



International Baccalaureate®
Baccalauréat International
Bachillerato Internacional



Understanding the International Baccalaureate



The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a **non-profit educational foundation**, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has offices in the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Founded in 1968, the IB pioneered a movement of international education, and now offers four high quality, challenging **educational programmes to students aged 3-19**. This document provides you with an introduction to the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the opportunity to explore any further questions you might have.

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At the IB, we place our trust in children. We nurture their curiosity, we encourage them to be caring, balanced and reflective. We develop their abilities to think critically, and we believe that they will grow into adults who will act with integrity.

Education is not only about what knowledge, skills, values and attitudes students should get, but also learning to value what the world is asking from each one of us. ... Agency is central in creating conditions for young people to flourish as individuals, but also as communities taking into consideration the planetary wellbeing and flourishing of future generations.

Olli-Pekka Heinonen

Olli-Pekka Heinonen
Director General

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Our mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

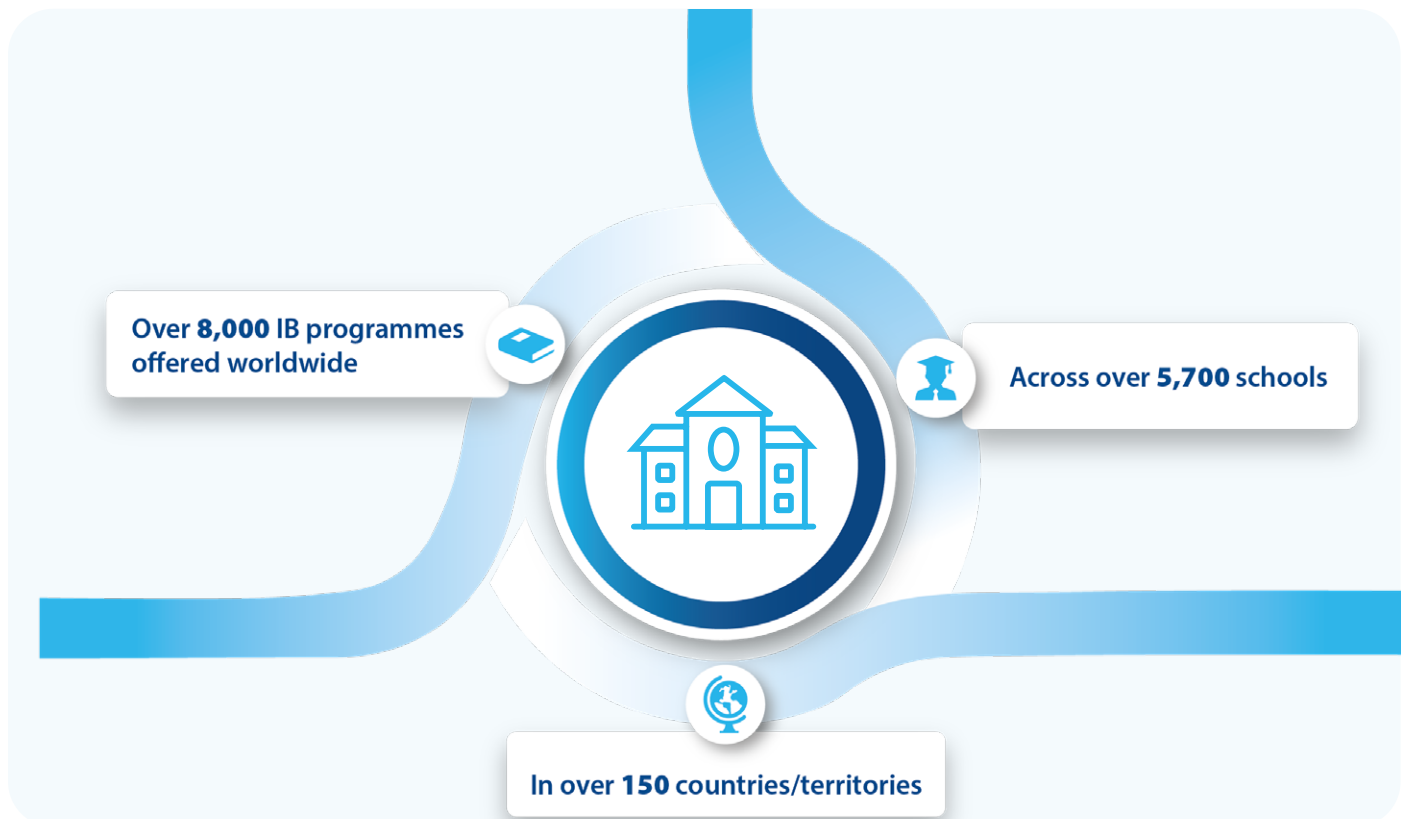
These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



