



IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM

**LYCÉE INTERNATIONAL DE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF
BOSTON**

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WELCOME TO THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Imagine immersing yourself in a college-like environment, except...well, except you're still in 11th Grade.

Think about that for a moment.

Intrigued? Maybe just a *little* bit?

This is the power of the ISB International Baccalaureate Diploma Program ("IB").

To be clear, you will still come to the same campus on Matignon Road every morning.

And you will still buy freshly baked croissants during Wednesday's bread sale and help yourself to apples at the Reception Desk on Thursday's.

And you will still hang-out in the 4th floor lounge, where your fellow classmates will joke and gossip and collaborate with one another in French or English or Chinese or some other language.

But *what* and *how* you are learning on a daily basis – from the incredible breadth and depth of the global IB curriculum to the collaborative and meaningful relationships you build with teacher-mentors and classmates – will be as close to a college experience as you can enjoy before you even enroll in college.

If you strive to be an independent thinker; if you strive to be internationally-minded; if you strive to be a difference-maker...or if you strive to be balanced, or reflective, or simply...well...*more*, then welcome.

Welcome to a learning experience that will change the way you see the world.

Welcome to the next great phase of your life.

Welcome to the ISB International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

WHAT IS THE IB (REALLY)?

The IB is very different than an American high school diploma or the French Baccalaureate.

In fact, it's really unlike any other accredited educational program in the world.

Originally conceived in Geneva almost 50 years ago by forward-thinking teachers seeking to prevent the cultural misunderstandings and biases that contributed to the start of the Second World War, the IB is today taught in more than 3,500 schools, in more than 140 countries, to more than 1,000,000 students.

The IB is a *globally*-recognized educational program. By "program", we mean that it is...

...a curriculum of very challenging and interrelated courses

...facilitated by specially trained and international ISB faculty and staff

...two years in duration, with courses that commence in 11th Grade and don't conclude until 12th Grade

...graded against common standards utilized by each of the thousands of other IB schools around the world.

The IB is special.

And so too are its students.

WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAM UNIQUE

Thanks to the sheer and vibrant diversity of ISB's student body, faculty, and staff, and a school culture that balances internationalism with individualism, our IB program is *unlike* any other IB program in Massachusetts or the Northeast.

Not only are our IB students learning about and reflecting upon both their own native culture and their culture's connection to peoples and countries worldwide, but they are studying alongside and actively exchanging ideas and perspectives with fellow IB students and faculty from these very cultures.

And some of our students are actually using their fluency in more than one language – languages like English, French, Spanish, Russian, German and Chinese – to engage in this one-of-a-kind international learning experience. (Incidentally, these students will attain the IB *Bilingual* Diploma.)

Going beyond popular buzz words like *globalization* and *interconnectedness*, ISB's IB Program delivers an authentic experience of multi-lingual and multi-cultural exploration and discovery in a classroom setting.

To thoughtfully consider the root causes of the Cold War with a Russian classmate or discuss *Theory of Knowledge* with a student from China whose education and belief system are quite different from your own, or to participate in a debate in French class in a group of eight students representing no fewer than six nationalities – these are all *everyday* moments within the ISB IB experience.

The ISB IB is like nothing you've ever seen. It is as much an experience – an experience that will shape students' sense of self and expand their horizons – as it is a renowned and accredited academic program that will help open doors to the best universities on the planet.

At ISB, students don't just learn the IB.

They *live* it.



FIVE REASONS TO JOIN

While there are many reasons why students should participate in the IB program at ISB, consider just these five:

FIRST, as a result of their hard-earned academic accomplishments and their highly rewarding involvement in their local communities, our IB students develop a clear and strong sense of personal responsibility and initiative, as well as a self-confidence that will remain with them forever.

SECOND, colleges and universities around the world recognize and value the pure intellectual rigor and commitment necessary to succeed in an IB program, which is why IB students are 21% *more* likely to be admitted into ten of the most prestigious universities in the United States, to include Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Stanford.

THIRD, the IB is going to challenge, inspire and train a student to think *independently*. This new way of thinking will empower our IB students to adapt and thrive both in and out of their university classroom, whether they are in the United States, or far beyond it.

FOURTH, the IB encourages students to actively make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and what they are experiencing outside of it. For example, a student might work on river clean-up as part of their *Creativity, Action, Service* IB course, then design a field experiment on water quality for IB Biology. This experiential learning leads to a far deeper understanding of subject matter.

FINALLY, our IB students and faculty make up a special community at ISB, one that is mutually supportive, totally engaged, and unfailingly passionate about its shared desire to personally make a difference in the world.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT

Above all else, ISB IB students can expect to be consistently challenged, frequently inspired, and continually enlightened.

