



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

# What makes the International Baccalaureate (IB) unique?

## We are international

We've found the best way to appreciate another culture is to feel confident in your own. That's why our programmes go further than learning a second language. Our internationally-minded approach also encourages learners to study their local and broader context, so when they learn something new they can also connect it to the real world.

## We're independent

As a non-profit organization, the IB is not beholden to any shareholders. We are proudly independent of political and commercial interests, and we re-invest any surplus income back into the work we do for our teachers, students and staff.

Our programmes are just as independent, which makes them flexible enough to easily incorporate different national curriculum requirements across the world. We operate in 160 countries, often working alongside national education systems to ensure the best outcomes for students.

## We use research to continually improve

The world is always changing—and so is education. That's why we keep our programmes and curricula continually evolving so we can deliver the best possible education for our students. We combine our own research with that of respected academic institutions, using regular reviews and best practice to keep our vision relevant and sharp.

We collaborate closely with innovative educators from different cultures around the world, and we engage practicing teachers, examiners and experts to continually evaluate curricula. We are agile and we respond to new research and pedagogical studies, engaging with expert analysis where appropriate. For example, our newest qualification, the IB Career-related Programme, is a flexible framework designed in response to the needs of students, local communities and the world beyond.

## We are globally recognized

Our programmes are challenging — and universities and employers recognize that. The IB offers a depth, breadth and rigour not seen in other programmes, producing well-rounded young graduates who can communicate in more than one language.

Universities particularly appreciate the creativity, activity, service (CAS) and extended essay (EE) components of the IB Diploma Programme, which allow students to prove their abilities in research, analysis and in-depth study. In fact, research conducted with universities in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States found that IB students are well prepared to work at university level. Every year, thousands of IB students apply to over 5,000 universities worldwide in 196 countries.

We are extremely proud of the globally-recognized results achieved by IB students, but in reality, our education is so much more than that. It's not just a way to learn, it's a way of life.



## Education for a better world

The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through inter-cultural understanding and respect. To this end, the IB works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

## How the learner profile brings our mission to life

The IB learner profile is a set of ten aspirational qualities that embody our vision for education. They empower learners to take on responsibilities beyond academic success, encouraging community service, cultural empathy and respect. The learner profile also invites the entire IB community to critically evaluate culture, history, values and traditions — and to grow from their experience.

## How do our values set the IB apart?

- IB programmes put community service and action at the centre of learning.
- The IB is accessible to almost any school, and more than half of IB World Schools are state-funded.
- Our programmes empower students, by promoting healthy relationships and ethical responsibility.
- Students of all ages are encouraged to think critically, challenge assumptions and consider both local and global contexts.
- Students develop the attitudes and lifelong skills they need for academic and personal success.
- IB programmes improve understanding of languages and cultures, through exploring globally significant ideas and issues.
- Developed independently of government and national systems, the IB is built on best practice from research and our global community of schools.



## The learner profile

This set of ten principles is based on our mission, and are designed to build learners who are:

**Inquirers** who are inspired to follow independent study;

**Knowledgeable** across a range of disciplines;

**Thinkers** with critical, creative and ethical skills;

**Communicators** who express themselves confidently in more than one language;

**Principled** with integrity, honesty, respect and responsibility;

**Open-minded** toward culture, history, values and the traditions of others;

**Caring** with a commitment to service;

**Risk-takers** who explore new ideas and overcome challenges;

**Balanced** in approach to life and wellbeing;

**Reflective** of strengths, weaknesses and lived experience of the world.

