THINK GLOBAL SCHOOL

The world's first traveling high school

School Overview

THINK Global School (TGS) is a high school that offers students a transformative education focused on project-based learning and place-based education. With a 10% acceptance rate over the last five years and a deliberately small student body, TGS enrolls only the most exceptional students for Grades 11-12. Attendees hail from diverse backgrounds but are united by a collective curiosity, a commitment to learning through firsthand experiences, and a shared vision for a more equitable and compassionate world. Since its inception, THINK Global School has held terms in over 30 countries and graduated 226 students hailing from 70 countries.

School Origin

THINK Global School was founded in 2010 by Joann McPike, an intrepid traveler herself, to match the boundless curiosity of her son, Alex. Inspired by a vision of education that transcends traditional classroom boundaries, Joann set out to create a school where students would explore and evolve while traveling to and learning in multiple countries each year. Since its inception, this experiential approach has fostered awe, adaptability, and a deep understanding of diverse cultures in all TGS students, providing them with a perspective of the world unique among their peers.

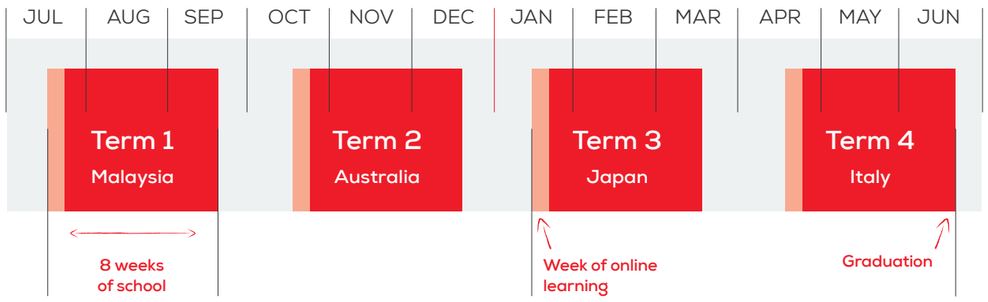
Mission & Vision Statements

Mission: THINK Global School reveals the innate potential of every learner through the intertwining journey of self-discovery and global exploration, challenging students to think critically, create boldly, and care for the world as actively as they move through it.

Vision: Connecting global learners to the power of our collective potential.

2026-27 School Calendar

Each academic year, TGS students travel to four countries where they live and learn through firsthand experiences and projects relevant to their surroundings for seven weeks. Before each term begins, students take part in one week of online learning to prepare for the experiences that lie ahead. It's a valuable way for students to understand in-country expectations and hit the ground running.



In between countries, students have five-week breaks to reconnect with family and friends, develop and implement their mastery capstone projects, and engage in service learning centered around their home communities.

Even with these breaks factored in, students at THINK Global School average 192 days of school per year, which is higher than the US average (180) and places TGS on par with many other countries.

School Demographics

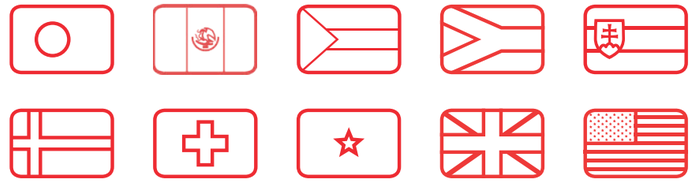
THINK Global School students come from across the world and many socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnicities, and systems of belief. The current student body hails from 21 countries, speaks a multitude of languages, and represents a diverse range of life experiences. Due to a 10% acceptance rate, attendees undergo a highly selective admissions process that includes student and parent interviews, a project-based learning challenge, teacher recommendations, and other forms of skills evaluation.

