

CEEB CODE: 834104

School Principal:

Kai Ulmer

kulmer@colegiohumboldt.cr

College Counselor:

Jens Röwekämper

jroewekaemper@colegiohumboldt.cr

School Board:

President – Mrs. Inge Puschendorf

Vice President – Mr. Werner Bansbach

Treasurer – Mr. Peter Ossenbach

Secretary – Mr. Roberto Bonilla

1st Deputy – Mr. Enzo von Saalfeld

2nd Deputy – Mrs. Liesel Liebhaber

3rd Deputy – Mrs. Karin Puschendorf

Prosecutor – Mr. Michiel van Rossum



**COLEGIO HUMBOLDT
HUMBOLDT - SCHULE**
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

School Profile 2025

About Us

Humboldt Schule is a trilingual and bicultural private institution spanning from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The legal representative is the *German-Costa Rican Cultural* (ICGC) Institution.

The school is accredited by the *National Ministry of Education* in Costa Rica (MEP) as well as by *The Permanent Council of Culture Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany* (KMK) to grant the respective diplomas: Therefore, it is authorized to award the *Costa Rican Bachillerato* and the *German Abitur*.



Institutional Values

Humboldt Schule is an educational institution of academic excellence. Humboldt promotes holistic learning and an intercultural experience. In addition, the school is committed to a broad spectrum of values and offers generous scholarship programs that encourage diversity and highly competitive performance.

Humboldt Schule offers a humanistic education relevant to contemporary life that encourages social coexistence. It is a private, non-profit organization that receives financial support and teaching staff from the German government, alongside its local staff.

Contact Us



+506-2232-1455



+506-2232-0093



humboldt@colegiohumboldt.cr



<https://www.humboldt.ed.cr/>



Next to Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Loreto, Pavas, San José, COSTA RICA



**KULTUSMINISTER
KONFERENZ**



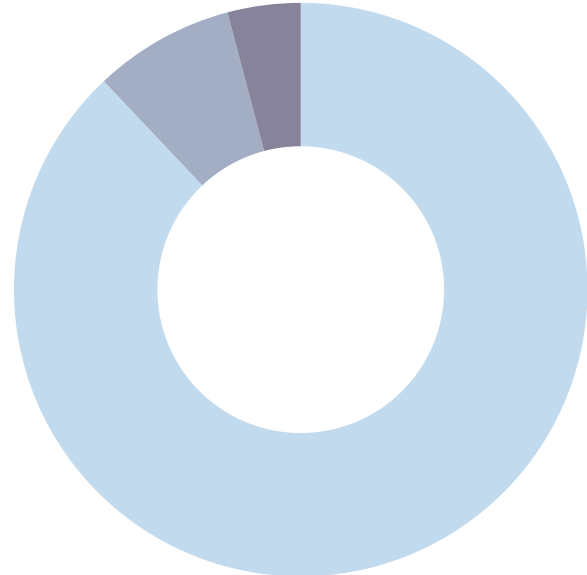
**Exzellente
Deutsche
Auslandsschule**

Student Body

1021 students

- Kindergarten: 191
- Primary School: 417
- Secondary School: 413

German
7.9%



Costa Rican
88%

Other Nationalities 4,1%

- Swiss (8)
- Venezuelan (7)
- Colombian (6)
- US American (6)
- Spanish (4)
- Nicaraguan (3)
- Ecuadorean (2)
- Salvadorian (2)
- Japanese (1)
- Italian (1)
- Chinese (1)
- Bolivian (1)



COLEGIO HUMBOLDT
HUMBOLDT - SCHULE
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Curriculum

Secondary school begins in the 7th grade and consists of three to four classes per grade. In the 11th grade, all students graduate with a Costa Rican *high school diploma*. Students who choose to attend 12th grade additionally receive a German high school diploma – the Abitur.

Students who complete the Costa Rican *National Diploma* generally complete their post secondary studies in Costa Rica, with some studying in the United States

The vast majority of students that receive a **German Abitur Diploma**, complete their post secondary education in Germany.

Language Certificates

Students can take the **Sprachdiplom I** and the **Sprachdiplom II** between the 8th and 11th grades. After finishing the German Abitur, the competencies acquired include standards at level C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR).

TOEFL is offered at the end of 11th grade and 12th grade to students who have maintained a grade point average higher than 80 in their English classes.

