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**ADVANCE**



# **GIVE YOUR KID THE BEST START IN LIFE**

Guide to choosing schools

# Choosing the right school

Every parent wants the best for their children. And one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make as a parent is choosing the right school.

It's a huge decision. It has a big impact on the rest of their lives. So, it's important to think carefully through all your options well in advance!





# Starting out

Searching for the right school starts quite soon after your little one is born. Many schools offer co-ordinated educational programmes that run from kindergarten all the way through to graduation from secondary school. So, you'll probably be looking for your child's first nursery school from as early as 6 months with them starting out on their educational journey as early as a year old.

## Top tips



### Start early

Start looking at school options as early as you can. It's never too early to start looking.



### Take your time

Spend as much time as you need to assess all the options. It's an important decision.



### Ask around

Get as many opinions on each school as you can. They'll help you decide the best option.

**Need a little help?**

Join the **Cambodia Parent Network group** on Facebook to get insight from parents who already send their children to the schools you're considering.



# Look local

One of the biggest considerations in choosing a school is location. While it's tempting to select a school based on reputation and facilities alone, you also have to remember that you'll have to take the kids there, and collect them, every day. Remember to factor in things like accessibility and transport when you're choosing your children's school. This is such an important part of daily life that many parents all over the world buy homes in areas that are near good schools just to make sure that it's easy for them to get there and back every day.

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## Top tips



### Travel the route

Try travelling from your home to each school on your shortlist. Will it be practical to travel that route every day?



### Have a chat

Visit the schools around collection time and talk to parents about their experiences.



### Visit each school

Make appointments for formal visits to the schools and ask lots of questions.

## Need a little help?

Use **Cambodia Parent Network** on Facebook to find people who send their children to the school you're considering then ask them what they like and dislike about the school.



# Public schools or Private schools?

Like so many things in life, you get what you pay for. While Cambodia's public schools are improving rapidly and have been praised for their accessibility and commitment, many of the private and international schools have the facilities and expertise to offer a more individual educational experience.

While a good education comes at a cost, its value is priceless. So, it's important to research the schools in your area carefully.

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## Here are some things to consider:

### Look closely at their history and track record.

Is it a new school? Do they have a good reputation?  
Do their teachers have the right qualifications?

### Try to speak to people whose children go to the school at the moment.

What do they think? Are they happy?  
Do their children enjoy attending the school?

### Look at its sports facilities.

Do they encourage children to take part in sporting activities?

### What about music and the arts?

Are children encouraged to be creative?  
This can make a big difference to their whole education.

### Look at class sizes.

How many children are in each class?  
Are the teachers properly supported in the class?

**Consider not just the school's tuition fees** but also any registration costs, school lunches, uniform costs and fees for activities. Will the full cost match your budget?





# How to find the best schools in your area

You can find a lot of high-quality information about schools in your area through an online search.

Take a note of the schools in your area and then cross-reference them with websites like the [International Schools Database](#). It's a really useful resource and has lots of good information on international schools in Phnom Penh.

You'll also find lots of good information and links [here](#) and always remember to take a good look at each school's own website as you draw up your shortlist.

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## Top tips



### Write down your wish list

What features and benefits are important to you? Compare each school to your wish list.



### Make a shortlist

Use online research to make a shortlist then make appointments to visit the schools on your list.



### Read reviews

Check to see if there are any independent reviews of the schools you are considering.



## Visit in person

Before you enrol your child, make sure you visit the schools on your shortlist. This will give you a sense of what the school is really like. Often schools will host open days that allow prospective pupils and their families to tour the facilities.

Remember to look very carefully at what's on offer. Does it match what is described on their website? Do the children look happy? Are the teachers approachable and friendly?

### **Ask questions**

Make sure you have all the information you need to make the right choice for your child!

# School fees.

## Is there an alternative to paying up front?

For most families, school fees are an important (and often expensive) item on their annual budget. Parents all over Cambodia can find it difficult to raise the money required at the start of every school year so it's really important to work out HOW you're going to pay fees before you enrol your child. Here's how to budget for school fees:



Calculate the FULL cost including registration and tuition fees, lunches, uniforms, activities and any other costs.



Ask about discounts. Does your school offer a discount for paying all the fees up front? Are there any 'early bird' discounts available? Do they offer discounts for additional children?



Does your school offer a payment plan – or partner with a bank or other lending institution? This can help you take advantage of full-year discounts while paying the bank in more affordable monthly instalments.



Look at the rest of your family budget. Can you afford the fees?







# ADVANCE



# Learn more about **School Fee ADVANCE** from BRED Bank Cambodia

As well as partnering with some of Cambodia’s leading educational institutions, our School Fee ADVANCE loans help parents across the Kingdom to fund the best possible education for their children.

From kindergarten through to university, we’re able to provide the funds that people need so that they can pay fees up front while building repayments into their family’s monthly budget.

Our team is here to help. Whatever school you choose for your child – whether it’s one of our partners or another one of your choice, you can apply for a great-value School Fee ADVANCE loan and repay in affordable monthly instalments.

Find out more today, call freephone number 1800 20 1234  
or email [advance@bredcambodia.com.kh](mailto:advance@bredcambodia.com.kh)



# ADVANCE

## Our educational partners



### CamEd Business School

Phnom Penh-based, accredited institute offering higher education courses in accounting and finance.



### Footprints International School

International school providing a high quality education from nursery to Grade 12 at campuses in Toul Tom Pong and Toul Kork, Phnom Penh.



### Makson International Academy

World-class education provider for children aged 1 to 12 years with excellent facilities at 561, Street 1980, Phnom Penh.



### The Giving Tree International School

Excellent international school offering a full programme from early years through to the end of primary school with a campus at 17, Street 71, Beoung Keng Kang, Phnom Penh.



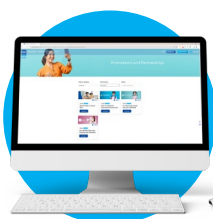
### Western International School

Established in 2003, this popular school caters to children from kindergarten to grade 12 and has 16 campuses around Phnom Penh and in Takhmao and Sihanoukville.



### Authentic Advanced Academy

Classes and camps for kids covering a wide range of extra-curricular topics from robotics to sports, science to dance based at Fun Mall, Third Floor, Street 315, Phnom Penh.



Check out our **ADVANCE** offers on [BRED Bank's website](#)



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