charity fest
- Separate dedicated dorms for boys and girls
- Admission is available from the 5th grade for the residential school through an online application.

- Caring boarding environment for students - pastoral care and encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities.

Final thoughts

Choosing the **boarding schools for 11th and 12th** in India is a crucial decision amidst relocation. Many factors need to be considered before you make the final decision. Here are some factors you must look into

1. **Curriculum:** A Global curriculum is a must while searching for a boarding school. If your relocation plan involves a return to India, then you must go for CBSE/ICSE/ISE programs.
2. **Pastoral care:** you might not know, but pastoral care is an important aspect of boarding schools. Check if the school has a good support system for NRI students. Pastoral care provides emotional, spiritual, and physical support to students. This is more important for students living far from their parents.
3. **Culture and diversity:** No need to say, cultural diversity has to be prioritized. Check if the school provides international communities, cultural sensitivity training, and support systems for expat children adapting to Indian culture.
4. **Contact alumni:** Traditional schools have a strong Alumni network. Contact them and ask more about the school culture and programs. It will help you make the right decision.

Immigrating to India - Guide for 2026

Are you looking for a secure and promising future? It's no surprise that you are planning to move to the fastest-growing economies in Asia. India is known for its beautiful seasons, diverse languages, and vibrant culture and customs. For many expat families, moving to India means the chance to build thriving careers, raise children closer to family, and reconnect with long-cherished traditions. In fact, many expat families have an enriching experience in the country.

According to ExpatInsider, 72% of expats are satisfied with their financial situation in India. And last year alone, around 2,790 Indians moved back from the US. Marking one of the largest homecoming waves in recent times.

Living in India

Expat families moving to India will discover a number of advantages to calling the country home. Beyond its vibrant culture and incredible diversity, one of the crucial benefits is the affordability. You can enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, get access to reliable domestic help, and buy spacious homes at a reasonable price. In addition, India offers excellent school options, many globally-recognized, making it easier for families to ensure a strong academic foundation for their children.

India is expanding and has become an impressive place for investing money as well. A lot of options for business people to invest in this diverse country. Here are the benefits the country offers:

- Lower cost of living compared to the US and the UK
- Family support
- Affordable healthcare
- Spacious homes at reasonable rates
- Career opportunities at top companies
- Top international institutions
- Impressive investment opportunities
- Good telecommunication and internet connectivity
- Affordable domestic help

Thriving cities of India

Choosing a city is the first step towards the immigration process. Make sure you check all aspects of immigration (cost of living, education for kids, employment, and legal requirements) before you decide to move to a specific city.

Cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, and Chennai are among the preferred destinations for

NRIs and foreign nationals. Good infrastructure, global educational institutions, diverse opportunities, and impressive investment opportunities are the major benefits of choosing to stay in the cities. For your information, NRIs returned in 2023 found the country to be a hub of opportunities. The reason for moving was the lucrative job market for expats and foreign nationals.

Read more in detail about further:

- **Mumbai, India's financial capital, is a hotspot for impressive opportunities.** Mumbai also boasts some of the top international schools in India. Not only do you get to expand your career, but your kids can also study and plan their future in the city. According to [The Economic Times](#), a notable 23% of NRIs prefer Mumbai for immigration in India. Making it a leading destination for location and investment opportunities.
- **Pune, Stable and Affordable:** Pune has a high potential investment landscape compared to other major cities. With excellent educational institutions, cleaner air compared to major metros, and a strong expat presence, Pune provides families with a balanced lifestyle with plenty of green spaces and cultural comfort.
- **Bangalore, India's Innovation & Tech Capital:** Pleasant weather year-round, cosmopolitan culture, international schools, and thriving tech-driven job market. There are a number of benefits to choosing Bangalore for relocation. Known as the Silicon Valley of India, it has a flourishing startup ecosystem backed by world-class talent. NRIs can explore investment opportunities in fields like IT, AI, fintech, or e-commerce. In addition, Bangalore hosts the best day and boarding schools. Makes it easier for parents seeking a globally standard education for their kids.

- **Chennai, India's Gateway for Industry, Culture & Global Trade:** Chennai offers a strong IT environment, often attracting expats. It is also included in the list of the safest cities in India for females. Beautiful centuries-old temples, good culture and nightlife, and less chaos than other cities in India. The city hosts excellent schools, and the cost of living is reasonable for foreign nationals and families.

Apply for an Indian Visa

Like any other visa process, you first need to submit the essential documents to apply for an immigration form in India. Foreign nationals need to first register for a residential permit, which is issued at the time of registration. Here is the list of mandatory documents for applying for an Indian visa.

- Original passport (Valid for at least 6 months)
- Valid address proof
- Proof of regular income: Bank statements,
- Letter of invitation
- Application form: a completed and signed visa application

Ensure that all documents are up to date and valid. Once you have all the documents mentioned above, the next step is to choose the visa according to your purpose of moving. You also need to submit special documents based on the selected visa type.

Types of Indian Visa suitable and supporting documents

- Entry Visa
- Employment Visa
- Student Visa
- Tourist visa
- Business Vis

General and specific documents for a Visa and extension

It is crucial to know that you need to submit both general and some specific documents based on the Visa type:

- **Employment visa:** Submit a copy of the employment contract, which must have details like job, salary, etc. The supporting documents for visa extension include original passport and visa, the registration with the Indian authorities, photographs, resident permit book, employment agreement, copies of the PAN card and the Income Tax, letter from the company specifying the extension of the employment For employment Visa: Submit the original passport and visa, the registration of the foreign national with the Indian autho and other specific documents.

- **Business visa:** If you are seeking a business visa, submit a signed letter from the company with which the visa holder is going to work in the country. Other specific documents for extension include original passport and visa, a completed extension registration form, photographs, a resident permit book, a letter from the company with which the foreign national will do business in India, signed by the representative, copies of invoices relevant to the business relationship, bank statement proving the financial means of the applicant, and other documents as needed.
- **Student visa: for studying in India, submit documents from the school or college as proof of admission and nationality. If you wish to extend, you need a letter from the university, photographs, a statement showing financial means for one year of stay in the country, proof of residence, and other documents.**

Requirements to obtain a permanent residency in India

To qualify for permanent residency in India, applicants must meet a few key requirements. They should have lived in India continuously for at least 12 months immediately before applying, and one should have completed a total of 11 years of residence in the country before that one year.

In addition, the applicant must be of good moral character and should have adequate knowledge of one of India's officially approved languages.

The validity of the residence permit depends on multiple factors, ranging from the type and duration of the long-term visa. The permit will be issued for a duration of 1 to 5 years. It depends on the intention of staying in the country. It could be employment, education, or a business endeavor. You must renew the permit before it expires, ideally 60 days before the expiry date.

Why the World Is Moving Back to India?

The Indian economy is growing rapidly. Career and investment opportunities are attracting expat families immigrating from the US. According to a report from the World Bank, India reported 7.2% growth in 2023, making it the world's fastest-growing economy. Other motivations for moving to India could be family support, caring for ageing parents, raising kids in India, community support, and a desire to contribute to India.

For many families, India isn't just a place to reconnect with their roots; it's where the future looks the brightest. If you are moving to India, book a pre-moving appointment with Globe Moving - a 50-year-old company offering relocation services. They will prepare a customised plan for you to help you in the journey.

