

CRICED

The India Parent's Guide to UK Boarding School Admissions

Entry points, real costs in rupees, scholarships, visas and guardianship — plus how to judge cricket provision — written for families in India by the UK's cricket and education specialists.

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Who CRICED are

CRICED helps families in India find the right UK independent or boarding school for children aged 11–17. We understand cricket and British independent education — and we know most families are choosing between schools they have never visited, on information that is hard to compare.

We work with schools across the UK offering diverse, enriching boarding where education and cricket are both at the heart of the experience. Our role is to shortlist honestly, prepare your child properly, and stay with you through offers, visas and arrival.

How we work with families

- Understand — your child's academic profile, cricket level, budget and family priorities.
- Shortlist — a small number of realistic schools, with the trade-offs explained.
- Prepare — UKiset and entrance assessments, references, interview practice.
- Apply and arrive — offers, deposits, CAS and visa, guardianship and travel.

This guide is free and unbiased. We are paid by partner schools, never by families, so our advice on whether a school suits your child is not affected by your budget.

Entry points and timeline

UK schools admit at fixed points. Applying at the right one gives your child the widest choice of schools and the best chance of a scholarship.

Entry point	Age	What it suits
Year 7 (11+)	11-12	Families moving early; smoothest academic and social settling.
Year 9 (13+)	13-14	The largest UK boarding intake; two years before GCSE.
Sixth Form (16+)	16-17	A Levels or the IB; strong option for able, independent pupils.

A realistic 12-18 month plan

When	What happens
18-15 months before	Agree budget and priorities; build a shortlist; register interest with schools.
15-12 months	Sit UKiset or school assessments; collect school reports and references.
12-9 months	Interviews (usually online); cricket footage or profile submitted where relevant.
9-6 months	Offers and scholarship decisions; accept a place and pay the deposit.
6-3 months	CAS issued, Child Student visa applied for, guardianship arranged.
3-0 months	Uniform and kit, flights, arrival and settling-in weekend.

What it really costs

Full boarding at UK independent schools is commonly quoted between roughly £30,000 and £50,000 a year — broadly ₹32 lakh to ₹53 lakh at current exchange rates. The published fee is not the whole picture, so we work through indicative totals in rupees with every family before shortlisting.

Cost	Typical range (per year unless stated)
Full boarding fees	£30,000 – £50,000 (≈ ₹32–53 lakh)
Registration fee	£100 – £350 one-off, per school
Deposit	One term's fees, refundable against the final term
Guardianship	£1,000 – £3,000
Flights and travel	£1,500 – £3,000 for exeats and holidays
Uniform, kit and trips	£1,500 – £4,000 in year one
Cricket coaching and tours	£500 – £3,000 depending on programme

Rupee totals move with the exchange rate. Ask any school for a full first-year cost sheet, not just the termly fee — that is the number families should budget against.

Scholarships and awards

Most awards are a percentage of fees rather than the full amount, and availability differs sharply by school. We flag which of your shortlisted schools genuinely award them to international pupils.

Award	Typically worth	What schools look for
Academic	5% – 30%	Entrance exam performance, school reports, interview.
Cricket / sport	5% – 25%	Representative honours, coach references, match footage.
Music	5% – 25%	Grade 5+ standard, audition, second instrument helps.
All-rounder	10% – 30%	Strength across academics, sport and contribution to school life.
Bursary (means-tested)	Varies	Rarely available to overseas fee-payers — check early.

Preparing a strong cricket application

- A one-page profile: age group, role, batting/bowling style, honours, coaches' contacts.
- Four to six minutes of unedited footage — batting, bowling and fielding.
- A reference from a coach who can speak to attitude and coachability, not just runs.
- Realistic honesty: schools respond better to accurate levels than inflated claims.

Visas, guardianship and moving from CBSE, ICSE or IB

Boarders study on the UK Child Student visa, arranged with the school once a place is confirmed and a CAS is issued. Schools also require a UK-based guardian for boarders under 18.

Step	What families in India need to know
CAS	Issued by the school after the deposit; the visa cannot be applied for without it.
Child Student visa	Applied for up to six months before the course start date; biometrics at a local VFS centre.
Financial evidence	Funds for fees and living costs, held for 28 consecutive days.
Guardianship	A UK guardian for exeats and emergencies; AEGIS-accredited organisations are the safe route.
Curriculum transfer	CBSE, ICSE and IB pupils transfer regularly; Class 9–10 maps closely to GCSE years.
English	Most schools assess English directly; UKiset is widely accepted for international applicants.

Six questions that reveal a school's real cricket strength

- How many qualified coaches work with the age group my child would join?
- Is there an indoor centre, and how much winter net time does each pupil actually get?
- How many fixtures does the second or third XI play — not just the first XI?
- What are the links to club and county age-group cricket nearby?
- Where have cricketing leavers gone in the last three years?
- Are overseas pupils genuinely selected on merit for representative teams?

Your next step

Tell us your child's age, current school and cricket level, and we will come back with a realistic shortlist and an honest view of scholarship chances. There is no cost and no obligation.

Speak to CRICED

WhatsApp or email andrew@criced.co.uk · www.criced.co.uk/india

The UK's cricket and education specialists.