

= IB Diploma Programme =

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two @-@ year educational programme primarily aimed at students aged 16 ? 19 . The program provides an internationally accepted qualification for entry into higher education and is recognised by many universities worldwide . It was developed in the early to mid @-@ 1960s in Geneva , Switzerland , by a group of international educators . After a six @-@ year pilot programme ended in 1975 , a bilingual diploma was established .

Administered by the International Baccalaureate (IB) , the IBDP is taught in schools in over 140 countries , in one of three languages : English , French , or Spanish . In order to participate , students must attend an IB school . IBDP students complete assessments in six subjects , one from each subject group , and three core requirements . Students are evaluated using both internal and external assessments , and courses finish with an externally assessed series of examinations , usually consisting of two or three timed written tests . Internal assessment varies by subject : there may be oral presentations , practical work , or written work . In most cases , these are initially graded by the classroom teacher , whose grades are then verified or modified , as necessary , by an appointed external moderator .

Generally , the IBDP has been well received . It has been commended for introducing interdisciplinary thinking to students . In the United Kingdom , The Guardian newspaper claims that the IBDP is " more academically challenging and broader than three or four A @-@ levels " . However , a pledge to allow children in all areas to participate in the programme was shelved amid concerns that a " two @-@ tier " education system was emerging , because the growth in IB was driven by private schools and sixth form colleges . British students who take the IB with its six subjects , Extended Essay (EE) , Theory of Knowledge (TOK) , and Creativity , Action and Service (CAS) receive differently structured university offers to those who sit three A @-@ levels , with universities working carefully to construct appropriate equivalent offer conditions .

= = History and background = =

In 1948 the " Conference of Internationally @-@ minded Schools " asked the International School of Geneva (Ecolint) to create an international schools program . When he became director of Ecolint 's English division , Desmond Cole @-@ Baker began to develop the idea , and in 1962 , his colleague Robert Leach organised a conference in Geneva , at which the term " International Baccalaureate " was first mentioned . An American social studies teacher , Leach organized the conference ? with a \$ 2500 grant from UNESCO ? which was attended by observers from European schools and UNESCO . Writing about the genesis of the International Baccalaureate in Schools Across Frontiers , Alec Peterson credits Leach as " the original promoter of the International Baccalaureate . " At the end of the conference , Unesco funded the International School Association with an additional \$ 10 @,@ 000 , which was inadequate to do more than produce a few papers , or bring teachers together for meetings .

By 1964 , international educators such as Alec Peterson (director of the Department of Education at Oxford University) , Harlan Hanson (director of the College Board Advanced Placement Program) , Desmond Cole (director of United Nations International School in New York) and Desmond Cole @-@ Baker (head of the International School of Geneva) founded the International Schools Examination Syndicate (ISES) . Cole and Hanson brought experience with college entrance examinations in the United States , and Hanson , in particular , brought his experience from a long relationship with the College Board . According to Peterson , " the breakthrough in the history of the IB " came in 1965 with a grant from the Twentieth Century Fund , which commissioned Martin Mayer , author of The Schools , to produce a report on the feasibility of establishing a common curriculum and examination for international schools that would be acceptable for entry to universities worldwide . This led to conferences involving Ecolint , the United World College of the Atlantic (Atlantic College) , and others in the spring and fall of 1965 , at which details about the curriculum for the Diploma Programme were discussed and agreed upon .

The Ford Foundation grant , secured in 1966 , funded Peterson 's study at Oxford University , which focused on three issues : a comparative analysis of " secondary educational programmes in European countries ... in cooperation with the Council of Europe " ; university expectations for secondary students intending to enter university ; and a " statistical comparison of IB pilot examination results with ... national school leaving examinations such as British A Levels and US College Board (AP) Tests " . As a result of the study and the curriculum model developed at Atlantic College , Peterson initiated the pattern of combining " general education with specialization " , which melded with the curricula of the United States and Canada , and became the " curriculum framework " proposed at the UNESCO conference in Geneva in 1967 . Late in 1967 , ISES was restructured and renamed the IB Council of Foundation , and John Goormaghtigh became the first president in January 1968 . In 1967 , the group , which by then also included Ralph Tyler , identified eight schools to be used for the experimentation of the curriculum .