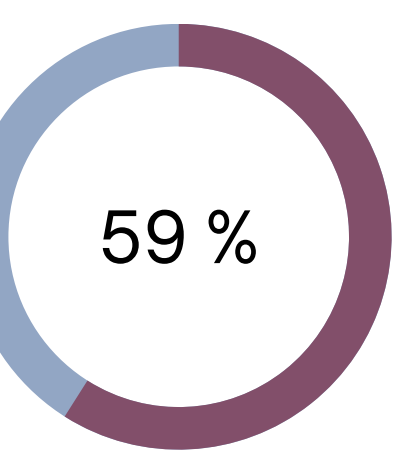
School Year

The school year begins at the end of January and ends in mid-December. The main vacation period of the year is between December and February. In addition, Humboldt School has two weeks of Easter break, four weeks in July, and one week vacation in October.

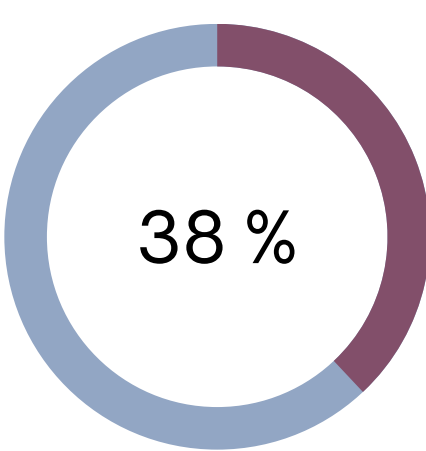


Teaching staff

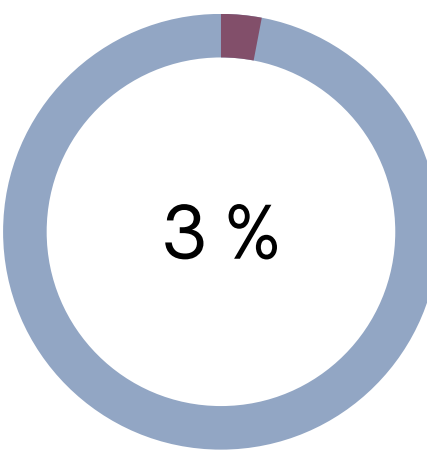
There are 111 teachers (1:9 teacher student ratio) with three native languages :



Spanish



German



English



Tution & Fees

For all grades:

- US **\$10,890** annually (on average)

COLEGIO HUMBOLDT
HUMBOLDT - SCHULE
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA



Scholarship programs

The annual tuition is US **\$10,890** for every grade level (from kindergarten to 12th grade).

Humboldt Schule has a scholarship fund financed by the German government and by contributions from parents. This scholarship fund removes the financial barrier to a quality education experienced by many underprivileged students. The amount of financial aid a student receives depends on their socioeconomic level, academic performance and conduct.

Costa Rican Grading System

Excellent	100–93
Above average	92–84
Average	83–75
Below average	74–70
Failure	69 or below

German Grading System

Grades by education		Description
Primary & lower secondary	Upper secondary	
(1st - 10th grade)	(11th - 12th grade)	
1	15 points 14 points 13 points	" <i>sehr gut</i> " (very good/ excellent: an outstanding achievement)
2	12 points 11 points 10 points	" <i>gut</i> " (good: an achievement that exceeds the average requirements considerably)
3	9 points 8 points 7 points	" <i>befriedigend</i> " (satisfactory: an achievement that fulfills average requirements)
4	6 points 5 points 4 points	" <i>ausreichend</i> " (adequate: an achievement that fulfills the requirements despite flaws)
5	3 points 2 points 1 point	" <i>mangelhaft</i> " (unsatisfactory: an achievement that does not fulfill requirements due to major flaws)
6	0 points	" <i>ungenügend</i> " (insufficient: a completely inadequate achievement)

Cultural Experience & Exchange Programs

As a multicultural school, Humboldt Schule seeks to educate its students in different cultures. Our school focuses on a solid immersive experience in three languages (German, Spanish, and English) and an objective representation of Germany, Costa Rica, and the United States.

During the summer of the 10th grade, students can take part in a foreign exchange trip with schools in Germany. Students embark on this journey alongside their entire class, accompanied by eight to nine teachers (1:9 teacher-student ratio). This exchange program lasts two weeks encompassing various regions of Germany such as Berlin and Leipzig. Additionally, two weeks are spent in guest homes while attending school in different towns close to Munich and Stuttgart. In February the following year, the German exchange students come to Costa Rica and stay with their previous houseguests.

In addition to the German exchange program, we also offer the opportunity for a group of around 25 students to go to New York for two 2 weeks. During this trip, students visit New York City and afterward spend a week and a half with students from Shaker High School in Albany, New York. This trip is not obligatory, yet this immersion program is a great way to learn about the culture in the United States.



