

## International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

---

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) offers high quality programmes of international education to a worldwide community of schools. There are more than 900,000 IB students in over 140 countries.

---

## The Diploma Programme

The IB Diploma Programme is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The programme is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

### The Curriculum

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses at higher level or standard level. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics. The sixth subject may be an arts subject chosen from group 6, or the student may choose another subject from groups 1 to 5.

In addition the programme has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.

**The extended essay** is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

**Theory of knowledge** is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

**Creativity, action, service** requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.

---

### Assessment

Students take written examinations at the end of the programme, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external moderators or sent directly to external examiners.

The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole programme and to satisfactory participation in the creativity, action, service requirement. The highest total that a Diploma Programme student can be awarded is 45 points.

# The International Baccalaureate Program

## Commonly Asked Questions

### What is IB?

The International Baccalaureate Program offers the advanced student a rigorous, internationally recognized degree program in their Junior and Senior years of high school. The IB curriculum is an integrated academic program which combines six major subject areas with community service, critical thinking and reflection. The goal is not only to produce an academically successful student but also a well-rounded person who is socially responsible and able to make good life choices. There are over 2,500 IB schools in 132 countries throughout the world. All IB schools undergo an exhaustive authorization process to be accredited, and IB teachers undergo continuing professional development to ensure the highest quality education.

### What is so special about the IB Programme?

- IB programmes are recognized around the world and ensure an increased adaptability and mobility for IB students.
- The curriculum and pedagogy of **IB programmes** focus on international perspectives of learning and teaching, while insisting that students fully explore their home culture and language.
- IB World Schools must undergo an exhaustive authorization process in order to offer one or more of the programmes, which includes a study of the school's resources and commitment to the **IB mission** and philosophy.
- IB teachers participate in a wide variety of **professional development** opportunities to constantly update their knowledge and share their expertise with colleagues around the world.
- Many students graduating from the Diploma Programme find that it enhances their opportunities at tertiary institutions. The IB works closely with universities around the world to gain **recognition** for IB programmes.
- The core components of IB programmes encourage students to participate in creative and service-oriented activities, while at the same time emphasizing the importance of reflection on a personal and academic level.
- The IB produces publications for schools to inform and support them as they offer IB courses. It is now beginning to produce material for use directly with students and to work closely with selected publishers and providers to offer material for students. These materials only will carry an IB logo.

### What type of student is successful in the IB?

Successful IB students are high achieving students who are serious about their education and are willing to take on a demanding course of study. IB students at Westwind Preparatory Academy are fully involved in other school activities. They participate in sports, arts, drama, music and more. Learning to balance these important opportunities with IB is an important part of the student's experience.

### How successful are IB students when applying for university admissions?

Recipients of the IB diploma enjoy a high rate of acceptance at leading universities. In addition, some universities offer scholarships to IB graduates.

### Are there costs associated with the IB program?

Westwind does not require an application fee for enrollment into the IB program. Westwind Prep Academy will pay for all for Westwind enrolled students that require assessments associated with the IB program.

