



IB Diploma Programme guide for parents

The Diploma Programme (DP) is a two-year international education programme that prepares students age 16–19 years for university and higher education. It also prepares students to become creative problem-solvers and lifelong independent thinkers, equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing and increasingly global society.

The DP offers a holistic approach to teaching and learning with a keen focus on developing intercultural awareness. Students learn to explore and understand the world around them through inquiry, critical thinking and open-mindedness.

A well-balanced curriculum and unique DP core

DP students complete courses from six subject groups, ensuring a depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding. By engaging with a range of subjects, they experience a comprehensive education that encourages them to see connections between different academic areas. The study of an additional language is also required, as well as the completion of a compulsory programme core consisting of three components.

Theory of knowledge (TOK) challenges students to reflect on the nature of knowledge and how we know what we claim to know.

Extended essay introduces students to the demands and rewards of independent work prior to entering university, requiring them to produce a self-directed piece of research in an area of personal interest.

Creativity, activity and service (CAS) is an experiential learning component where students engage with a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including community service and athletic options.

University and beyond

The DP is uniquely designed to support all students for success going into, and throughout, university. It is offered in a large number of schools across the world, including private, independent, international, and state-funded schools.

DP graduates are well-equipped to adjust, engage and succeed. They graduate with analytical, writing, communication and presentation skills; research experience; excellent organization and time management; the ability to approach a topic from multiple perspectives; and a deep understanding of academic concepts. This provides an excellent foundation for them to prosper at their chosen university.

By challenging students to complete their studies across the DP curriculum and demonstrate proficiency through a wide range of internationally best practiced assessments, students who earn the IB diploma excel at universities all around the world, regardless of their personal circumstances.

"The changes I saw in my own child going through the IB Diploma Programme were primarily recognizing he could do things that he thought he could never do. It expanded his way of thinking ... a parent can watch your child grow in the many different ways that the IB promotes." - IB parent in the United States

Why the Diploma Programme?

Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the DP because it offers:

a challenging academic curriculum that serves as outstanding preparation for university and higher education

a student-centred approach to teaching, focused on developing students intellectually, emotionally physically and socially, as opposed to preparation for test-taking only

a focus on international-mindedness, compassion, and understanding intercultural differences

respected, reliable and world-renowned academic preparation. Universities regularly cite DP students as the best prepared for higher education

DP graduates excel at university and often begin their studies with advanced standing.

Strengths of DP assessment

The IB is committed to testing relevant thinking skills by creating meaningful tasks that allow the student to show their understanding of the subject—not just their memory skills. The IB recognizes the importance of examination results as a passport to university, and jobs and provides a worldwide standard which has retained its value and meaning over many years. With a strong tradition of taking a principled approach to assessment, the IB diploma offers a range of examinations and internal assessments that give every student the chance to receive recognition for their individual strengths, including credit where applicable.

The DP community in a global world

To date, more than 1.2 million students worldwide have graduated from the DP. IB students reflect diverse experiences and perspectives, attend IB World Schools in 147 countries representing an even broader range of nationalities.

"I really loved the ethos and rigour of the IB: its focus on independent thinking and the equal value it placed on a range of disciplines made it stand out as the best qualification for me to become a better all-round thinker." - IB diploma graduate from the UK

IB World Schools are located in 147 countries

The figure to the right highlights each country with an IB World School

