

The logo consists of the word "CRICED" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a white rounded rectangle. The background of the entire page is a deep purple, with a large pink circle in the top right corner and a yellow circle in the bottom left corner.

CRICED

The Sri Lanka Parent's Guide to UK Boarding School Admissions

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

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Who CRICED are

CRICED helps families overseas find the right UK independent or boarding school for children aged 11-17. We understand cricket and British independent education — and we know that 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	Appoint a UK guardian; school issues the CAS; apply for the Child Student visa.
3-0 months	Uniform and kit, flights, arrival and settling-in arrangements.

Late applications are sometimes still possible — schools occasionally have places after the main round — but the choice narrows and scholarship funds are usually committed.

Fees and the true total cost

Full boarding at UK independent schools is commonly quoted between roughly £30,000 and £50,000+ per year. The headline fee is not the whole picture, so we always work through indicative totals with families before shortlisting.

For families in Sri Lanka, £30,000–£50,000 a year is broadly LKR 12 million to LKR 20 million at current exchange rates, before flights, guardianship and one-off registration and deposit fees. We work through indicative totals in rupees with you before you shortlist.

Budget beyond the headline fee

Cost	Typical scale	Notes
Registration fee	£100–£350	Per school, non-refundable, paid at application.
Deposit	One term's fees	Usually refundable against the final term.
Guardianship	£1,500–£4,000 / year	Required for boarders under 18.
Flights and exeats	Varies	Half-term and holiday travel; some pupils stay with guardians.
Uniform, kit, trips	£1,000–£3,000 / year	Cricket kit, tours and school trips are extra.
EAL or extra tuition	£30–£70 / session	Where English support is recommended.

Exchange rates move, and schools raise fees annually. We advise families to plan on the full five- or seven-year cost of the school route, not just year one.

Scholarships, awards and bursaries

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 award them, and when to apply.

Cricket and sport awards

Offered by schools with serious programmes. Assessed on footage, performance data, a trial where possible, and a coach reference. Commonly 5–25% of fees, sometimes with coaching or kit included.

Academic scholarships

Awarded on entrance examination and interview performance. Often modest in value but carry real standing within the school and can be topped up by a means-tested bursary.

Music, art, drama and all-rounder awards

Frequently overlooked by overseas families. A strong second discipline alongside cricket can make a candidate distinctive, and all-rounder awards exist for exactly that profile.

Means-tested bursaries

Many schools prioritise UK-domiciled families for bursaries, and visa rules require overseas families to evidence they can meet fees. Treat bursaries as a possible top-up, never as the basis of your plan.

What strengthens an application: consistent school reports, a clear English level, two years of cricket performance evidence, a coach who will speak for your child, and an application submitted in the main round rather than late.

Visas, CAS and guardianship

Boarders study on the UK Child Student visa. The school acts as sponsor and issues a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) once a place is confirmed and the deposit is paid. The visa application follows the CAS — it cannot be made before it.

What you will need

- The CAS reference issued by the school.
- Evidence of funds for fees and living costs, held for the required period.
- Parental consent and proof of the relationship to the child.
- Tuberculosis test certificate where required for your country.
- Details of the care and accommodation arrangements in the UK.

Guardianship

Schools require a UK-based guardian for boarders under 18: an adult responsible for the child during exeats, half-terms and emergencies. Families use either a trusted relative in the UK or a professional guardianship organisation. Sri Lankan families usually appoint either a relative already settled in the UK or a professional guardianship organisation recommended by the school.

Start guardianship early. Schools will not release a CAS until care arrangements are confirmed, and a delay here is the most common reason a September start slips.

Judging cricket provision honestly

Every school prospectus shows a cricket photograph. Provision varies enormously, and this is where families most often get it wrong. Ask these questions of any school on your list:

- Who coaches, and what are their qualifications and playing background?
- Is there an indoor centre for winter, and how much winter net time does a pupil actually get?
- How many fixtures does each team play across a summer term?
- What are the links to club and county age-group cricket, and who has progressed recently?
- How is cricket balanced against academic demands in GCSE and A Level years?
- Is there a girls' programme with real fixtures, or only mixed junior cricket?

The best fit is rarely the most famous name. It is the school where your child will play, be coached properly, and still achieve the grades that keep university options open.

Your next step

Send us your child's age, current school and cricket level. We will come back with the types of UK schools worth considering and an honest view of budget and timing — free, and with no obligation.

Talk to CRICED	Free, no obligation
WhatsApp / phone	Message us from the website — we reply in your time zone.
Email	andrew@criced.co.uk
Book a free consultation	www.criced.co.uk/sri-lanka

This guide is general information, not legal or immigration advice. Fees, visa rules and school requirements change; always confirm details with the school and current UK Government guidance.