As described in the schematic on the right, IB students study six courses at what is referred to as a “higher level” or “standard level”. Generally, this designation refers to the number of hours students spend learning about a particular subject.

Students must choose one subject from Groups 1-5. The sixth subject may be an Arts subject chosen from Group 6, or a student can choose another subject from Groups 1-4. At least three but no more than four subjects are taken at a higher level, with the others taken at the standard level.

Beyond these courses, there are also three core requirements for all IB students.

First, students write an *Extended Essay* where they engage in an in-depth research inquiry relating to one of their subjects.

Second, students study *Theory of Knowledge*, which is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge itself. Many ISB students find this particular requirement especially provocative and enjoyable.

Finally, IB students undertake what is called *Creativity, Action, Service*, or “CAS”. CAS counterbalances academics by requiring IB students to involve themselves in the world beyond the classroom for the two years of the program. This might involve extracurriculars like sports, the arts, music, designing and leading community service projects, or something different. What is important is that a student makes a significant, individual commitment to a balance of creative, active and service endeavors that expands their hearts as well as their minds.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK

The most vocal advocates of ISB's IB program are its current students who are still in the midst of earning their IB, and our former students, many of whom credit their IB experience for catapulting them to success in college.

Below are some of ISB's current and former students' personal thoughts about their IB experience:

“Participating in the IB programme allowed me to return to the UK to go to University. With regard to Higher Education, the benefits of holding an internationally-recognised qualification are huge.”

“The IB program has shaped me into a more independent person.”

“By participating in the IB program, I have grown to be a very independent student that takes pride in persevering through challenges to achieve success. That determined side of my personality has only flourished through the IB, and has allowed me to give a full 100% when faced with a problem.”

“The CAS element of the IB was excellent in terms of making me a more well-rounded person. It gave me a strong initiative to step back from schoolwork and discover new things about myself and the wider world.”

“Be prepared to work very hard, but don't be intimidated because it's well-worth the effort, and it will expand your personal, cultural, and intellectual horizons.”

“It is no secret that all IB students work very hard. However, I couldn't be happier that I pursued this track because it has allowed me to grow up significantly and given me the confidence that I am ready for the challenging workload in university.”

“The IB is a wonderful complement to the international community at ISB. The concepts and ideals learned in the classes can be tested and seen firsthand in a school where so many cultures and international values are represented.”

PREPARE FOR MORE THAN COLLEGE

The ultimate goal of the IB is not just to produce great students. Rather, as described in the IB’s mission statement, the IB “aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.”

That being said, the ISB IB *does* graduate great students – students who are as prepared for college and life as any high school students in the world.

On an intellectual level, the IB recognizes the fundamental importance of building and honing effective communication skills, particularly in speaking and writing. This prioritization is demonstrated across the IB curriculum, to include:

- Students write a 4,000 word research inquiry known as the *Extensive* Essay which culminates in an oral defense.
- Math students write six to twelve page problem-solving investigations.
- Theater students adopt a directorial perspective and write a rationale, outline and detailed description of a proposal for staging a performance.
- With the exception of a few exams in the sciences, all IB final exams across *all* subjects are essay tests.

Beyond this intellectual rigor, the ISB IB program also equips students with meaningful life skills that will facilitate their future successes at the university level and beyond.

Skills like Time management. Critical thinking. Taking initiative. Relationship-building. Responding to critical feedback. Drawing inferences and Reaching conclusions independently. And more.

Ultimately, when a student graduates from the ISB IB program and begins the next phase of their educational journey, we expect them to be:

INQUIRERS
KNOWLEDGEABLE
THINKERS
COMMUNICATORS
PRINCIPLED
OPEN-MINDED
CARING
RISK-TAKERS
BALANCED
REFLECTIVE

Because regardless of whether a student’s dream is to become a physician, barrister, technologist, linguist, entrepreneur, or something else entirely, the world needs men and women with these very qualities, perhaps now more than ever.



IF YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING, REMEMBER THIS

Ours is an increasingly dynamic world in need of citizens and leaders who are capable of collaborating with one another to meet its evolving challenges and opportunities.

The IB at ISB will prepare you to be one of those citizens and leaders.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

To learn more about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at ISB, please call or email

Mr. John Bray at **617.583.9202** or **jbray@isbos.org**.

LYCÉE INTERNATIONAL DE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BOSTON

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ISB is accredited by NEASC, (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), CIS (Council of International Schools), MEN (French Ministry of Education) and IB (International Baccalaureate).