



**“The single most favourable aspect of the IB is that it offers an all-around education and helps develop invaluable, transferable skills for university and life that no other high school programme offers.”**

**Piotr Wozniak**

2007 IB Diploma Programme graduate  
American School of Warsaw  
Bielawa, Konstancin–Jeziorna, Poland

Piotr Wozniak, a 2007 IB Diploma Programme graduate, likes nothing more than a challenge. He earned a bachelor of science degree in economics—receiving first-class honours in advanced economic analysis, economics, international economics and law from the London School of Economics and Political Science—before moving into a career in the energy industry.

Piotr relished the demands of the IB curriculum. “I enjoyed taking all six different subjects and facing the challenging work of managing the full subject workload along with extended essay; creativity, action, service [CAS]; and extracurricular activities,” he says.

As a lifelong IB student, Piotr was ready to apply himself. “The preparatory to the IB Diploma Programme school had a rigorous school programme where every minute of every day was filled with fun and educational activities that taught languages and different cultures along with all the typical primary school subjects.”

Piotr enthusiastically embraced it all. For his CAS requirement, he organized an unprecedented student-led charity event for the Polish Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity that raised over US\$10,000—and earned him the 2007 International Student of the Year Award.

When time came for his extended essay, Piotr chose the topic of azeotropic distillation, an industrial process that was not covered in any of the textbooks used for his classes. “It was an unforgettable experience,” he says.

“Knowing I would go on to study economics, it was my last chance to do something science-related. I performed a complex distillation of ethanol at a petrochemical company’s refinery-side laboratory, which was an amazing experience. After putting my heart and soul into the paper, I managed to get the highest grade.”

Piotr also took on numerous internships, including work at the Warsaw Stock Exchange that sparked his interest in economics. In fact, an internship with an oil and gas company encouraged him to become a financial analyst with ConocoPhillips. “Being part of the environmentally conscious society of the international schools,” he says, “I hope to bring that same dedication to an industry that is the subject of many criticisms but has the potential to deliver real, exciting, paradigm-shifting change that will benefit all future generations.”

**“I know and appreciate the diversity that many cultures offer and have best friends from the furthest parts of the world. Many of this is thanks to the international community that I was fortunate to be part of. Now, having joined a multinational company, I cannot imagine any other way of life.”**



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