



The IB Diploma Programme

A world-class preparation for university and life beyond

What is the IB Diploma Programme (DP)?

A comprehensive inquiry-based education that puts students in control of their studies so they can develop superior academic ability, confidence, critical-thinking and language skills

The DP, for students aged 16–19, is a comprehensive, challenging framework that aims to develop the whole student. As well as helping students to flourish intellectually, it nurtures broader skills and values to create curious, confident, motivated and multilingual young people who thrive and make a positive difference in the world.

The DP core curriculum matures students and helps them to build emotional and social skills, like leadership, time management and an entrepreneurial spirit. Students are required to reflect, value and comprehend different viewpoints and express their own opinions with confidence.

The flexibility of the DP enables students to pursue subjects of strength, while not dropping those they enjoy. The programme leaves students in a strong position to enter university or a career of choice – and achieve more when they get there.

DP students are creative problem solvers and critical thinkers, equipped with a rich depth and breadth of knowledge that benefits them for life.

DP teachers are proud to deliver an internationally-recognized education that still gives flexibility for them to design and innovate learning. Teachers also benefit from extensive professional learning opportunities, peer support networks and access to global seminars and conferences.

DP schools enjoy a reputation for turning out well-rounded students, many of whom get into the world's best universities. The programme is also a good way to attract students who appreciate the ability to study in multilingual environments.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Empowering students to thrive and make a difference

The IB provides a powerful continuum of student-centric learning for students aged 3–19. During the IB's personalised and engaging academic journey, students develop confidence in their own identities, discover how to make ethical decisions, celebrate our common humanity and apply their learning in real life, complex and unpredictable situations.

Key features of the DP curriculum

Developed to help students master the skills they need for success at university and beyond, the DP delivers a balanced and broad education that gives students the best life outcomes.

DP students enjoy a framework of education that:

- enables them to pursue subjects that they are passionate about in a multilingual environment
- gives them the opportunity to follow their creative and sporting passions
- is recognized by world-leading universities and employers
- equips students to deal with the autonomy of university study and contribute to all aspects of university life

The DP is based on inquiry and focused on conceptual understanding. Students choose from six subject groups alongside the DP core. Each student takes at least three (but not more than four) subjects at higher level (HL) and the remaining at standard level (SL).

The DP core broadens students' educational experiences and challenges them to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world situations. The core elements are:

- **The theory of knowledge course** - through the flagship course of the DP, students reflect on the nature of knowledge and how we know what we claim to know.
- **The extended essay** - a self-directed independent piece of research on the subject that a student is passionate about.
- **Creativity, activity and service** - which challenges students to show initiative, demonstrate perseverance and develop skills such as collaboration and problem solving.

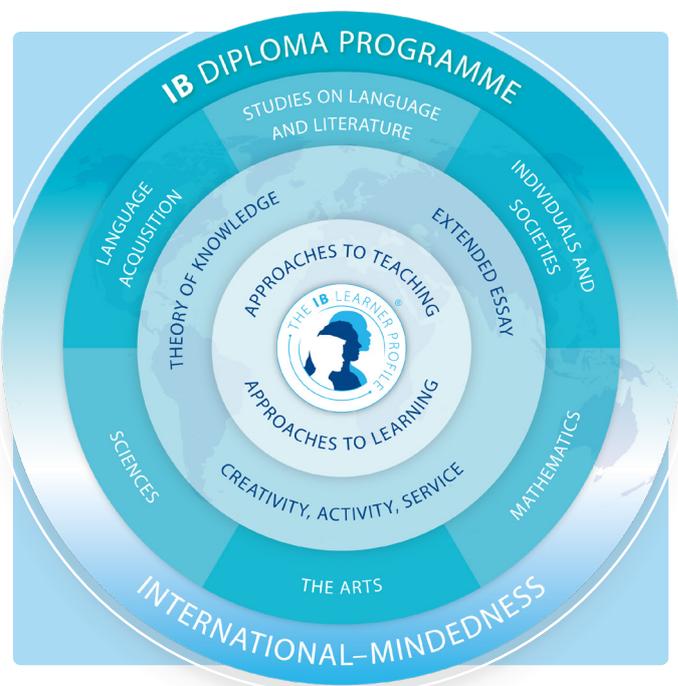
Assessment in the DP

Assessment in the DP measures the extent to which students master advanced academic skills in:

- analysing and presenting information
- evaluating and constructing arguments
- solving problems creatively

In addition to academic skills, DP assessment encourages an international outlook and intercultural skills, wherever appropriate.

The grades awarded for each course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). Including marks for the DP core, students can be awarded a maximum total of 45 points.



Programme impact

Assessment in the DP measures the extent to which students master advanced academic skills in:

Research plays a central role in the development, quality assurance and assessment of IB programme outcomes. Studies that have investigated the impact of the DP reveal that:

- IB students are 40% more likely to achieve a first or upper second-class degree
- DP students are three times more likely to enrol at a top 20 higher education institution in the UK
- In the US, 62% of DP graduates earned a four-year college degree, compared to 41% of all US students
- In Canada, DP students are much more likely to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (50.1%)
- Compared to graduates with traditional high school diplomas in Canada, DP students have significantly higher university grades

More information – <https://www.ibo.org/dp>