THINK Global School at a Glance

- Founding Date: 2010
- School Type: Private
- Curriculum: Project-Based Learning and Place-Based Education
- Campus: Traveling; No Fixed Traditional Campus
- 99% Graduation Rate
- 92% University Matriculation Rate

2026-27 Student Population

- 27 Students, 21 countries, 6 continents, 16 Languages
- School Ranking System: Not Applicable
- 78% of TGS students receive some form of financial aid
- Class of 2027: 10 students, 10 countries, 4 continents, and 10 languages



Japan | Mexico | Palestine | South Africa | Slovakia
Sweden | Switzerland | Vietnam | United Kingdom | United States

Onsite Staff

- 13 onsite staff, 6 teaching staff, 7 countries, 5 continents
- Educators with Advanced Degrees: 80%

Accreditations, Associations, and Awards

THINK Global School students graduate with an American diploma fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The school is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support in Education (CASE), the Education Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS), the East Asia Regional Council of Schools (EARCOS), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and the Association of Boarding Schools (TABS). THINK Global School is recognized by the Good Schools Guide International and, in 2026, was nominated as a finalist for the Progressive Educational Delivery Award at The PIEoneer Awards.

Academic Overview

THINK Global School's Curriculum combines high academic standards with student-driven, project-based learning. Through development in three key areas, Global Immersion, Personal Pathways, and Wholebeing, the THINK Global School Curriculum challenges students to think critically, create boldly, and care for the world as actively as they move through it.

Students also experience the best of both worlds by learning in real-world environments and traditional classroom settings, enabling them to maximize their growth during self-directed projects and teacher-led project modules. This student-centered approach to learning emphasizes proactive problem-solving, creativity, and deep critical thinking – invaluable skills in our increasingly interconnected global society.

Grading Scale

THINK Global School employs a non-weighted, universal scale to determine student grades. Grades are represented in an alpha fashion on student report cards and transcripts, with the grades being converted numerically to calculate their grade point average.

TGS diplomas require four years of high school; however, TGS does not offer Grade 9 or 10. As a result, Grade 11 applicants must provide an official transcript for their Grades 9 and 10 years from their previous school.

You can find our Letter Grading Scale below alongside the corresponding grade point average.

TGS Letter Grading Scale			
Letter Grade	**Numerical Conversion**	**Grade Indicator**	**Corresponding GPA**
A	90-100%	Outstanding	4.0
B	80-89%	Above Average	3.0
C	70-79%	Average	2.0
D	60-69%	Below Average	1.0
F	0-59%	Failing	0.0

Graduation Requirements

Four years of high school credits are required for graduation, with students completing Grades 11 and 12 at TGS. In addition to meeting traditional high school credit requirements, students must demonstrate proficiency in all 21st Century Skills, successfully complete an individual Capstone Mastery Project, a service-learning project, and three personal projects, and participate in TGS's student wellness and university preparation programs.

Course	Credits
English	4
Math	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Word Languages	2
Art	2
PE/Health	2
Electives/Special Topics	4

Advance Work Requirements
Mastery Capstone Project
Mastery of 21st-Century skills and Learning Targets across disciplines
At least 3 Personal Projects
Creation and completion of Advance Inquiry Learning Targets
Digital Portfolio
Service Learning Project
Student Wellness Program

Place-Based Education

THINK Global School offers attendees an unparalleled level of cultural immersion through experiential learning. With each term taking place in a new country, there are always unique opportunities for students to get out into the world and experience different cultures, communities, and challenges. These interactions are regularly tied to the modules students participate in, allowing them to apply their learning directly to real-world contexts.

By being active in the world and learning through doing, THINK Global School students develop essential 21st-century skills such as visual literacy, applied sciences & technology, and inquiry & research design. In an age where high schoolers are increasingly digitally dependent, this immersive, hands-on approach empowers them to stay engaged with their surroundings, fostering personal and academic growth.

