The IB Diploma Programme: Graduate destinations survey 2011/2012

Country Report
Australia
2012
Contents

- Objective and methodology
- Section 1  Demographics: Profile of respondents and schools
- Section 2  Destination of IB Diploma Programme graduates
- Section 3  Entry requirements and application process
- Section 4  Decision-making and interests
- Section 5  Mobility
- Section 6  Learning experience and recommendation
Objective and methodology

Objective
To improve the recognition of the IB Diploma Programme (DP) worldwide by presenting the profile, performance and destinations of IB diploma and certificate candidates in Australia. The global report will cover the US, Canada, Mexico, the UK, Spain, India as well as Australia.

Methodology
Stage 1—Questionnaire design
In cooperation with the IB, a survey instrument was developed to survey Australia’s IB graduates. The questionnaire contained six sections plus one follow-up question. The survey obtained confirmation, from students graduating in 2011/12, of their intended destinations upon completion of their IB Diploma Programme and collected information on: whether students were intending to go on to further education or other destinations; colleges/universities applied to; offers received; scholarship offers; final choice of destination, as well as intended major. The questionnaire also covered student mobility, their decision-making process and interests, as well as their IB learning experiences.

Stage 2—Online survey
56 IB World Schools in Australia were eligible to participate in the IB diploma programme graduate destinations survey, of which 30 (53%) registered. Of these 30 schools, 19 (63 %) launched the survey either directly to their students or by providing email addresses of their graduates prior to the fieldwork period. A total of 267 graduating high school seniors (91 male, 152 female, 24 did not state their gender) from 30 schools submitted responses. Both full IB diploma and IB certificate candidates participated in the survey, although the share of IB diploma candidates was considerably higher (252 diploma candidates versus 15 certificate candidates).

An IB coordinator/teacher/principal either administered the survey to students via email or provided i-graduate with email addresses of their students, so the survey was launched directly to students by i-graduate. Participating institutions were provided with a suggested email invitation text to be sent to their high school seniors. The email invitation text explained the purpose of the study and detailed how the data would be used. In addition, the institution was provided with a specific hyperlink that directed email recipients to the online IB diploma graduate destinations survey, hosted using i-graduate’s survey software capability.
Section 1

Demographics: Profile of respondents and schools
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Did you just complete your:

- 94% International Baccalaureate diploma
- 6% International Baccalaureate certificate

Base number: 267

Please tell us, are you:

- 37% Female
- 63% Male

Base number: 243

- A total of 94% of the respondents are IB diploma candidates.
- The majority of the respondents (63%) are female.
A total of 81% of all respondents are Australian nationals, followed by Chinese and Malaysian citizens. Base number: 245
Are you fluent in other languages aside from your mother tongue?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second language</th>
<th>Base number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin Chinese</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see Appendix A for a full list of second languages.

Base number: 241
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Share of respondents being enrolled in either public or private school

- A total of 19 Australian schools launched the survey (17 private schools and 2 state schools).
- The majority of the survey respondents are students from private schools.

Base number: 267
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Distribution of scores—IB diploma candidates only

Mean IB score: 37
Median IB score: 38
Profile summary

- Of the IB graduates participating in the Australian survey, 63% are female.
- Of the IB graduates participating in the Australian survey, 94% are IB diploma candidates.
- Of the IB graduates participating in the Australian survey, 81% are Australian citizens.
- Of the IB graduates participating in the Australian survey, 79% are from private schools.
- The average IB score among survey participants is 37; the median score is 38.
Section 2

Destination of IB Diploma Programme graduates
Have you decided to undertake further study at a university/college upon completion of your IB diploma/certificate?

- **99% of respondents** are planning to **undertake further study** at a university/college upon completion of their IB diploma/certificate.
- **Only 1%** of all respondents have **other plans** following their IB diploma/certificate.

*Base number: 226*
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Top 10 universities among survey respondents

Which university/college will you be attending?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monash University</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New South Wales, Sydney</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 88 respondents (44%) will be attending the University of Queensland, the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney.

