

The course content offered through the IB programme is definitely intellectually challenging and diverse. It goes beyond what any high school will teach you as part of the "regular curriculum". It will without a doubt prepare you for what's to come in your first year of university. Although I was a partial IB student, the courses I took through IB were focused on what I would pursue in university and they made first year much easier for me to handle than most of my friends who struggled in university coming out of a high school from the "regular curriculum". For me, the only course I transferred from IB was HL English as it is easier to achieve a higher grade in IB HL English as it is to achieve the same grade in university (in my opinion).

The teachers and staff that you work with in the IB programme are dedicated to your success. If they see you putting in the work they will make sure it pays off in the end. The peers you meet in the program will be life-long friends with a similar mindset for academic success as yours. Having friends who want success makes it a lot easier to achieve it yourself. It may be challenging doing the IB programme in high school but it definitely pays off when you pursue any sort of post-secondary education.

*Sam K.*

The IB programme is not an easy program. It requires large amounts of work and dedication, but it is an extremely beneficial program in terms of university preparation. Not only does the program help develop a strong work ethic and self-discipline, but the material taught lays a solid foundation for university course material, if not directly covering first and second year university material. While the knowledge in itself is very valuable in terms of understanding concepts introduced in university courses, as a bonus, credits earned through the IB programme and transferred to post-secondary institutions help move along a degree in a significant way. I think that completing the IB programme makes the transition to university easier. Personally, I found there were no surprises entering university in terms of the workload and course requirements. The changes in class sizes were a shock, but that is because one of the positive aspects of the IB program is that the classes are a good size, and student and teacher communication is very strong.

*Anonymous*

The IB programme is challenging, but when everyone is in the same boat, it brings you closer to your fellow IBers and a large family is formed. There will be difficult assignments and some mind-numbing essays, but there won't be any obstacles you can't overcome with hard work, help from friends, and Kelvin's amazing staff. All the teachers are passionate about what they teach and will go the extra mile to make time for you and any concerns you may have. Even though it's challenging, there will be many opportunities for FUN and other extracurricular activities if you manage your time. The CAS program within IB forced me to volunteer at different institutions, and provided me with experiences that I'm extremely grateful for, but would have been too lazy to pursue if it weren't for IB. I encourage all future IB students to try and get the most out of IB in terms of learning and experience because this is what really counts (yes more than the marks). I wish all those that decide to embark on this journey the best of luck and hope your experience can be as fulfilling as it was for me.

*Mohammed E.*

The ability to write under pressure is a precious skill I got from IB. At the University of Alberta, the transfer credit system was not very helpful, so I did not use it. IB still gave me a head start on knowing the work I had to put in to school to succeed. Higher level English was extremely helpful, especially for university English courses that all undergraduates will have to take. Although most students struggle in their first year, I found that I was able to reach academic success (Dean's List) much quicker due to IB. The thing that I would change about IB was more inclusion with the whole school.

*Maggie W.*

The IB programme at Kelvin High School is an amazing programme. For me personally, it shaped the person I am today. From the hours spent discussing Shakespeare plays, to the discussions on ideology in history, and the deep exploration of biochemistry, drugs, and physiology taught in my Chemistry and Biology classes. All these subjects and their explorations worked to ignite my academic passions leading me to pursue a degree in Biochemistry and History at McGill University.

However, the best thing about this programme for me was that it taught me how to fail. The rigorous course-load meant that I could not always get everything right, and through my failures, I learned how to cope. This is what helped me the most throughout my degree. It developed my ability to learn independently, and continue to work hard when confronted with challenging problems. University has been mentally and emotionally challenging for me, but because I took part in the IB programme at Kelvin High School, I have been able to cope with it and thrive.

*Temí O.*