

Frequently Asked Questions about IB

What is the IB Diploma Programme?

- develops "internationally minded people, who recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world" (IB mission)
- encourages participation in creative and service-oriented actions, as well as personal and academic reflection
- addresses intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being
- covers the curriculum required by Alberta Education and the IB programme

For more information about the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, visit The [International Baccalaureate Organization](http://www.ibo.org) (IBO)

Why take IB?

- plan to prepare for success at university and life by developing intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being
- desire a demanding curriculum, like the Diploma Programme, which leads to final IB examinations and a qualification that is welcomed by leading universities around the world
- receive recognition from institutions of higher education, such as scholarships
 - **Learn more** | check university websites and the IBO website for details and recognition of IB credentials

How do I know if I should take IB?

The IBO suggests IB learners strive to be:

- “inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk takers, balanced, and reflective”
- “internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world” (From: <http://www.ibo.org/myib/digitaltoolkit/files/pdfs/learner-profile-en.pdf>)

What are my choices as a candidate for IB?

- 1 | As an *International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)* student, you:
 - take one course from each of 6 subject course groups:
 - English A
 - Language B
 - History, Business & Management, Philosophy
 - Sciences
 - Mathematics
 - Visual Arts, Theatre Arts, Film
 - 3 and no more than 4 Higher Level (HL) courses
 - 3 and no fewer than 2 Standard Level (SL) courses
 - 1 elective
 - study at least two languages
 - engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the Diploma subjects you are studying--**Extended Essay**
 - inquire into the nature of knowing and learning that unifies the academic disciplines--**Theory of Knowledge**
 - enhance your personal and interpersonal development through
 - **Creativity**—engaging in the Arts and creative thinking
 - **Action**—developing a healthy lifestyle through physical activity
 - **Service**— in the community
 - involve additional hours outside of school to complete CAS

- gain the knowledge, skills, and strategies to successfully write the IB exams in May of your Grade 11 and/or Grade 12 year
- 2 | As an *International Baccalaureate Course* student, you:
- receive an IB certificate for each IB course you successfully complete

What is the difference between Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL) IB courses?

- SL and HL courses have a common core area of study and examination
- the difference is that there is greater breadth and depth in the optional areas of study in the HL course
- see the curriculum at www.ibo.org for further details about the differences

Do I still have to write Diploma exams and how are IB courses recognized?

- **IB exams do NOT replace diploma exams.** If an IB course is attached to a diploma course, then writing the diploma exam is required
- Alberta Education uses official Alberta course names on official student transcripts
 - For example, Biology 30 is the official course name that will appear on your Alberta Education transcript even if your Biology 30 class is offered to a group of students in the IB programme
 - If you also take a locally developed and approved course, such as Biology 35 (IB), since IB is part of the official course name, it will appear on your transcript
- To avoid being overloaded with Diploma and IB exams in your Grade 12 year, you take some Diploma courses in both Grades 11 and 12
- IB Exams are administered by the IBO in May, and the IBO will provide you with official documentation to use with post-secondary institutions

What fees are involved for IB?

Fees that you and your parents or guardians are responsible for:

- include fees set by the IBO (subject fees, exam registration fees) and courier costs
 - a registration fee of \$225.00 (only once for full IB)
 - exam and mailing fees \$175.00 for each IB course

How do I register as a Diploma Programme student or *Diploma Course* student?

- as a Grade 9 student, submit your registration information by **January 15** of your Grade 9 year to your designated IB school
 - please submit only one registration/expression of interest to your designated IB school
- **Learn more** | the IB registration/expression of interest is also available on the IB page of the CBE website