In 1968 , the IB headquarters were officially established in Geneva for the development and maintenance of the IBDP . Alec Peterson became IBO 's first director general , and in 1968 , twelve schools in twelve countries participated in the IBDP , including Atlantic College and UNIS of New York . The aim was to " provide an internationally acceptable university admissions qualification suitable for the growing mobile population of young people whose parents were part of the world of diplomacy , international and multi @-@ national organizations . "

The first six years of the IB Diploma Programme , with a limited number of students , are referred to as the " experimental period " . Each school was to be inspected by ISES or IBO and had to be approved by their government . The experimental period ended in 1975 , and in that year , the International Baccalaureate North America (IBNA) was established as a separate entity , allowing the funding for implementation of the IBDP to remain in the country rather than being sent to Geneva . The first official guide to the programme containing its syllabus and official assessment information was published in 1970 and included the theory of knowledge course . The extended essay was introduced in 1978 , but creativity , action , service (CAS) , although mentioned in guides beforehand , was not specifically identified in the guide until 1989 .

In 1980 , responding to criticism that the " internationalism " was Eurocentric , the IB hosted a seminar in Singapore with the goal of incorporating Asian culture and education into the IB curriculum . In 1982 , the Standing Conference of Heads of IB Schools took steps to modify the Eurocentrism in the curriculum . The same year , the Japanese government hosted a science conference for IBO " as a token of Japanese interest in the various dimensions of the IB " .

From the start , all subjects of the IB Diploma Programme were available in English and French , and it was mandatory for all students to study both a first and a second language . In 1974 , bilingual diplomas were introduced that allowed students to take one or more of their humanities or science subjects in a language other than their first . The IB Diploma Programme subjects became available in Spanish in 1983 .

= = Core requirements and subject groups = =

To be awarded an IB diploma , a candidate must fulfill three core requirements , in addition to passing his or her subject examinations :

Extended essay (EE) . Candidates must write an independent research essay of up to 4 @, @ 000 words in a subject from the list of approved EE subjects . The candidate may choose to investigate a topic within a subject they are currently studying , although this is not required . The EE may not be written on an interdisciplinary topic .

Theory of knowledge (TOK) . This course introduces students to theories about the nature and limitations of knowledge (basic epistemology) and provides practice in determining the meaning and validity of knowledge (critical thinking) . It is claimed to be a " flagship element " of the Diploma Programme , and is the one course that all diploma candidates are required to take . TOK requires 100 hours of instruction , the completion of an externally assessed essay of 1600 words (from a choice of six titles prescribed by the IB worth 67 %) , and an internally assessed presentation (worth 33 %) on the candidate 's chosen topic .

Creativity , activity , service (CAS) . CAS aims to provide students with opportunities for personal growth , self @-@ reflection , intellectual , physical and creative challenges , and awareness of themselves as responsible members of their communities through participation in social or community work (service) , athletics or other physical activities (activity) , and creative activities (creativity) . The guideline for the minimum amount of CAS activity over the two @-@ year programme is approximately 3 ? 4 hours per week , though " hour counting ? is not encouraged . Previously , there was a requirement that 150 CAS hours be completed , but this was abolished in 2010 . However , some schools still require these hours .

Subject groups

Students who pursue the IB diploma must take six subjects : one each from Groups 1 ? 5 , and either one from Group 6 or a permitted substitute from one of the other groups , as described below . Three or four subjects must be taken at Higher level (HL) and the rest at Standard level (SL) . The IB recommends a minimum of 240 hours of instructional time for HL courses and 150 hours for SL courses .

