



THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT ISR

2020-2021



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WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME (IB DP)?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB DP) is a two-year college preparation programme.

10 reasons to choose this for the last two years of your high school education:

1. "It increases academic opportunity".

Research* shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications. (*Based on IB research)

2. "IB students care about more than just results".

Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally, ethically and intellectually.

3. "It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner".

For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.

4. "It's an international qualification".

The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.

5. "Graduates are globally-minded".

Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.

6. "IBDP students have proven time management skill"

.IBDP graduates learn how to study effectively and to manage their time. They carry these skills with them into further education and ultimately the working world.

7. "It assesses more than examination techniques".

Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.

8. "Subjects are not taught in isolation".

Theory of Knowledge (ToK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.

9. "It encourages breadth and depth of learning".

You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

10. "It makes you think".

The ToK element in all subjects encourages critical thinking and problem-solving.

This information and much more is available at www.ibo.org.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT?

The IB programme goes beyond teaching subjects.

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

We nurture the following traits in our students:

- **Inquirers**
- **Knowledgeable**
- **Thinkers**
- **Communicators**
- **Principled**
- **Open-minded**
- **Caring**
- **Courageous**
- **Balanced**
- **Reflective**

This fits very well with the [ISR Mission statement](#):

We are a respectful, learning-focused community where each student is inspired to achieve his or her potential and to become an ethical, confident, and internationally-minded citizen of tomorrow.

WHAT CAN WE STUDY?

The Core

This is made up of the three required components, and it aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

Theory of knowledge,

in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.

The extended essay,

which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.

Creativity, activity, service,

in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

Please click on the link for more detailed information (www.ibo.org)

Students are also required to choose one subject from the first five groups and then their sixth subject is either an arts subject or they can choose a second science or a second subject from the Individuals and Societies group.

The six subject groups are:

- Studies in Language and Literature
- Language Acquisition
- Individuals and Societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The Arts

Please click on the links for further information about the groups and subjects.

HOW DO I CHOOSE MY SUBJECTS?

Students have to choose three subjects to study at Higher Level (HL). These are typically the subjects likely to be studied at college or university. They also study three subjects at Standard Level (SL). HL subjects require 240 hours of instruction and SL 150. Please see [IBDP Guide](#) for more information.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE AT ISR?

At ISR we strive to meet the needs of all our students. We will run classes provided that we have a minimum of five students who wish to study this subject. In addition, we can facilitate online learning through [Pamoja](#). This comes at an extra cost to parents, but it is a way to ensure that all students can choose the best subjects for themselves.

WHICH SUBJECTS DO WE OFFER?

Please note: unless specified, the subjects are offered at both HL and SL

[Group 1](#) - English Language and Literature

[Group 2 or Second Language](#) - French and Spanish as a Foreign Language (B), German as a Beginners' Language (Ab Initio) - only offered at SL. We also offer Latvian Literature and Russian Language and Literature as a second language for our bilingual students. This will be recognized with the awarding of a bilingual IB diploma

[Group 3](#) - Economics, Geography and History

[Group 4](#) - Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics

[Group 5](#) - Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches and Mathematics: Applications and Interpretation SL

[Group 6](#) - Film and Visual Arts

WHY CHOOSE ISR?

- We support students in accessing the Latvian State system.
- Bilingual diplomas - students taking both English and Latvian are eligible for a bilingual diploma. Please read [this article](#) which outlines how this can be advantageous.
- Small groups.
- Well-qualified teachers with vast experience of the IB. We have workshop leaders and examiners on our faculty.

FACULTY TESTIMONIALS



ANDREA CHRISTEN

teacher of English and Extended Essay Coordinator

"The IB Diploma Programme allows students to have a well-rounded education that considers the whole child. Students can deep-dive into their interests and explore how they learn. Previously, as an AP teacher, I rarely saw my students investigating. In IB, it's a requirement. Instead of multiple choice questions, students read, write and analyze to show they not only know the subject but are able to think about the subject, critically and insightfully. The approaches to teaching also encourage teachers to work with concepts instead of mere facts and to include inquiry in their work. It's a great way to create knowledgeable, balanced inquirers."