*See Appendix B for the full list of university acceptance rates.*

Base number: 202
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Which type of degree are you planning to undertake? [Multiple choice]

- Bachelor degrees (3 years): 57%
- Bachelors degrees with honours (4 years): 28%
- Double degree (conjoint/combined/dual degree): 25%
- Diplomas (1–2 years): 4%
- Advanced diplomas (1–2 years): 1%
- Other (Including medical degrees): 18%
- Undecided: 1%

The vast majority of the survey population is planning to undertake a Bachelor degree programme (85%).
Health professions and related clinical sciences is the most popular intended area of study chosen by Australian IB graduates, followed by business and engineering.
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Is the university/college you will be attending your top choice?

- 89%
- 11%

Is the programme/course that you will be undertaking at this university/college your first choice?

- 82%
- 18%

• A total of 89% of the survey respondents will be attending a higher education institution of their top choice.
• A total of 82% of the survey respondents will undertake their first choice programme/course at university/college.
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

How did you use your IB Diploma Programme participation as part of your application?

- As my main qualification for admission to universities: 71%
- For scholarship: 31%
- At my interview: 28%
- As my supportive qualification for admission to universities: 14%
- Other: 6%

A total of 83 IB candidates included their IB Diploma Programme participation as part of their application—mostly as their main qualification for admission.

Base number: 83
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Did you receive a scholarship from the university, community, government or other organization?

A total of 16% of all respondents have received a scholarship from the university, community, government or other organization.

Base number: 204
Section 4
Decision-making and interests
Which of the following helped your decision to apply to the institution you did? [Multiple choice]

- The programmes available/the curriculum of the university/college: 88%
- The reputation of the university/college: 85%
- The advice from family and friends: 59%
- The IB recognition policy at the university/college: 27%
- The international focus of the university/college: 26%
- The advice given by the IB coordinator/teachers/counsellor: 16%
- The costs of the university/college: 13%
- Scholarship offered by the university/college: 11%
- Other: 4%

The vast majority of respondents state that the programmes available (88%) and the reputation of the university/college (85%) are the main reasons for their application.
In order to make a final decision, students consider the **programmes available** (80%) and the **reputation** of the university/college (73%) to be the most important factors.
Which extra-curricular activities did you take part in at your school alongside your IB Diploma Programme and in which activities do you plan to participate during your university studies?

- Community volunteer services: 51% actively participated, 31% plan to participate.
- Outdoor activities: 49% actively participated, 33% plan to participate.
- Music (vocal music/band/orchestra): 48% actively participated, 35% plan to participate.
- Social service: 49% actively participated, 28% plan to participate.
- Arts, visual Arts: 35% actively participated, 23% plan to participate.
- Dramatics/theatre: 35% actively participated, 18% plan to participate.
- Writing/literary magazine/journalism: 35% actively participated, 18% plan to participate.
- Dance: 35% actively participated, 15% plan to participate.
- Political groups/student government: 35% actively participated, 15% plan to participate.
- Ethnic groups/religious groups: 5% actively participated, 15% plan to participate.
- Other: 31% actively participated, 4% plan to participate.
In which extra-curricular sports did you take part at your school alongside your IB Diploma Programme and in which sports do you plan to participate during your studies?
Section 4
Decision-making and interests

Community service and other volunteer service

Do you intend to be involved and stay active in community service or perform volunteer service during your studies at university/college?

A total of 69% of all survey respondents intend to be involved in community service or volunteer work while at university/college.

Base number: 198
Section 4
Decision-making and interests

Do you intend to pursue education beyond undergraduate degree?

- A total of 75% of the survey respondents are planning to pursue education beyond their undergraduate degree.
- Only 2% of the respondents are not intending to undertake further studies after their first degree.

Base number: 199
Section 5
Mobility
Do you intend to study abroad?

- Yes, for one semester: 25.5%
- Yes, for one full year: 17.5%
- Yes, for my entire undergraduate degree: 7.0%
- Yes, for my entire postgraduate degree: 6.0%
- No: 16.5%
- I don’t know: 27.5%

A total of 56% of all respondents are considering study abroad. The majority of these are planning to go abroad for one semester.
If you intend to study abroad, where will you most probably study?