EACH YEAR, THE IB OFFERS FOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO MORE THAN **1.95 MILLION STUDENTS AGED 3 TO 19 ACROSS THE GLOBE**. BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022, THE NUMBER OF IB PROGRAMMES OFFERED WORLDWIDE **GREW BY 34.2%**.



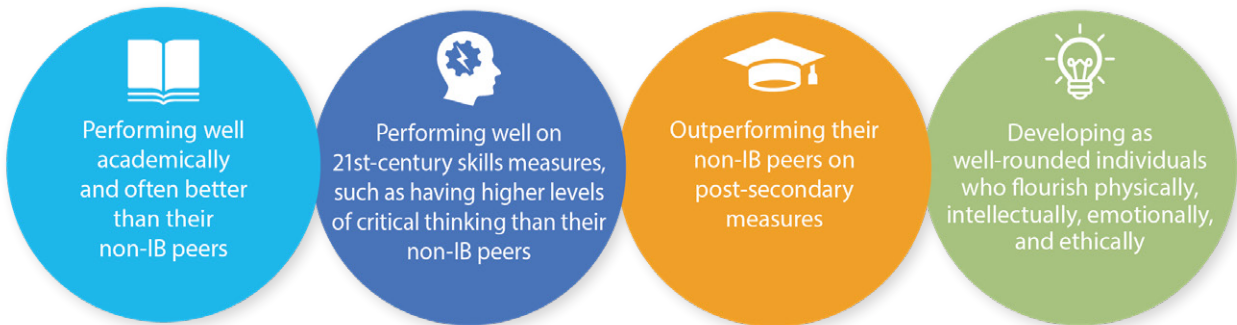
IB World Schools by the numbers





IB programmes equip students with future-ready skills and prepare them to follow their university and career pathways.

Universities recognize the future-ready skills that an IB programme instils in students, and they value the global mindset that IB students bring to their campuses—in the classroom and the community.



Visit our university admission page [here](#) to see how universities and governments view an IB education and acknowledge the accomplishments of IB students. This can come in the form of university recruitment, university admissions policies, credit/advanced placement and scholarships.

Discover countries and universities around the globe that recognize IB programmes



Research also shows that IB graduates tend to have more positive university outcomes—like more admission offers and higher persistence rates and grades—than peers who have not completed IB programmes.

View the IB outcomes research here



IB programmes

The IB offers **four programmes** that can provide a learning progression for students **from age 3 to 19**. The programmes are continually evaluated and adapted based on academic research and evidence. This ensures that students and teachers benefit from **best-practice learning** and **up-to-date curricula** that develop the skills, knowledge and attributes they need to thrive.

Each IB programme offers:

- strong international relevance
- educational content from different cultures around the world
- flexibility for students to meet national curriculum requirements
- a broad range of subjects for study
- additional individual subjects and transdisciplinary/interdisciplinary areas
- special emphasis on learning languages
- opportunities for individual and collaborative learning and research
- space for students to become responsible, active members of their community.

The IB supports schools and teachers with:

- a written curriculum or curriculum framework
- appropriate student assessment
- professional development and networking opportunities
- support, authorization and programme evaluation.