STEVEN BARRETT

teacher of Physics and Chemistry

"I have been involved with the IB since 1994, teaching both chemistry and physics, as well as holding a number of posts of responsibility within the Diploma Programme, including CAS Coordinator and Diploma Programme Coordinator. As part of the

IB community I have been an examiner for the internal assessment (IA) for physics and currently am a workshop leader for chemistry and physics since 2010. I can honestly say that the IBDP works. Students enter colleges and universities with the skills they need to be successful."



SARAH MCGINLEY

IBDP Coordinator, teacher of German Ab Initio

"I joined ISR in 2019 as the IBDP coordinator designate. I am committed to working within the IB and have been an active member of the IB community for over 20 years as a teacher, an examiner and as a coordinator and an administrator. This programme prepares students to be successful. It has rigour and it also stresses the importance of skills such as collaboration and communication which are increasingly important in our changing world."



LAUREN FERNATO

IB DP Geography, and Theory of Knowledge

"As an alumna of the IB programme, I have found that it really prepared me to make the transition into university and adulthood. Programmes like CAS taught me about being balanced and growing not just as a student, but as a global citizen. TOK taught me to be critical and challenge positions and ideas which allowed me to question the world and my professors, and shine in my essays at university. Most importantly though, it was a programme that built connections with other students from around the world and allowed me to keep a network of peers who have this shared experience."



ALEXANDRA PECK

teacher of IBDP Mathematics

"Having previously taught Cambridge A-level Mathematics, I am incredibly excited to be teaching IBDP Mathematics: Applications

and Interpretations (AI). Whilst AI is undoubtedly able to match the depth and rigour of the Cambridge A-level course, it also offers incomparable opportunities for inquiry, independent exploration and learning about the practical applications of the Maths we study. My favourite element of the AI course is the internal exploration which is an extended exploration into an area of personal interest in Mathematics. This gives students a chance to develop university-level academic research and writing skills and really hone the type of independent learning skills that will be essential for university and the workplace. Furthermore, whilst only the strongest Mathematicians are recommended to study A-level Maths, the IBDP programme ensures that every student continues their Maths education throughout high school at a level which is right for them. Finally I love that the IBDP offers a holistic education comprising character development, service and research skills, as well as an education in a broad spectrum of subjects. As a teacher I want students to graduate as rounded, lifelong learners with a maximum number of doors open to them. I believe IBDP offers the best opportunity to achieve this ambition and am really happy that we have introduced the programme at ISR."



TIM BAZIN

teacher of IBDP Economics and CAS Coordinator

"Over almost a decade, I've worked as a DP Online Examiner, Teacher, Administrator, College Counselor, and Prospective Student Interviewer (at my alma mater). I've experienced teaching through the Cambridge, AP, and DP curriculums. I can say that - hands down - the IB Diploma is simply the best college preparatory programme out there. It's highly organized, rigorous, and offers a holistic approach. The world's top universities know that DP students can handle the rigours of university study. The DP's constant revision of syllabi and plethora of professional development opportunities mean that your child's teacher will be held to a high international standard."

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

FROM GRADE 11 (IB1) - CLASS OF 2022

"I'm really enjoying my IB program so far. The teachers have been extremely patient and very helpful in navigating me through the program and that was a particular highlight of my experience so far."

"I really love only studying subjects that I see using in the future. The highlight of this year are Film and Geography lessons that I'm doing pretty well in."

"I enjoy lessons because of the teachers' approach."

"I find everything I learn in school very interesting. I like the themes that we are studying. I'm surprised how the approach is different compared to my previous school."

"I'm really enjoying my IB program so far. The teachers have been extremely patient and very helpful in navigating me through the program and that was a particular highlight of my experience so far."

"It is great. I love it, but it's still really challenging for me!"

"I have really enjoyed the CAS projects and have been enjoying the teachers' help in the IBDP."

"I really like the amount of work we need to do, it's not too much but it's sufficient to improve us."

If you like what you have read, or if you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact **ISR Admissions: admissions@isriga.lv or the **IBDP coordinator** sarah.mcginley@isriga.lv to arrange a virtual or face-to-face meeting - Please note we can provide translation in both Latvian and Russian if needed.**



THANK YOU!

2020-2021