Facilities

Without a doubt, the Humboldt Schule is one of the best-equipped schools in the country. This applies to all of its modern information technology equipment, such as: smart boards, iPads, laptops, a wide range of software, science laboratories, and sports facilities, including a 25-meter-long swimming pool. Since the year 2000, the school has its own cultural center where all the art, music and industrial arts lessons are taught.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a big concern at Humboldt Schule. The Environmental Committee and the Bandera Azul Commission regularly organize events related to environmental issues. The solar panels installed provide the majority of the energy. Furthermore, rainwater is collected to be used for watering the plants and cleaning. Recycling and reutilizing are concepts ingrained in the children from a young age and disposal of garbage is organized accordingly throughout the school.





Digitalization & STEM

The pandemic greatly accelerated the digitalization of the school, so it is now very well positioned in the digital sector. All teachers receive trainings in virtual teaching and digital tools on a regular basis. The teachers and students are well equipped with tablets and laptops. For this reason, Humboldt Schule received the German certificate **Digitale Schule** (Digital School) in 2024. This recognition is an important assessment and confirmation of the important work in the field of digitalization.

At the same time, Humboldt Schule also received the label **MINT-freundliche Schule** (STEM-friendly school) in 2024 to be officially recognized for its strong commitment to STEM subjects. The school offers a high proportion of STEM-oriented subjects in the timetable, a special focus on practical and project-oriented approaches and a variety of extracurricular activities. It aims to involve all students in STEM subjects, which not only increases individual career opportunities, but also contributes to the development of society. This label underlines the school's quality and commitment in this area.

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Arts & Animals
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Break Dance
- Business Kids
- Career & Skills – The Future of Work
- Catholic religion (Catechism)
- Cello, Double Bass, and Electric Bass
- Central American Sports Competitions
- Chess
- Chemistry
- Clarinet and Saxophone
- Cooking and Manual Work
- Dancing
- Digital Drawing
- Experiments
- Gardening
- German Games
- German Reading
- Guitar
- Gymnastics
- Handicrafts
- Jazz
- Karate
- Mathematical Olympiad
- MINT (STEM)
- Model United Nations (Debating)
- Olympic gymnastics
- Orchestra
- Painting
- Percussion
- Personal Defense
- Philosophy
- Piano
- Robotics
- Rockband
- Scratch
- Sculpture
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Swiss Club
- Table Tennis
- Trumpet
- Theater
- Traditional and recreational games
- Violin & Viola
- Volleyball
- Yoga and Art Therapy

DAAD Scholarships & Acknowledgement of the Abitur

Since 2000, the DAAD Institute has offered a full-ride university scholarship for study in Germany to one distinct Abitur graduate. The importance of the Abitur entitles the holder to apply to all universities in Europe. Graduates who pursue university studies in the United States are often given credits for their Abitur courses.



Abitur Enrollment

Year	Graduated/Admitted	Average
2007	17/17	2,8
2008	24/24	2,3
2009	18/18	2,4
2010	28/28	2,4
2011	20/20	2,5
2012	29/29	2,3
2013	19/19	2,6
2014	18/18	2,4
2015	17/17	2,5
2016	26/26	2,7
2017	29/29	2,4
2018	28/28	2,2
2019	32/32	2,3
2020	39/39	2,3
2021	40/40	2,2
2022	37/37	2,3
2023	39/39	2,4
2024	36/36	2,3



Universities (Enrollment 2021 to 2024)

COSTA RICA

- Invenio Universidad Dual
- Tecnológico de Costa Rica (TEC)
- Universidad de Ciencias Médicas (UCIMED)
- Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)
- Universidad Latina (ULatina)
- Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología (ULACIT)
- Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA)
- Universidad VERITAS

GERMANY

- Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
- Fachhochschule Nürnberg
- Freie Universität Berlin
- Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Hochschule Düsseldorf
- Hochschule Fulda
- Hochschule Furtwangen (HFU)
- Hochschule Hannover
- Hochschule Karlsruhe
- Hochschule Osnabrück

- Constructor University Bremen
- Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München
- Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg
- Phillips-Universität Marburg
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
- Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) Aachen
- Technische Hochschule Wildau
- Technische Hochschule Nürnberg
- Technische Universität Berlin
- Technische Universität Braunschweig
- Technische Universität Hamburg (TUHH)
- Technische Universität München (TUM)
- Universität Bamberg
- Universität Bayreuth
- Universität Hamburg
- Universität des Saarlandes
- Universität Leipzig

- Universität Osnabrück
- Universität Stuttgart

USA

- Blinn College
- Colorado State University
- Harvard University
- James Madison University
- Lindenwood University
- North Carolina State University
- Purdue University
- Suffolk University
- Southern Methodist University
- University of Florida
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of New Orleans (UNO)
- University of Texas (Austin)

Other

- Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera (Spain)
- University of Toronto (Canada)
- Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria)