

March 2014

Statement to Higher Education Institutions Requiring TOEFL, IELTS or CEFR equivalency of International Baccalaureate Diploma and Diploma Course Students

To whom it may concern

This statement is intended to clarify the proficiency in English of International Baccalaureate diploma and diploma course candidates who are offering this language. We would consider it reasonable that students who have completed any of the courses listed below (apart from the ab initio) should not be required to take TOEFL, IELTS or other language proficiency assessments as part of the admissions procedures to your institution.

The IB currently offers the following language courses:

Group 1 – Studies in language and literature

English courses available in this group are:

- English A: Literature Higher level
- English A: Literature Standard level
- English A: Language and Literature Higher level
- English A: Language and Literature Standard level
- Literature and Performance Standard level

These courses are designed for students whose best language for academic work is English. A student registered for one of these courses will be able to study an undergraduate degree in the medium of English. Many will be applying for English literature or linguistics courses.

Group 2 – Language Acquisition

English courses available in this group are:

- English B Higher level
- English B Standard level
- English ab initio Standard level

English B Higher level and English B Standard level are highly likely to meet the criteria for CEFR level B2 in the four domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking. They are also both comparable with TOEFL and IELTS requirements.

As its name implies, English ab initio is a beginner's course and universities may wish to check the level of English of any student offering it.

The IB is aware that HEIs are required to have clear evidence in support of international students' language proficiency. We have therefore provided additional information to support universities in reaching a decision on a student's English proficiency level. The accompanying document *Information for HEIs on language use in the IB Diploma Programme English courses* provides:

- Short descriptors of Studies in languages and literature HL/SL (Group 1) and Language acquisition (Group 2) at both HL and SL.
- Descriptors of performance for students achieving grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Group 1 (HL/SL) and Group 2 English B HL and English B SL.
- Sample examination questions from the May 2013 papers for all English language courses, except ab initio.

This statement supersedes any previous pronouncements that relate to IB students' proficiency in English and university entrance.

Yours sincerely



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Director General

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