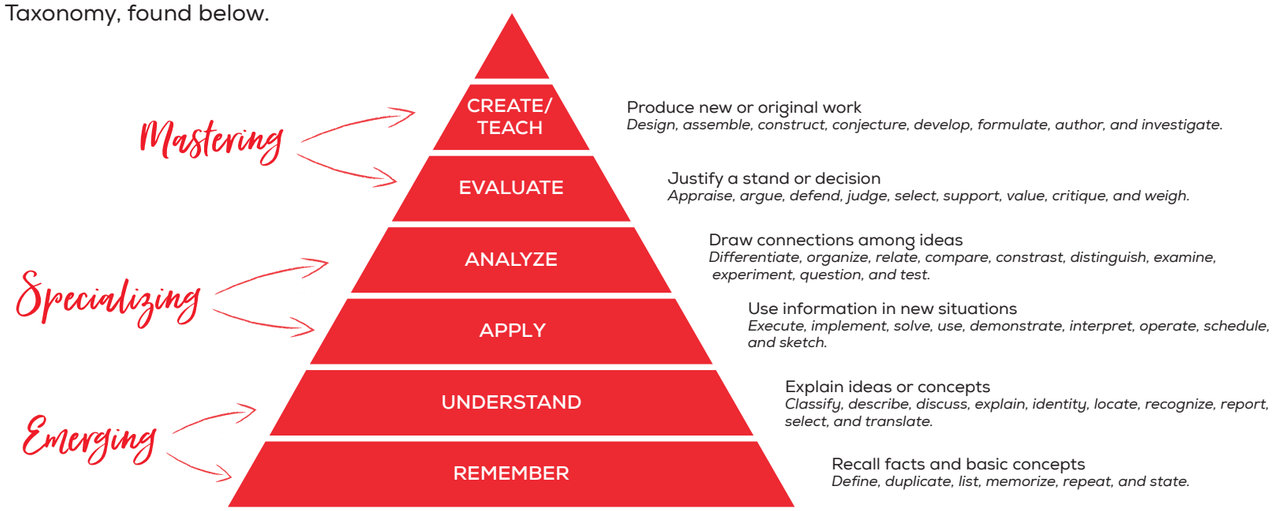
TGS Locations: 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Years			
Botswana	Mexico	India	Greece
Malaysia	Australia	Japan	Italy

Project-Based Learning and Learning Targets

Project-based learning models how we live and work in the real world and challenges students to acquire a deep understanding of complex issues. Project modules at TGS are multidisciplinary and collaborative, eight weeks in length, and provide authentic opportunities for students to think critically, guide their learning, and hold themselves accountable for high quality results.

Another key aspect of a THINK Global School education is skills mastery. Each project is constructed around learning targets spanning nine subject categories alongside 21st Century Skills. As students progress through grade levels, they must achieve the rank of Emerging in all of our learning targets, Specializing in 70% of our targets, and completing one Mastery Project to meet the requirements for graduation. Some students go well beyond these requirements, however, in turn demonstrating a strong drive to excel and push their learning to higher levels.

Assessment is based on two principles, excellence and mastery, which are governed by the levels of Bloom's Taxonomy, found below.



Capstone Mastery Project

The Capstone Mastery Project is a year-long project through which students demonstrate their ethical research practices, analytical skills, leadership qualities, and written and oral communication proficiency.

As part of their Capstone Mastery Project, students are required to conduct original research, data collection, analysis, and synthesis of their findings. To conclude the project, they must defend their thesis before a panel of educators and present their work at a public Symposium.

Student Wholebeing Program

With the guidance of their advisor, students meet weekly through Individual Advisory Meetings and Guided Advisory Group Discussions to reflect on their progress, set SMART goals, and build Action Plans that keep them on track toward the TGS Graduation Requirements. These conversations span academics, organization, and personal growth, with advisors helping each student plan and evaluate their work against the school's learning targets so they receive a well-rounded education across all disciplines.

But advisory at THINK Global School isn't just about academics. It is a whole-being approach that serves as the relational foundation of the school experience, not an add-on. Advisors support each student's academic, social, emotional, physical, and future-oriented development, encouraging a balanced lifestyle and helping students engage fully in the opportunities around them, from wellness activities and sports to student-led clubs and community experiences. Rooted in kindness and understanding, this personalized support helps every student develop confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging as they grow into the best versions of themselves.

2026-27 Teams and Clubs			
Debate/Model UN	Kickboxing Club	Philosophy Club	Rock Climbing Club
Running Club	Showcase Team	Tech/Innovation Club	Yearbook Team

weXplore Excursions

weXplores at THINK Global School are week-long excursions held each term that allow students to venture outside their host city and see a different part of the country. Each weXplore is multidisciplinary and typically tied to the module our students participate in. These weeks are designed to broaden horizons and foster personal growth by exposing students to local challenges.