For 51% of the Australian respondents, the preferred destination for studying abroad is Europe, followed by North America (32%).
Do you intend to pursue a career in another country after you complete all your studies?

- Yes: 34%
- Undecided: 14%
- No: 52%

More than half of the survey respondents are still undecided about whether they intend to pursue a career abroad after they completed all their studies. Base number: 199
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Do you think the IB Diploma Programme has prepared you well for your future studies?

99% of all respondents feel either **very well** or **well prepared** for their future studies.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Do you think the IB Diploma Programme has prepared you well for your future studies?
[by IB score]

- Over 38 (n=89):
  - I feel very well prepared: 64.0%
  - I feel well prepared: 36.0%
- 32 - 38 (n=73):
  - I feel very well prepared: 64.4%
  - I feel well prepared: 34.2%
  - I do not feel prepared: 1.4%
- Under 32 (n=23):
  - I feel very well prepared: 30.4%
  - I feel well prepared: 69.6%

www.i-graduate.org
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation
• A total 99% of all IB students who took part in the survey feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.

• All respondents with an IB score of more than 38 points feel either very well or well prepared for future studies.

• A total of 98% of all respondents with an IB score between 32 and 38 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.

• All respondents with an IB score of less than 32 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
Based on your experiences, would you recommend undertaking the IB Diploma Programme to other students?

A total of 76% of all respondents would either actively encourage or encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
A total of 88% of all students with an IB score higher than 38 would actively encourage or encourage the IB Diploma Programme to others.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Open comments

“I believe that the IB is a more holistic and enriching course than the HSC curriculum.”

“The depth and breadth of every subject is incredible and helps you understand that what you are learning is part of a bigger picture and is ‘real world’ applicable, as opposed to merely being content needed to pass an exam. Beyond this, all the work is challenging and ensures that you are continually committed to and invested in your studies.”

“It pushes a student to their limit but if they have chosen the IB they should look forward to the challenge and to learning. The CAS program is really characteristic of the IB and I believe that it gives students experiences that other education systems lack. Having completed my IB I see that I am simply a citizen of the world and now I look forward to interacting with a global audience to help solve the issues of our modern world using the deep thinking skills and experiences given to me by the IB.”

“A challenge and a unique and diverse experience.”

“Because it is an all-rounded curriculum with a great focus on the students, preparing them academically as well as mentally for university.”

The main tenor of the open comments is:
holistic, challenging, all-rounded.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Open comments

“I was happy for the majority of the duration of my IB DP thanks to the fellow students I was with and the good teaching we received. We were kept busy and challenged, always with room for extension.”

“The IB DP is a greatly well-rounded and challenging course, exposing students to a different level of education and attainment of knowledge that is not evident in other courses of education in Year 12.”

“International focus and the focus on asking ‘why?’ to everything.”

“I found the subject variance as well as the required community service components to be rewarding and I think the workload and the fact that we were encouraged to conduct independent research and learning will serve me very well at university and in later life.”

“I believe that the diploma encourages preparation for university courses such as the syllabus outline and internal assignments, so will ease that transition when I start uni.”

The main tenor of the open comments is: international, well-rounded, good university preparation.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Summary

- 76% of survey respondents would either **actively encourage** or **encourage** others to undertake the IB diploma Programme. Less than 4% of all IB diploma candidate respondents would actively discourage undertaking the IB Diploma Programme.

- 87% of survey respondents with an IB score higher than 38 would actively encourage or encourage the IB diploma Programme to others.

- No survey respondents with an IB score lower than 32 would actively discourage others to undertake the IB diploma Programme.
Thank you!

For further information about the IB and this survey, please contact recognition@ibo.org.

For further information about i-graduate’s services, contact a member of the i-graduate Research Team (info@i-graduate.org).

International Graduate Insight Group:

Redhill Chambers
2D High Street
Redhill, Surrey
RH1 1RJ

t +44 (0)1737 772 250
f +44 207 182 7152
info@i-graduate.org
www.i-graduate.org