



THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

2026-2027

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

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP)

The IBDP is an academic, rigorous two-year college preparation program with the aim of giving both breadth and depth to all of the learning experiences.

The IBDP is internationally recognised as an accepted qualification for gaining entry into universities worldwide.

In the image below, the IB shares its top ten reasons why the IBDP pathway helps leads to later success (International Baccalaureate Organization).

10 Reasons
why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

- 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.
- 2 IB students care about more than just results**
Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as 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 The IB encourages critical thinking**
Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.
- 7 DP students have proven time management skills**
Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.
- 8 It assesses more than examination techniques**
Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.
- 9 Subjects are not taught in isolation**
Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.
- 10 It encourages breadth and depth of learning**
You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

*Based on IB research - www.ibo.org/research
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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. (International Baccalaureate Organization)."

At ISR we seek to nurture the following traits in our students through teaching and celebrating the IB learner profile:

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

These traits align 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 YOU STUDY?

The Core

This is composed 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 (TOK): In this class, students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.

The extended essay: An independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word academic paper.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): Each student must complete a project related to these three concepts and develop a range of skills through a varied extracurricular programme whilst reflecting on set learning outcomes.

Subjects

Students are 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:

- 1. Studies in Language and Literature
- 2. Language Acquisition
- 3. Individuals and Societies
- 4. Sciences
- 5. Mathematics
- 6. Arts



HOW DO I CHOOSE MY SUBJECTS?

Students have to choose three subjects to study at Higher Level (HL). Students should have a particular passion for these areas of knowledge and 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. Students will select their course combination in partnership with their parents, the IBDP Coordinator, and the University Counselor.

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, however, has an additional cost and will only be approved on exceptional circumstances as in accordance with our [Pamoja policy](#).



WHICH SUBJECTS DO WE OFFER?

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

Subject Group	Subjects offered at ISR
1: Studies in language & literature	- English Language & Literature (compulsory for all students) - Latvian A Literature (available in place of a group 2 subject) - School Supported Self Taught (SSST) Literature SL only (available in place of a group 2 subject)
2. Language Acquisition	- Spanish B - French B - German ab initio SL only
3. Individuals & societies	- Economics - Global Politics - Business Management - Geography
4. Sciences	- Biology - Chemistry - Computer Science - Physics
5. Mathematics	Analysis & Approaches
6. Arts	- Music - Visual arts

ASSESSMENT IN THE IB DP

The DP curriculum is made up of the six subject groups plus the DP core. The total points are calculated by adding together the grades determined from each of the six subjects and the core. Candidates receive a grade of 1-7 for each subject, and up to three bonus points for the core. This grade will be achieved through success in exams at the end of the 2 year programme, as well as through internal assessments which are completed in all subjects. The maximum score a candidate can achieve is 45 points. This is obtained from 6 subjects achieving grade 7 plus 3 points from the core. The core bonus points are calculated using this matrix:

	Theory of Knowledge					
Extended Essay	Grade awarded	A	B	C	D	E
	A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
	B	3	2	2	1	Failing condition
	C	2	2	1	0	Failing condition
	D	2	1	0	0	Failing condition
	E	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition

To achieve the IB DP, a candidate must have met the following conditions listed:

- "CAS requirements are met.
- The candidate has achieved at least 24 total points.
- A grade has been awarded in all subjects, TOK and the EE.
- A grade of at least a 2 has been awarded in all subjects.
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (SL or HL).
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (SL or HL).
- The candidate has at least 12 points on HL subjects. (For candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count).
- Candidates have at least 9 points on SL subjects. (Candidates who register for two SL subjects must be awarded at least 5 points at SL) (International Baccalaureate Organization)".

WHY CHOOSE ISR?

- We support students in accessing the Latvian State system.
- Bilingual diplomas - students taking both English and Latvian/SSST are eligible for a bilingual diploma.
- Small groups.
- Well-qualified teachers, including DP examiners, with vast experience with the IB.

FACULTY TESTIMONIALS



EMILY BUCKLAND

IB DP Coordinator

"Having been involved with the IB for over a decade, what stands out to me the most is how learners embrace and exemplify the IB learner profile, IB learners present themselves with a level of confidence due to their strong communication skills, curiosity and risk taker outlook, which gives them many valuable skills as they embrace further study and workplace challenges that lie ahead. The academic rigour can be a cause of stress at times but also gives a real sense of pride when recognising the achievements of IB students, which really is something to be celebrated."



UNA AUZIŅA

IB DP Latvian A Literature

"IB DP program and teaching style implements an approach that encourages lifelong learning and teaches students to respect diversity, develop critical thinking skills, foster their curiosity and solve complex problems. Through the DP, we are preparing students for success at university and in life beyond. I have noticed that when studying in this way, students can see the meaning of learning and are able to see how and where the acquired knowledge and skills will be useful in life. It gives motivation to put in the work and not stop on their journey to the goal."



JAIMEE ALLAN

IB DP English Language and Literature

"One of the most poignant aspects of the IB DP Programme is that it focuses not solely on content, but on developing and refining skills that will assist students beyond the classroom. In the context of English Language and Literature, students are encouraged to draw connections between literary works and the world, confront prejudices by analysing situations from diverse perspectives, and adopt a critical and reflective approach to new concepts. Students are provided with a safe and supportive environment in which to explore new ideas while simultaneously developing responsibility through independence and self-management."



LAUREN FERNATO

IB DP 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.”



TIM BENNETT

IB DP Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches

“Teaching IB Diploma Programme mathematics offers a front-row seat to life-altering personal and intellectual growth. The programme is rigorous, challenging students to look beyond routine procedures and discover the breadth, elegance, and beauty of mathematics as the language of our universe. Meeting these demands requires students to take ownership of their education, developing organizational discipline, resilience, and dedicated work ethic—skills that will help ensure future success in university and life. Just as importantly, the holistic nature of the DP—grounded in international-mindedness and service—guides students to recognize their own privileges and act on their responsibilities to others, instilling the realization that they each have an important role to play in improving our world.”

STUDENT'S TESTIMONIALS



MAXIM GUBAREV

IB DP Student at ISR, Class of 2024

“It might sound unusual, but the aspect of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) that I enjoyed most was the amount of work that IB students are required to complete throughout the two-year course. A large number of projects and coursework components across a wide spectrum of topics and formats felt like a continuous investment in your own productivity, knowledge, progress, and academic development”.

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