

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) Diploma Programme

The INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) Diploma Programme is a European Pre University programme offered in three languages : English, French and Spanish. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is a challenging two-year curriculum, primarily aimed at students aged 16 to 19. It leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. In Malaysia, there are currently seven schools offering the IB : International School of Kuala Lumpur, KDU Smart School, MARA College Banting, MARA College Seremban, Mont Kiara International School and International School of Penang.

The IB Diploma programme is governed by the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The internationally recognised 2-year programme is equivalent to the ' A' level programme in the United Kingdom, the Australia Matriculation, the Canadian Matriculation and the Malaysian STPM. It has a rigorous curriculum consisting of six subjects.

Entry Requirements:

Above average grades in the SPM or GCSE 'O' Level. Some schools may require students to sit for entrance tests.

Duration:

2 years

Intake:

January / August

Exam Date:

May / November

Fee:

RM 57,000 – RM 80,000

Subjects:

- 6 subjects, 3 of which must be at higher Level (HL) and 3 at Standard Level (SL). Subject choices are categorised into 6 groups and students need to select 1 subject each from Group 1 to 5 , while the sixth subject may be selected from any of the 6 groups
 - Group 1 Language (eg over 80 languages are offered)
 - Group 2 Second Language (eg Mandarin, Spanish)
 - Group 3 Individuals and Societies (Humanities and Social Sciences, including Business)
 - Group 4 Experimental Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Systems and Design Technology
 - Group 5 Mathematics and Computer Science
 - Group 6 The Arts (optional) (visual arts, film, music, dance and theatre)
- A compulsory core consisting of three parts :
 - ◆ Extended Essay
 - ◆ Theory of Knowledge
 - ◆ Creativity, Action, Service

All three parts of the core—extended essay, theory of knowledge and creativity, action, service—are compulsory and are central to the philosophy of the Diploma Programme.

Assessment: (Reference : IBO website @www.ibo.org)

At the end of the two-year programme, students are assessed both internally and externally.

External assessment

Examinations form the basis of the assessment for most courses. They include:

- essays
- structured problems
- short-response questions
- data-response questions
- text-response questions
- case-study questions
- multiple-choice questions (limited use of these).

There are also a small number of other externally assessed pieces of work, for example, theory of knowledge essays, extended essays and world literature assignments. These are completed by students over an extended period under teacher supervision instead of examination conditions, and are then marked by external examiners.

Internal assessment

Teacher assessment is also used for most courses. This includes:

- oral work in languages
- fieldwork in geography
- laboratory work in the sciences
- investigations in mathematics
- artistic performances.

Assessments are checked by external examiners and normally contribute between 20 and 30 per cent of the total mark.

Some of the arts courses, for example, music, theatre arts and visual arts, have assessment of a major practical component, which can account for as much as 50 per cent of the total mark.

Recognition:

The IB Diploma is increasingly gaining recognition for its rigorous and comprehensive curriculum, recognised for entry by leading universities in Canada and US, Australia, New Zealand and UK.

Note : This information is current as at July 2009.