The IB Diploma Programme: Graduate destinations survey 2011

Country report
United Kingdom
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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 the United Kingdom. The global report will cover the US, Canada, Mexico, India, Spain, Australia as well as the UK.

Methodology

Stage 1—Questionnaire design
In cooperation with the IB, a survey instrument was developed to survey UK IB graduates. The UK questionnaire contained six sections plus one follow-up question. The survey obtained confirmation, from students graduating in 2011, of their intended destinations upon completion of the 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 subject. The questionnaire also covered student mobility, their decision-making process and interests, as well as their IB learning experiences.

Stage 2—Online survey
In 2011, 157 IB World Schools offering the DP in the UK were eligible for the IB diploma graduate destinations survey of which 61 (39%) registered. Of these 61 schools, 42 (27% of all eligible schools) launched the survey either directly to their students or by providing email addresses of their graduates prior to the fieldwork period. A total of 420 final year students (132 male, 246 female, 42 did not state their gender) from 42 schools submitted responses. Both full IB diploma and IB certificate candidates participated in the survey, although the share of IB diploma candidate respondents was considerably higher (394 diploma candidates versus 26 certificate candidates).

An IB coordinator/teacher/principal either administered the survey 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 final year students. 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

Are you in the final year of your:

- 94% of respondents are IB diploma candidates.
- The ratio of male to female respondents is almost 1:2 respectively.

Please tell us, are you:

- 94% of respondents are IB diploma candidates.
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Nationality (passport)

- 69% of all respondents are British citizens.
- The second biggest nationality is German (11%).

Base number: 356
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

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>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other*</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see Appendix A for full list of second languages

Base number: 357
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Ethnicity

Over 50% of the respondents are White British, followed by 25% from other white backgrounds.

Base number: 359
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Share of survey respondents being enrolled in either state or private school:

- A total of 42 UK schools launched the survey (21 private schools and 21 state schools).
- There is a fairly even split between students in state secondary education (54%) and students in private secondary education (46%).

Base number: 419
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Distribution of IB scores among IB diploma candidate respondents

Frequencies

IB score

Base number: 315

Mean IB score: 36
Median IB score: 36
Section 1—Demographics
Profile of respondents and schools

Profile summary

- In total, 65% of the IB graduates participating in the UK survey are female.
- In total, 94% of all IB graduates participating in the UK survey are IB diploma candidates.
- In total, 69% of all IB graduates participating in the UK survey are British citizens.
- The majority of all IB graduates participating in the UK survey are White British (54%), from any other White background (25%), Asian (3%) or Chinese (3%).
- In total, 54% of all IB graduates participating in the UK survey are from state schools.
- The average IB score among UK survey respondents is 36, the median score is 36.
Section 2

Destination of IB Diploma Programme graduates
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?

- The majority of the graduates have decided to undertake further education.
- Moreover, 96% of respondents are planning to undertake further study at a university/college upon earning their IB diploma/certificate.
- Only 3% of respondents have other plans following their IB diploma/certificate.

### Alternative to higher education*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative to higher education*</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defer university/college for a year</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent employment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/time off for more than three months</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary work/other unpaid work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study towards an alternative educational option</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*low base numbers

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Base number: 381
Section 3

Entry requirements and application process
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Top 10 universities attending among survey respondents

Which university/college will you be attending?

- University College London: 16
- University of Cambridge: 15
- University of Kent: 12
- University of Warwick: 11
- Durham University: 11
- University of Oxford: 10
- University of York: 8
- Queen Mary, University of London: 8
- University of Nottingham: 7
- University of Exeter: 7
- Cardiff University: 7

A total of 31 respondents will be attending University College London (UCL) or University of Cambridge.

Base number: 112
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

Acceptance rates for the most popular institutions survey respondents applied to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>% Offer</th>
<th>Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University College London</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham University</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Southampton</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kent</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see Appendix B for full list of universities*
Entry requirements and application process

Intended area of study

- Biological and Biomedical Sciences: 28%
- English Language and Literature: 11%
- Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics: 8%
- Psychology: 8%
- History: 8%
- Engineering: 6%
- Business: 6%
- Law and Legal Studies: 6%
- Physical Sciences: 6%
- Social Sciences (including Economics): 7%
- Other: 5%

Biological and biomedical sciences are the most popular intended areas of study chosen by UK respondents, followed by English language and literature.