While the IB encourages students to pursue the full IB diploma , the " substantial workload require a great deal of commitment , organization , and initiative " . Students may instead choose to register for one or more individual IB subjects , without the core requirements . Such students will not receive the full diploma .

The six IBDP subject groups and course offerings are summarised below . More information about the subject groups and individual courses can be found at the respective subject group articles :

Group 1 : Studies in language and literature . Taken at either SL or HL , this is generally the student 's native language , with over 80 languages available . As of courses starting in summer 2011 , there are two options for Language A (previously A1) : Literature , which is very similar to the old course , and Language and Literature , a slightly more challenging adaptation of the former Group 2 Language A2 subjects , which have been withdrawn . The interdisciplinary subject Literature and Performance can also be taken at SL .

Group 2 : Language acquisition . An additional language , taken at the following levels : Language B (SL or HL) , or Language ab initio (SL only) . Latin and Classical Greek are also offered and may be taken at SL or HL . Following the replacement of the Language A2 option with the Group 1 Language and Literature offering for courses starting in summer 2011 , the Language B syllabus was changed : the coursework is now more rigorous , and at HL , there is the compulsory study of two works of literature (although this is for comprehension rather than analysis and is only assessed through coursework) . In addition , B SL students can study one of the texts as a replacement for the optional topics .

Group 3 : Individuals and societies . Humanities and social sciences courses offered at both SL and HL : Business and Management , Economics , Geography , History , Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) , Philosophy , Psychology , and Social and Cultural Anthropology . The course World Religions , the interdisciplinary course Environmental Systems and Societies , and the pilot course Global Politics are also offered at SL only .

Group 4 : Experimental sciences . Five courses are offered at both SL and HL : Chemistry , Biology , Physics , Design Technology and Computer Science . The course Sport , Exercise and Health Science and the interdisciplinary course Environmental Systems and Societies are offered at SL only .

Group 5 : Mathematics . In order of increasing difficulty , the courses offered are Mathematical Studies SL , Mathematics SL and HL , and Further Mathematics SL and HL . The computer science elective courses were moved to Group 4 as a full course from first examinations in 2014 .

Group 6 : The arts . Courses offered at both SL and HL : Dance , foreign languages , Music , Theatre , Visual Arts , and Film . In lieu of taking a Group 6 course , students may choose to take an additional course from Groups 1 ? 4 or either Further Mathematics HL (if already studying Mathematics HL) a Computer science course from Group 4 , or a school @-@ based syllabus course approved by IB . The interdisciplinary subject Literature and Performance is also offered , although currently only at SL .

Environmental systems and societies SL is an interdisciplinary course designed to meet the

diploma requirements for groups 3 and 4 , while Literature and Performance SL meets the requirements of Groups 1 and 6 .

Online Diploma Programme and pilot courses

The IB is developing a pilot online version of the IBDP and currently offers several online courses to IBDP students . Eventually , it expects to offer online courses to any student who wishes to register . Additionally , the IB has developed pilot courses that include World Religions ; Sports , Exercise and Health Sciences , Dance , and a transdisciplinary pilot course , Literature and Performance . These pilot courses have now become part of the mainstream courses . Currently , Global Politics is a pilot course that is intended to become mainstream in September 2015 .

= = Assessment and awards = =

All subjects (with the exception of CAS) are evaluated using both internal and external assessors . The externally assessed examinations are given worldwide in May (usually for Northern Hemisphere schools) and in November (usually for Southern Hemisphere schools) . Each exam usually consists of two or three papers , generally written on the same or successive weekdays . The different papers may have different forms of questions , or they may focus on different areas of the subject syllabus . For example , in Chemistry SL , paper 1 has multiple choice questions , paper 2 has extended response questions and data analysis , and paper 3 focuses on the " Option (s) " selected by the teacher . The grading of all external assessments is done by independent examiners appointed by the IB .