Sample weXplores The Class of 2027 Participated In		
Biodiversity expeditions in a Malaysian rainforest	Exploring the Indigineous cosmovision in Sierra Norte de Oaxaca, Mexico	Conservation lessons in Botswana's Okavango Delta
Assessing the impact of invasive species in Tasmania	Studying Hindu philosophy in India's Himalayan foothills	Crossing Vikos Gorge in Greece's Pindus Mountains

Service Learning Projects

At THINK Global School, service learning is an integral part of our approach to education. Students explore genuine needs within their communities, developing a deep understanding of the challenges they encounter and the systems that surround them. Through research, first-hand experience, and engagement with people already working in the field, they identify meaningful opportunities to contribute.

Before graduation, every student designs and completes a Service Learning Project that draws on their individual skills and strengths, addresses an identified gap in the existing solutions landscape, and measures its impact. Each project is connected to TGS Learning Targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, helping students translate their learning into thoughtful, responsible action.

"Service learning at TGS taught me that meaningful change is not just about creating a project, but about building something that can continue beyond you. Through my service learning project, I established a network of sustainable restaurants in my home country focused on circular economy practices. Five years later, the network is still active, has grown to include more members, and continues without my involvement. Seeing that lasting impact showed me the power of turning what I learned into something that a community can take ownership of and carry forward." -Class of 2022 Alum Isabela Moro Luna

Career and University Counseling

At THINK Global School (TGS), the journey toward higher education and post-high-school life is a tailored experience centered on each student's unique aspirations and goals.

Through the career and university preparation program, students collaborate closely with the school counselor and receive personalized guidance on a myriad of post-TGS pathways, whether that's university admissions, gap-year projects, entrepreneurial ventures, or other unique endeavors.

This comprehensive support system ensures that students are not only well-equipped academically, but also have a clear vision and organized plan for their future, whatever direction it may take.

Undergraduate University Matriculation (Classes of 2020 - 2025)

THINK Global School graduates pursue higher education at institutions around the world, reflecting the global outlook and diverse interests of our community. 92% of graduates have gone on to university, attending more than 100 institutions across six continents and pursuing a wide range of academic disciplines. Their destinations include highly selective research universities, liberal arts colleges, and specialized programs in fields such as the arts, design, business, and technology, demonstrating the breadth of opportunities available to TGS graduates.

Aalto University (FI)
Al Akhawayn University (MA)
Amsterdam University College (NL)
Anglo-American University Prague (CZ)
Babson College (US)
Bard College (US)
Berklee College of Music (US)
Bowdoin College (US)
Cardiff Metropolitan University (GB)
Carnegie Mellon University Qatar (QA)
CEU Cardenal Herrera - Valencia (ES)
College of Wooster (US)
Constructor University (DE)
Design Academy Eindhoven (NL)
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (VN)
Drexel University (US)
Duke Kunshan University (CN)
East China Normal University (CN)
Eckerd College (US)
Emlyon Business School (FR)
ESSEC Business School (FR)
George Washington University (US)
Georgetown University Qatar (QA)
Guildford School of Acting (GB)
IE Business School (ES)
IE University (ES)
Industry Film School (RU)
Institut Français de la Mode (FR)
Istituto Marangoni (IT)
Maastricht University (NL)
Manchester University (US)
Massey University (NZ)
McGill University (CA)
Minerva University (US)
Monash University Malaysia (MY)
Montana State University (US)
Mount Holyoke College (US)
NABA Nuova Accademia di Belle Arti (IT)
Nayanta University (IN)
New York University (US)
New York University Abu Dhabi (AE)
New York University Shanghai (CN)
New York University Stern (US)
Newcastle University (GB)
Norwich University (US)
Reed College (US)
Regent's University London (GB)
Richard Robinson Fashion Academy (CA)
Soka University of America (US)
The British University in Egypt (EG)
Tomorrow University of Applied Sciences (DE)
Universidad Villanueva (ES)
University of Amsterdam (NL)
University of British Columbia (CA)
University of Canterbury (NZ)
University of Chichester (GB)
University of Colorado Boulder (US)
University of Debrecen (HU)
University of Florida (US)
University of Miami (US)
University of Otago (NZ)
University of Oxford (GB)
University of Richmond (US)
University of San Francisco (US)
University of São Paulo (BR)
University of Toronto (CA)
University of Victoria (CA)
University of Warsaw (PL)
University of Waterloo (CA)
University of Wisconsin-Madison (US)
Victoria University of Wellington (NZ)
Wesleyan College (US)

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