The Primary Years Programme (PYP)

The PYP is for students aged 3 to 12 and develops confident lifelong learners who can demonstrate cultural empathy and respect. The PYP's child-centered framework can be customized to different needs, cultures and contexts, and government curricula can be taught within it.



The Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The MYP is for students aged 11 to 16. The MYP produces happy and purposeful students with above-average academic results (International Baccalaureate, 2017). Teachers can adapt the framework to government curricula and different contexts and abilities, encouraging self-directed and interdisciplinary learning. Schools can register for optional external assessment (eAssessment) that offers students the chance to earn a formal, internationally recognized certificate.

Read more information
on IB programmes and
their impact



The Diploma Programme (DP)

The DP is for students aged 16 to 19 and requires students to complete 6 courses in:

- Studies in language and literature
- Language acquisition
- Individuals and societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The arts

DP students are required to complete the extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper; theory of knowledge (TOK), in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know; and creativity, activity and service (CAS), in which students complete a project related to those three concepts. DP courses can be taken at either standard level (SL) or higher level (HL). Students can enrol in individual DP courses rather than completing the Diploma Programme. The DP courses are measured through in-school assessment, as well as externally reviewed tasks and timed examinations.

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The Career-Related Programme (CP)

The Career-related Programme (CP) is for students aged 16 to 19 who would like to pursue their passions and advance their chosen career paths. It combines courses from the DP with practical, real-world career-related studies through providers such as research universities, business schools, technology institutes, art schools, government-approved career pathways and many more industry-focused institutions. The DP courses taken by CP students are measured through in-school assessment, as well as externally reviewed tasks and timed examinations. Other components of the CP are assessed by the school.

What makes the IB unique?

The world is always changing—and so is education. That is why we continuously evolve our programmes and curriculums so we can deliver the best possible education for our students.

The IB commissioned Ecctis, an organization that compares international educational frameworks, to conduct a series of in-depth studies to examine alignment in learning outcomes, content and demand between DP courses and their upper secondary equivalents from Australia (Victoria), Canada (Ontario), Finland, France, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and the USA. Taken together, these studies provide substantial evidence that the DP courses examined can readily be implemented within a variety of national contexts and represent rigorous curricula designed to support significant depth and breadth of learning (International Baccalaureate, 2023).

In fact, research conducted with universities in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK) and the USA found that IB students are well prepared for university (International Baccalaureate, 2016).

We are committed to meaningful assessment

IB assessment is ongoing, varied and integral to the curriculum. The IB emphasizes the analysis of assessment data to inform learning and teaching. The MYP, DP and CP offer a range of assessments that balance validity and reliability, offering assessment tasks that require students to demonstrate higher order thinking. The IB takes great care to guarantee the reliability of assessment results and instill confidence in grade standards from year to year. Several studies, blogs and webinars discussing the research that informs IB assessment practices are available for review on the IB research page at ibo.org/research.