The nature of the internal assessment (IA) varies by subject . There may be oral presentations (used in languages) , practical work (in experimental sciences and performing arts) , or written work . Internal assessment accounts for 20 to 50 percent of the mark awarded for each subject and is marked by a teacher in the school . A sample of at least five per subject at each level from a school will also be graded by a moderator appointed by the IB , in a process called external moderation of internal assessment . Based on this moderation , the grades of the whole subject from that school will change .

Points are awarded from 1 to 7 , with 7 being equal to A * , 6 equal to A , and so on . Up to three additional points are awarded depending on the grades achieved in the extended essay and theory of knowledge , so the maximum possible point total in the IBDP is 45 . The global pass rate for the IB diploma is approximately 80 % . In order to receive an IB diploma , candidates must receive a minimum of 24 points or an average of four (or C) out of a possible seven points for six subjects . Candidates must also receive a minimum of 12 points from their Higher Level subjects and a minimum of 9 points from their Standard Level subjects . Additionally , candidates must complete all of the requirements for the EE , CAS and TOK . Failing conditions that will prevent a student from being awarded a diploma , regardless of points received , are non @-@ completion of CAS , more than three scores of 3 or below , not meeting the specific points required for Higher Level or Standard Level subjects , or plagiarism .

Candidates who successfully complete all the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme and one or more of the following combinations are eligible to receive a bilingual diploma : two Group 1 subjects (of different languages) , a Group 3 or 4 subject taken in a language other than the candidate 's Group 1 language , or an Extended Essay in a Group 3 or Group 4 subject written in a language other than the candidate 's Group 1 language . IB certificates are issued to indicate completion of diploma courses and exams for non @-@ diploma candidate students .

Special circumstances

Where standard assessment conditions could put a student with special educational needs at a disadvantage , special arrangements may be allowed . The Candidates with Special Assessment Needs publication contains information regarding procedures and arrangements for students with special needs .

= = Application and authorization = =

To offer the IB Diploma Programme , an institution must go through an application process , and during that period the teachers are trained in the IB . At the end of the application process , IB conducts an authorisation visit . Once a school is authorised to offer the programme , an annual fee ensures ongoing support from the IB , legal authorisation to display the IB logo , and access to the Online Curriculum Centre (OCC) and the IB Information System (IBIS) . The OCC provides information , resources , and support for IB teachers and coordinators . IBIS is a database employed by IB coordinators . Other IB fees also include student registration and individual diploma subject examination fees .

= = University recognition = =

The IB diploma is accepted in 75 countries at over 2 000 universities , and the IB has a search directory on its website , although it advises students to check recognition policies directly with each university . The IB also maintains a list of universities offering scholarships to IBDP graduates under conditions specified by each institution , including 58 colleges and universities in the United States . The following is an overview of university recognition policies in various countries .

For the purposes of university admissions in Austria , the IB diploma is considered a foreign secondary school leaving certificate , even if the school issuing the diploma is in the country . Admission decisions are at the discretion of higher education institutions .

In Finland , the IB diploma gives the same qualification for matriculation as the national matriculation examination . The core requirements differ very little , although the Finnish degree has more electives and languages are a larger part of the final grading .

In France , the IBDP is one of the foreign diplomas that allow students access into French universities .

Germany sets certain conditions for the IB diploma to be accepted (a foreign language at minimum A2 Standard Level ; mathematics Standard Level minimum ; economics , geography , or history as the Group 3 subject ; and at least one science or mathematics course at Higher Level) . German International Baccalaureate students in some schools are able to earn a " bilingual diploma " that gains them access to German universities ; half of the classes in this programme are held in German .

The Italian Ministry of Education recognises the IB diploma as academically equivalent to the national diploma , provided the curriculum includes the Italian language and the particular IB programme is accepted for H.E.D. matriculation in Italy .

Spain considers the IB diploma academically equivalent to the " Título de bachillerato español " . As of 1 June 2008 , IB diploma holders no longer need to pass the University Entrance Examination to be admitted to Spanish universities .

