

Overview - International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities.

IB recognition world wide:

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The IBO works closely with universities in all regions of the world to gain recognition for the IB diploma. To aid this process, university admissions officers and government officials have direct online access to all syllabuses and recent examinations.

To assist IB diploma students in making appropriate choices, the organization holds a database containing contact details of universities around the world together with up-to-date information about their requirements for admission. Students applying to a particular university may also grant permission for their grades to be accessed directly from the IBO's secure web site.

Six Subject Areas:

Students study six subjects selected from the subject groups. Normally three subjects are studied at higher level (courses representing 240 teaching hours), and the remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (courses representing 150 teaching hours).

The six subject areas are:

- First language
- Second language
- Individuals and Societies
- Experimental Sciences
- Mathematics and computer Science
- The Arts

Core:

All three parts of the core—*extended essay*, *theory of knowledge* and *creativity, action, service*—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme

All Diploma Programme students must engage in these three activities.

Extended Essay:

The extended essay has a prescribed limit of 4,000 words. It offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquaints students with the independent research and writing skills expected at university

Theory of knowledge (TOK:)

The interdisciplinary TOK course is designed to provide coherence by exploring the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of other cultural perspectives.

Creativity, action, service (CAS)

Participation in the school's CAS programme encourages students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.

Internal assessment

In nearly all subjects at least some of the assessment is carried out internally by teachers, who mark individual pieces of work produced as part of a course of study. Examples include oral exercises in language subjects, projects, student portfolios, class presentations, practical laboratory work, mathematical investigations and artistic performances.

External assessment

Some assessment tasks are conducted and overseen by teachers without the restrictions of examination conditions, but are then marked externally by examiners. Examples include world literature assignments for language A1, written assignments for language A2, essays for theory of knowledge and extended essays. Because of the greater degree of objectivity and reliability provided by the standard examination environment, externally marked examinations form the greatest share of the assessment for each subject.

Authorization Process:

The authorization process, which may take two or more years, consists of two phases.

- *Feasibility study and identification of resources*

The school makes an in-depth analysis of the philosophy and curriculum, and identifies the resources needed to deliver it.

- *School visit*

On receipt of a formal application to teach the programme, a delegation appointed by the IBO visits the school and reports on the school's capacity to deliver the programme. If the outcome is positive, the school becomes authorized to offer the programme and attains the status of IB World School. The school's delivery of the programme is evaluated by the IBO every five years after authorization.

Training:

Teacher training is offered to both new and experienced teachers. Teachers may develop their professional expertise by participating in IB teacher-training workshops and attending regional conferences organized by the IBO.

Information obtained from: <http://www.ibo.org/>