Base number: 217
Section 3
Entry requirements and application process

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

- 87% Yes
- 13% No

Base number: 326

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

- 89% Yes
- 11% No

Base number: 326

- A total of 87% of the survey respondents will be attending a university/college of their top choice.
- A total of 89% 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? [Multiple choice]

As my main qualification for admission to universities: 96%
In my supporting statement on the UCAS form: 37%
At my interview (where applicable): 19%
For scholarship: 3%
Other, please specify: 0%

- 66% of survey participants (266 IB diploma candidate respondents and 13 IB certificate candidate) included their Diploma Programme participation as part of their application to university/college—mostly as their main qualification for admission to universities.
- 6% of survey respondents received a scholarship from the university, community, government or other organization. For a full list of awards and scholarships, please visit Appendix C.
Section 4

Decision making and interests
Which of the following helped your decision to APPLY to the institution you did? [Multiple choice]

- The reputation of the university/college: 86%
- The programmes available/the curriculum: 86%
- The advice from family and friends: 46%
- The advice given by the IB coordinator/teachers/ counsellor: 30%
- The international focus of the university/college: 27%
- The IB recognition policy at the university/college: 26%
- The costs of the university/college: 12%
- Other: 9%
- Scholarship offered by the university/college: 3%

The vast majority of respondents state that the **reputation of the higher education institution (HEI)** (86%) and the **programmes available** (86%) are the main reasons for their application.
Section 4
Decision-making and interests

Which of the following helped your final decision to ATTEND an institution? [Multiple choice]

- The reputation of the university/college: 75%
- The programmes available/the curriculum: 74%
- The advice from family and friends: 36%
- The advice given by the IB coordinator/teachers/counsellor: 19%
- The international focus of the university/college: 18%
- The IB recognition policy at the university/college: 15%
- Other: 11%
- The costs of the university/college: 11%
- I did not choose the university/college, it was chosen for me: 4%
- I was awarded a scholarship/bursary: 2%

In order to make a final decision, respondents consider the reputation of the university (75%) and the programmes available (74%) to be the most important factors.

Base number: 298
Section 4
Decision-making and interests

In which extra-curricular activities did you take part in at your school beyond the IB Diploma Programme and in which activities do you plan to participate during your studies? [Multiple choice]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Actively participated during high school years during high school years (287)</th>
<th>Plan to actively participate in university/college during university/college (264)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community volunteer services</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor activities</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music (vocal music.band/orchestra)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dramatics/theatre</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing/literary magazine/journalism</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political groups/student government</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Visual arts</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social service</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic groups/religious groups</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 56% of respondents were involved in community volunteer service during high school years and only 34% are planning to stay involved during university/college.
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?

- 61% of respondents are intending to be involved in community service or volunteer work while at university/college.
- Only 6% do not plan on being involved in either community service or other volunteer work.

Base number: 302
Do you intend to pursue education beyond undergraduate degree?

- 57% of respondents are planning to pursue education beyond their undergraduate degree.
- 6% of both diploma candidate respondents and certificate candidate respondents are not intending to undertake further studies after their first degree.
Section 5
Mobility
Do you intend to study abroad?

- Yes, for one term / one year: 30.5%
- Yes, for my entire undergraduate degree: 8.9%
- Yes, for my entire postgraduate degree: 5.3%
- No: 23.8%
- I don’t know: 31.5%

A total of 44.7% of respondents are considering study abroad. The majority of these respondents are planning to spend one term/year abroad.
If you intend to study abroad, where will you most probably study?

For almost half of the UK respondents (48.2%), Europe is the most attractive study destination, followed by North America (34.2%).
Are you interested in participating in the ERASMUS programme?

110 (66%) of UK respondents are interested in participating in the ERASMUS programme—of those, the majority are particularly interested in studying in France and Spain.

If yes, what would be your countries of preference? [Top 5]

- France: 47%
- Spain: 42%
- Italy: 29%
- Germany: 27%
- Switzerland: 22%

Base number: 325

Base number: 102
Do you intend to pursue a career in another country after you complete all your studies?

Even though 44% of respondents intend to study abroad, only 31% want to pursue a career in another country. However, a larger proportion (58%) are “undecided”, with only 11% signifying no interest in a career outside the UK.
32% of the respondents do not yet know whether they intend to study abroad.

Only 24% of the respondents do not intend to study abroad.

44% of the respondents intend to study abroad—30% for either one term or one year.