Turkish universities accept the IB diploma , but all applicants are required by law to take the university entrance examinations .

According to the IB , there are two universities in Russia that officially recognise the IB diploma subject to certain guidelines . The Russian Ministry of Education considers the IB diploma issued by state - accredited IB schools in Russia equivalent to the certificate of secondary (complete) general education (attestat) .

In the United Kingdom , UCAS publishes a university entrance tariff table that converts IB and other qualifications into standardised " tariff points " , but these are not binding , so institutions are free to set minimum entry requirements for IB candidates that are not the same as those for A level candidates . Most universities in the UK require IB students to take more courses than A level students ? requiring , for instance , four As and two Bs from an IB student , whereas an A level student will only need an ABB ? because each subject taken as a part of the IB gives a less broad coverage of a similar subject taken at A level .

Although every university in Australia accepts the IB diploma , entry criteria differ from university to university . Some universities accept students on their IB point count , whereas others require the points to be converted . In most states , this is based on the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (

ATAR) . In Queensland , IBDP scores are converted to a QTAC scale to determine selection rank .

In the United States , institutions of higher education set their own admission and credit policies for IB diploma recognition . Colorado and Texas have legislation requiring universities to adopt and implement policy which awards college credit to students who have successfully completed the IBDP .

In Canada , IB North America publishes a IB Recognition Policy Summary for Canadian Universities . Peruvian universities do not officially accept the IB diploma . However , the Ministry of Education may grant partial equivalence to national diploma for students who have satisfactorily completed the fourth year of high school in the country .

In Hong Kong , IB diploma students may apply to universities as non @-@ JUPAS (Joint University Programmes Admissions System) .

The People 's Republic of China does not formally accept the IB diploma for university qualification .

In the 2008 ? 2009 prospectus in Singapore , the National University of Singapore (NUS) accepts the IBDP as a high school qualification for Singapore universities . University requirements are as follows : three HL subjects with scores of 5 or better , two SL subjects with scores of 4 or better , and a grade of 4 or better in English A , Standard Level .

In India , the Association of Indian Universities recognises the IBDP as an entry qualification to all universities , provided that the applicants include a document from the IB detailing percentage equivalency and that specific course requirements for admission to medical and engineering programs are satisfied .

= = Reception = =

The IBDP was described as " a rigorous , off @-@ the @-@ shelf curriculum recognized by universities around the world ? in the December 10 , 2006 , edition of Time magazine , in an article titled " How to bring our schools out of the 20th century " . It was also featured in the summer 2002 edition of American Educator , where Robert Rothman described it as " a good example of an effective , instructionally sound , exam @-@ based system " . Howard Gardner , a professor of educational psychology at Harvard University , said that the IBDP curriculum is " less parochial than most American efforts " and helps students " think critically , synthesize knowledge , reflect on their own thought processes and get their feet wet in interdisciplinary thinking " . An admissions officer at Brown University claims the IBDP garners widespread respect .

In the United Kingdom , the IBDP is " regarded as more academically challenging but broader than three or four A @-@ levels " , according to an article in the Guardian . In 2006 , government ministers provided funding so that " every local authority in England could have at least one centre offering sixth @-@ formers the chance to do the IB " . In 2008 , Children 's Secretary Ed Balls abandoned a " flagship Tony Blair pledge to allow children in all areas to study IB " . Fears of a " two @-@ tier " education system further dividing education between the rich and the poor emerged as the growth in IB is driven by private schools and sixth @-@ form colleges .

In the United States , criticism of the IBDP has centered on the claim that it is anti @-@ American , according to The New York Times . Early funding from UNESCO , and the organization 's ties to the United Nations are cited as objectionable . The cost of the program is also considered to be too high . In 2012 , the school board in Coeur d 'Alene , Idaho , voted to eliminate all IB programmes in the district because of low participation and high costs .