

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP) is an internationally recognized course of studies offered worldwide. Graduates of this programme are qualified for the majority of higher educational institutions in the world, along equal lines with such diplomas as British A levels, the French Baccalauréat and the German Abitur. There are now IB schools in many of the major cities in Norway.

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) is a non-profit international foundation with headquarters in Geneva, Cardiff, Singapore, The Hague and Washington DC. The IB Diploma Programme was established in 1968. As of May 2018, there were 3182 schools offering the Diploma Programme in 153 countries.

One of the basic ideas behind the International Baccalaureate was to develop an educational institution for internationally mobile families. This idea was supported by UNESCO. The IB Diploma Programme is a two-year pre-university course which enables children of itinerant families to continue their upper secondary school studies without major changes in subjects or syllabuses. Another intention of the IB programme is to internationalize education to promote understanding and tolerance across borders. Moreover, as with the Norwegian upper secondary school, IB aims to promote personal growth and maturity. The syllabus and the studies require a high degree of independence and critical, reflective thinking and reasoning.

Course Description

The IB Diploma Programme is a two-year course for pupils between 16 and 19 years of age, building on the completed first year in the Norwegian upper-secondary programme for specialization in general studies, or a corresponding background.

To attain the IB Diploma you must pass examinations in six subjects, your extended essay must be accepted, you must participate in extracurricular activities (CAS - for Creativity, Action, Service), and you must pass a course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK).

The six subjects are chosen from six groups of subjects. Three of the subjects must be taken at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL), or alternatively four at Higher Level and two at Standard Level. The higher-level requirements are substantially higher than for corresponding subjects in Norwegian upper secondary school, and standard-level subjects are at least equal to corresponding subjects in upper secondary school.

The IB Diploma gives full qualifications along equal lines as the certificate from the Norwegian programme for specialization in general studies. IB students do very well in the competition for admission to universities and colleges, both in Norway and abroad.

For more information about the IB Diploma Programme, visit the official IBO website:
<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/>

Trondheim Katedralskole currently offers these subjects:

- Group 1: Studies in language and literature**
Norwegian A Literature
English A Language and Literature
- Group 2: Language acquisition**
Norwegian B
Spanish B
- Group 3: Individuals and societies**
History
Global Politics
- Group 4: Sciences**
Physics
Chemistry
Biology
- Group 5: Mathematics**
Mathematics AA (Analysis and approaches)
Mathematics AI (Applications and interpretation)

Each student must also participate in three Core subjects:

Theory of Knowledge (TOK): A course in critical thinking which challenges the students to think about and reflect on the basis of knowledge.

Extended Essay (EE): An in-depth essay written in one of the student's chosen subjects under guidance of a supervisor, training the student in the scientific approach and the writing of academic papers. These are skills that will benefit the student as he or she advances to university.

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS): Extracurricular activities (social projects, sports, music, art etc.) corresponding to two-three hours per week. This helps to ensure that IB students become well-rounded persons and can be invaluable for the Activities Attribute of university applications.

Read more about the IB curriculum and access subjects briefs on the official website here:
<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>

Teaching

The majority of teaching will be given in English and the majority of textbooks are in English as well. Good English skills are therefore an important prerequisite for doing well in the IB DP.

The studies are a combination of teacher instruction and self-study. Some of the teaching time is reserved for tutoring, where the teacher gives individual guidance to each student, or to smaller groups of students. This is primarily to support students in the completion of mandatory coursework for assessment but can also support students in their general studies. There can be fewer teacher-controlled classes in the IB DP. Training in self-study is an important element of the Diploma Programme.

The IB Diploma Programme is demanding, and students who choose this course must be motivated and prepared to work hard.

Evaluation and Final Examinations

IB students at Trondheim Katedralskole have the same rights and obligations as all other students at the school. Continuous formative evaluations are given through internal school reports.

The final grades for each subject are based on a variety of Externally Assessed Components and one Internally Assessed Component. The largest contribution to the Diploma Grade in each subject is written examinations. The IBO has a rigorous system in place to ensure fairness and consistency in evaluations.

Final Examinations are administered by the IB Assessment Centre and are held in the month of May in the second year of the Diploma Programme. The examination schedule is global, and a universal standard is ensured through rigorous exam procedures and common criteria for grading.

With the exception of language subjects, all examinations must be answered in English.

Diploma Requirements and the scale of grades:

Each of the 6 contributing subjects are graded on the IB Scale of grades:

7: Excellent 6: Very good 5: Good 4: Satisfactory 3: Mediocre 2: Poor 1: Very poor

The principal requirement to qualify for the IB Diploma is to obtain a minimum of 24 points (points being the sum of grades). In addition to the Diploma Grade in each contributing subject, the Core subjects can award up to 3 additional points.

Hence, the highest attainable score for the IB Diploma is 45 points.

Additionally, several other requirements must be satisfied. These are explained here:

<https://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/what-it-means-to-be-an-ib-student/recognizing-student-achievement/about-assessment/dp-passing-criteria/>

Target group and admissions

The IB Diploma Programme is primarily suitable for students who are interested in and motivated for learning.

Historically, the IB Diploma Programme was first intended for internationally mobile families. Applicants with an international background may find that an English speaking and internationally focused educational programme such as the IB DP is better suited than the Norwegian national curriculum. It is also a strength of the programme that it exists globally, and transferring between IB schools is often significantly simpler than transferring between different educational systems.

The IB Diploma Programme has also emerged as an attractive opportunity for students with Norwegian school background who desire a challenging pre-university course, and for those who are interested in further studies abroad. The IB Diploma Programme benefits from significant recognition from universities world-wide.

Currently, there are three main categories of IB students at our school:

- Internationally mobile students, either foreign nationals who move to Norway, or returning Norwegian nationals who have lived or served abroad.
- Norwegian students who want an education that opens doors globally.
- Norwegian students who want a challenging pre-university course with a higher degree of specialization and focus.

Admission to the IB Diploma Programme is granted by the County Admissions Office in consultation with representatives from the school. The basis for admission is outlined in our Admissions Policy.

Even though the IB Diploma Programme has evolved to become an integral part of the education offered to our students, internationally mobile students remain a prioritized target group. As such, students with foreign-school backgrounds who move to Trøndelag can be prioritized in terms of admissions, and admission can be guaranteed before the regular deadline if special reasons make this necessary.

Such arrangements must be approved by the Admissions Office.