66% of the respondents are interested in the ERASMUS programme.

Among those who are interested in the ERASMUS programme, France (47%) is the most popular European country, followed by Spain (42%) and Italy (29%).
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation
95% of respondents feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
Do you think the IB Diploma Programme has prepared you well for your studies?

IB diploma recipients only

IB score

More than 35 (153)

- 55% I feel very well prepared
- 42% I feel well prepared
- 2% I do not feel prepared
- 1% I do not feel prepared at all

24 - 35 (123)

- 34% I feel very well prepared
- 64% I feel well prepared
- 1% I do not feel prepared
- 1% I do not feel prepared at all

97% of diploma recipients respondents with an IB score higher than 35 and 98% of those with a score between 24 and 35 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
There is a slight positive correlation between the perceived level of preparation and the achieved IB score.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Summary

- A total of 95% of respondents feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
- 97% of respondents with an IB score higher than 35 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
- 98% of respondents with an IB score between 24 and 35 feel either very well or well prepared for their future studies.
- There is a slight positive correlation between the perceived level of preparation and the achieved IB score.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Based on your experiences, would you recommend undertaking the IB Diploma Programme to other students?

A total of 61.5% of survey respondents would either actively encourage or encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme, if asked.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Based on your experiences, would you recommend undertaking the IB Diploma Programme to other students?

IB diploma recipients only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IB score</th>
<th>I would actively encourage people to undertake the IB diploma</th>
<th>If asked, I would encourage people to undertake the IB diploma</th>
<th>I would neither encourage nor discourage people to undertake the IB diploma</th>
<th>If asked, I would discourage people from undertaking the IB diploma</th>
<th>I would actively discourage people from undertaking the IB diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 35 (157)</td>
<td>33.76%</td>
<td>38.85%</td>
<td>21.02%</td>
<td>2.55%</td>
<td>3.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 - 35 (127)</td>
<td>22.05%</td>
<td>28.35%</td>
<td>29.92%</td>
<td>13.39%</td>
<td>6.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the survey respondents with an IB score of higher than 35, 73% would encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Average level of recommendation versus IB score—IB diploma candidates only
(1 = actively discourage, 2 = discourage, 3 = neither encourage nor discourage, 4 = encourage, 5 = actively encourage)

Minimum base is 10

There is a positive correlation between the IB score and the likelihood of students to recommend the IB Diploma Programme to others.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Open comments

"IB develops a variety of necessary skills for future independent study at university and makes real hard-working, open-minded students out of couch potatoes."

"Because it gives you a well-rounded education as opposed to the fairly narrow studies of alternatives such as A levels, and it develops skills to a higher degree than A levels. Also, I enjoyed my time studying the IB."

"It gives a better preparation for university than A levels do."

"Gives you a great standing on which to build a degree."

"It certainly isn't for everyone and it is tremendously harder than I imagined but it does give you so many transferable skills and it makes you so much better educated. I know so much it is unbelievable."

"To attempt to expand their education in the way I experienced."

The main tenor of the open comments is: well-rounded, excellent preparation, hard.
Section 6

Learning experience and recommendation

Open comments

“*It gave me a wider variety of subjects to study as I was unprepared to narrow my choices down to only four if I had taken A levels. It has given me a wider perspective on what I wish to achieve in the future.*”

“*While it might be a tough, rigorous and perhaps stress-filled two years, the discipline and skills are two vital pieces in regards to being prepared for the future in any circumstance, whether it’s a job or college.*”

“*The broad education and workload encourages you to learn to manage your time, and prepares you well for further education.*”

“*It promotes the development of well-rounded individuals.*”

“*Broad range of subjects studied, international reputation, endorsement of community work and the encouragement to think critically through TOK.*”

“*For people who don’t want to coast through the last two years of school, it presents a challenge—a chance to find out the true limits of your knowledge.*”

The main tenor of the open comments is: wide/broad, rigorous, challenging, international.
Section 6
Learning experience and recommendation

Summary

- 61% of respondents would either actively encourage or encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- 4% of IB diploma candidate respondents would actively discourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- 34% of respondents with an IB score of higher than 35 would actively encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- 22% of respondents with an IB score between 24 and 35 would actively encourage others to undertake the IB Diploma Programme.
- There is a slight positive correlation between the IB score and the likelihood of students to recommend the IB Diploma Programme to others.
Thank you!

For further details 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).

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