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## 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 its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The IB Diploma Programme was established in 1968. As of May 2015, there are 2795 schools offering the Diploma Programme in 143 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 as a whole 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 – one subject from each group. Three of the subjects must be taken at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL). 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/>

IB Diploma Programme students must choose their subjects from six subject groups, with one subject from each group. At least three subjects and no more than four must be taken on Higher Level, the others on Standard Level.

**SUBJECTS** offered at Trondheim Katedralskole<sup>1</sup>:

Group 1: Studies in language and literature

**Norwegian A Literature**  
**English A Literature**

Group 2: Language acquisition

**English B**  
**Norwegian B**  
**French B**

Group 3: Individuals and societies

**History**  
**Psychology or Economics** (online courses for a limited number of students)

Group 4: Sciences

**Physics**  
**Chemistry**  
**Biology**

Group 5: Mathematics:

**Mathematics**  
**Mathematical studies**

Group 6: An additional subject from one of the groups 1, 2, 3 or 4.

### **THE CORE ELEMENTS**

Each student must also take:

**Theory of Knowledge (TOK):** A course in critical thinking, challenging the student to think about and reflect on the basis of knowledge.

**Extended Essay:** An in-depth essay written in one of the student's chosen subjects under supervision of the subject teacher, training the student in the scientific approach and the writing of concise and well-structured "papers". These are skills that will benefit the student as he or she advances to university.

**Creativity, Action, Service (CAS):** The student must participate in extracurricular activities (social projects, sports, music, art etc.) that amount to two hours a week to ensure that the IB student has a well-rounded education.

**Read more about the IB curriculum and access subjects briefs here:**

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/curriculum/>

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<sup>1</sup> The subjects offered may depend on the number of students.

## THE TEACHING

Generally, the majority of the teaching will be given in English, and the majority of textbooks are in English. Good English skills are therefore an important prerequisite for doing well in IB DP. The requirement for students who have a native language other than Norwegian is that they understand Norwegian reasonably well. See below for more information on the language used on examinations.

The studies are a combination of teacher-controlled instruction and self-study. Some of the teaching time is reserved for tutorials where the teacher gives individual guidance to each student. This means that there are relatively fewer teacher-controlled classes. Therefore training in self-study is a key part of the IB DP.

The IB Diploma Programme is demanding and students who choose this course of studies 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 evaluation is given through internal reports.

Examinations are administered by the IB Assessment Centre (IBCA) and are held in the month of May on the same days in all the countries in the northern hemisphere. A universal standard is ensured through common questions and grading based upon common criteria.

With the exception of the language subjects all examinations must be answered in English. Orthographic and stylistic mistakes will not affect the grade – except, of course, the examination for the language courses.

Candidates can sit for an exam up to three times. If a candidate does not satisfy the minimum requirements for the diploma he or she will receive certificates for the individual subjects.

The grades used in IB are:

1 = very poor	5 = good
2 = poor	6 = very good
3 = mediocre	7 = excellent
4 = satisfactory	

To attain the IB Diploma one must have a minimum of 24 points (points being the sum of grades) and satisfy other requirements according to the General Regulations for the Diploma Programme.

## EXPENSES

The students must pay an annual fee, currently NOK 6500, to cover expenses incurred from arranging the IB examinations. Each year the amount may be adjusted according to the general consumer price index and if there has been an increase in IB examination fees.

## TARGET GROUP AND ADMISSIONS

As mentioned above, the IB is first intended for internationally mobile families. Therefore applicants with such a background will be given priority. However, the IB DP is also an attractive opportunity for students with a Norwegian school background who want a challenging pre-university course.

Regardless of background, students must satisfy the admission requirements, i.e. they must be 16 to 19 years of age and have completed the first year of the Norwegian upper-secondary programme for specialization in general studies, or a corresponding programme.

### Mobile applicants:

This group includes all applicants with a foreign-school background who might encounter problems attending the Norwegian upper-secondary programme for specialization in general studies. This category includes, for example, applicants who have mainly attended English-language schools. This may apply to applicants with Norwegian or English as their native language.

Children with such a background, but who have Norwegian as their native language will often find it easier to express themselves in English than Norwegian. They may also encounter difficulties reading Norwegian textbooks because of the high level of abstraction.

Children with English as their native language who are residing in Norway for short or long periods of time are also in this category. These may be children of parents who are residing in Norway because of their studies or jobs. Refugees who have good skills in both the English and Norwegian languages will also come under this category if they have been granted a residence permit in Norway.

### Applicants with a Norwegian school background

This refers to applicants with a normal Norwegian background, and includes exchange students who have studied abroad for one year.

Admissions from this group are granted according to the normal admissions criteria, i.e. based upon grades. However, the applicant's proficiency in the English language is important.

IB admission is granted by the County Admissions Office in consultation with representatives from the school. The basis for admission is primarily the grades attained from the first year of the Norwegian upper-secondary programme for specialization in general studies, or a corresponding programme.

It is possible that entrance tests may be given, especially in English and mathematics, if the evaluation of a foreign certificate presents difficulties in determining the applicant's level of ability.

### Deadline for Applications:

The deadline for applications is 1 March.

Applicants with a foreign-school background may be given admittance confirmation before the deadline if special reasons make this necessary. We would appreciate that all applicants send the IB-application form included in this information brochure to the school as early as possible. The electronic application form for upper secondary education also has to be filled in at [www.vigo.no](http://www.vigo.no) (Norwegian applicants only).