



THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT ISR



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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), French 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 - 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."



CLASS OF 2022 TESTIMONIALS

"It is so exciting to move on to this new chapter of my life! As an aspiring fashion designer, I am continuing my academic journey at Ravensbourne University London, one of the industry's leading universities. Nonetheless, my dream is to achieve Central Saint Martin's BA (Hons) Fashion Design diploma, which I will apply for after my foundation year at Ravensbourne. Both universities are famous in their fields and well-known for their great exposure of students to the industry and work after college. I'm grateful for all these opportunities coming my way; grateful to know that I'm working towards a future I've always planned for. And an honest thanks to ISR for all the support and academic challenges that taught me new things. If I were to give advice to our graduates, I would say just work your hardest and trust that it'll pay off one day. It worked for me!"

"I am definitely really excited to have a chance to study pharmacy at a top 10 world university.

This would not have happened without my parents taking me at age 6 to ISR where for 12 years I was given all the opportunities to excel, to become who I am today. ISR could not have been where it is without the strong foundation Lee Chalkly built for many years, many thanks goes to him.

I should also say thanks to my inner self – because mainly it is the student who achieves the goals set and grades needed with a steady and serious attitude towards studies.

"Bring Health to the World" is the UCL School of Pharmacy ideology. I will do my best to obtain as much knowledge as possible and will come back home to Latvia, as I believe that communities in my home country deserve a more committed and resourceful team of healthcare professionals, who are dedicated to providing to those in need.

I hope in the future to work hands-on with the development of new medicines to help cure diseases where there is no specific treatment or method of prevention, such as arthritis, leukemia, anaphylactic shock and many more."



THANK YOU!