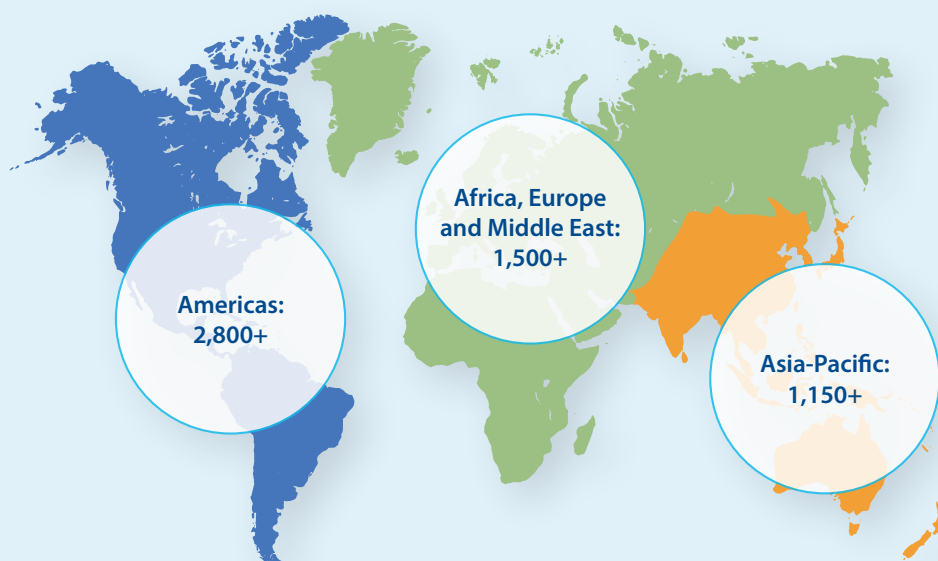
Read DP and CP
core findings



Read the DP country
alignment studies



IB World Schools by the numbers



We offer a gateway to student success

Every year, thousands of IB students apply to over 5,000 universities worldwide in over 100 countries. They are well-prepared for and excel at the university level. Research shows that by the end of the DP, 98% of students aspired to at least a bachelor's degree and 81% aspired to a master's, doctoral or professional degree (Pretlow & Hong, 2021).

IB graduates also attend some of the top universities in the world—for instance, in the UK, DP students were three times more likely than matched A level students to enrol in a top 20 higher education institution (Duxbury et al., 2021). In the USA, more than half of CP graduates who continued to four-year institutions enrolled in large, flagship state universities with a high degree of research activity (Mack et al., 2017).

Studies of IB students in the USA show that about 85% of DP graduates in the country enrolled in university immediately after high school, compared to 66% of all high school graduates in the USA (Pilchen et al., 2019). DP graduates also were more likely than other students in the USA to continue to their second year of university.

Much like their DP peers, CP graduates are highly likely to continue to their second year of university. Research found that in the USA, 89% of CP graduates who were enrolled in university returned, compared to the national average of 72% (Mack et al., 2017). CP graduates in the UK have similar continuation rates, and one study showed that fewer than one percent of CP graduates in Kent were unemployed after graduation (Hopfenbeck et al., 2021).

Read more about
UK higher education
outcomes



Most popular countries and territories where the IB sends DP and CP exam results



(Top 20 destination countries and territories as of January 2023)

Educators, discover our professional learning opportunities

IB World Schools can access a wide variety of professional learning experiences, including online and in-person workshops, self-paced learning modules, and free learning resources. Each year over 85,000 participants take part in over 4,000 IB workshops. Learn more about the IB's high quality professional learning options via ibo.org/professional-development.

Pre-service and experienced educators may also pursue programs at more than 50 universities around the world that have been recognized through our IB educator

and leadership certificates (IBEC) program and prepare graduates to teach and lead in IB schools. Over 10,000 educators have graduated from these programs since IBEC's inception in 2008.

Explore the IBEC
University Directory





IB students, parents and educators are part of a global network united by a shared belief in the power of education to make a difference. An IB education supports personal growth, academic achievement and intercultural understanding.

Through our partnership with schools worldwide, the IB helps educators deliver programmes that are both rigorous and responsive to local contexts. Students are encouraged to inquire, reflect and lead with purpose. Families and schools that join the IB community gain access to resources, research and support that strengthen teaching and learning. Together, we are shaping a generation prepared to engage with the world with confidence and compassion.

Next steps

If you have any further questions about the International Baccalaureate (IB), please [click here](#) to visit the “Ask a question” page of our website.

**Find your nearest IB
World School**



References and resources

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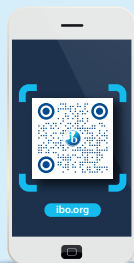
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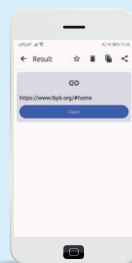
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Center your camera on the QR code to scan it.



Tap on the URL that appears.



This will bring you to the intended destination.