



“Without the IB, I certainly would not have had the opportunity or motivation to write a book. The challenge of writing and organizing this was really interesting, not to mention the fact that it earned me some money to pay for university!”

Simon Johnson

2009 IB Diploma Programme graduate
Kristin School
Albany, New Zealand

IB learners are communicators, and few more than Simon Johnson. Since graduating in November 2009 from New Zealand’s Kristin School—where he was captain of the advanced open debating team—he has written and published *The IB Guide* for parents and students, as well as several articles on the IB, while preparing to begin his studies at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge University, in October 2010.

It is not surprising that Simon chose to write about the IB Diploma Programme; he found the IB experience “overwhelmingly positive”. “I particularly welcomed the intellectual stretch and challenge that it posed,” he says. “Despite doing history at university, I feel that I have learned a lot from the methodology of maths and the experimental sciences.”

Simon also valued the independence the curriculum affords, with flexible content in English and geography courses that allows students to explore their specific interests.

Simon especially benefited from the IB Diploma Programme’s extended essay (EE) and theory of knowledge (TOK) core elements. “TOK and EE were phenomenally useful. I feel they were the principal

reason I was able to get into Cambridge,” he says.

“The EE provided a unique opportunity to write a ‘university-esque’ essay, which my interviewers appreciated. I also really enjoyed the opportunity that TOK offered me to reflect on my experiences as a knower and to think critically about the world.”

As he embarks on his university career, Simon is confident in his preparation. He can expect to affirm that confidence in his current research on the effect of the IB on student performance at university.

“Every IB student becomes focused and organized by the end of the course. It is just not possible to pass without being organized. I imagine this will put me in good stead when I arrive at Cambridge.”



To learn more about how IB prepares student for university and life beyond, go to www.ibo.org/recognition

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