

# Setting an IB policy that works for your institution and your students in the United Kingdom



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional

For over 40 years the IB has built a reputation for high-quality, challenging programmes of education that develop internationally minded young people who are well prepared for the challenges of life in the 21st century and able to contribute to creating a better, more peaceful world.

The IB Diploma Programme, for students aged 16 to 19, is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education that prepares students for success at university and life beyond. Students take courses in six different subject groups, maintaining both breadth and depth of study. In addition, three core elements—the extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, action, service—are compulsory and central to the philosophy of the programme.

As higher education institutions in the United Kingdom (UK) respond to the growth of the IB, having a summary of each university's policy regarding entry requirements for the IB Diploma Programme will help to promote the options open to IB students in the UK. The process for creating an IB policy varies by institution, and the IB is eager to assist you in establishing an appropriate policy that will benefit your enrollment and the students interested in attending your institution.

We have prepared this simple guide to help you summarize or improve IB policies at your institution.

IB policies generally have several components:

- an admissions statement that encourages IB students to apply
- details on the admissions requirements regarding subject prerequisites and minimum scores for entry to various courses, submission of predicted grades and language proficiency
- special considerations for IB students, including scholarships or other opportunities
- other information relevant to the student's application for admission.

The following table describes these components in detail and provides some suggested wording for your policy.

## Policy components

## Suggested wording

### I. Admissions statement

IB students need to know that your institution and its faculty understand what the IB qualification means and that you seek and value what these students can bring to your campus and classrooms. A statement on your admissions website is a good place to start.

*[Your university] values the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and its engaging and challenging curriculum that encourages critical thinking, intercultural understanding and respect. We welcome applications from IB students.*

### II. Admissions requirements

#### Determining the entry requirements for your university

Universities have found that the IB diploma score is a reliable predictor of university success and is not subject to grade inflation. Many universities have researched the first-year student performance of IB students to determine the appropriate scores and entry requirements for IB students.

Providing clear and up to date information on your entry requirements for your university on your university's website, in addition to UCAS, will help IB students determine whether they should apply.

*Admission to [your university] is competitive and in general IB candidates should have, or expect to achieve, a total score of [the diploma score required for entry] or better, with scores in subjects, or good HL scores in certificates. Specific subject prerequisites and minimum scores vary by course.*

*The prerequisites and scores together with detailed course and admissions information can be viewed on the university's website or on the UCAS Course Search option of the UCAS website.*

## II. Admissions requirements (continued)

### Use of predicted grades

Universities generally opt to make admissions decisions based on the anticipated scores on the IB diploma, which are submitted by the student's school to UCAS at the appropriate time.

*IB students applying to [your university] will usually apply through UCAS and their schools will submit predicted grades in the usual way.*

### Alternative pathways

For IB students that do not achieve the required IB diploma scores or do not receive the full diploma, your institution may be able to offer an alternative pathway by allowing them to apply using their scores on the individual assessments or by presenting their IB assessments in combination with additional qualifications.

*[Your university] accepts IB students based on their scores on the individual IB assessments or by combining their IB assessments with additional qualifications. Applicants who do not achieve the required IB diploma scores for direct entry may contact the university if they have missed their offer.*

### English proficiency

One of the most distinctive components of the IB curriculum is the requirement for students to learn two languages. IB students who have studied outside of the UK and may be non-native English speakers can demonstrate a high degree of proficiency, evidenced by their score on the higher level or standard level IB English language exams.

*[Your university] recognizes final grades on the IB language assessments in English as satisfying requirements for demonstrating English language proficiency.*

*The following grades are recognized as meeting language proficiency requirements:*

*English A HL: 2  
English A SL: 3  
English B HL: 3  
English B SL: 4*

*There is no need for students who have taken these IB English courses to take other qualifications such as IELTS or TOEFL.*

## III. Other considerations

### Scholarships

Higher education institutions in the UK and around the world award scholarships to outstanding students who show achievement in a variety of ways. A university that grants scholarships to IB students has added a powerful incentive to attract and recruit high-calibre students who are ready for the challenges of university coursework and the transition to campus life.

*[Your university] offers a variety of scholarships are offered to both local and international IB students. For more information please visit the [your university] website.*

## IV. Additional information

### Requests for transcripts of results

*IB Diploma Programme coordinators in the schools may submit students' UCAS reference numbers to the IB, which will forward their results to the universities from which the students have received offers.*

### Contact information

*For any additional questions or comments, please contact:*

*Contact Name  
Office of Admissions  
Your University  
Phone  
Email*

**Learn more about the IB policy that is right for your institution by going online to [www.ibo.org/recognition](http://www.ibo.org/recognition) or e-mail us at [recognition@ibo.org](mailto:recognition@ibo.org)**