



SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Diploma Programme

PARENT INFORMATION IB PROGRAM

This information is written and published by the IBO. All information is publicly available on the IBO website: www.ibo.org.

DP FOR PARENTS

The IB Diploma Programme (DP) is a two-year international education programme that prepares students age 16–19 years for success going into, and throughout, university. The DP offers a holistic approach to teaching and learning with a keen focus on developing intercultural awareness. Students learn to explore and understand the world around them through inquiry, critical thinking and open-mindedness.

Why the DP?

Parents who want the best possible education for their children choose the DP because it offers:

- A challenging academic curriculum that serves as outstanding preparation for university and higher education
- A student-centred approach to teaching, focused on developing students intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially, as opposed to preparation for test-taking only
- A focus on international-mindedness, compassion, and understanding intercultural differences
- Respected, reliable and world-renowned academic preparation
- Universities regularly cite DP students as the best prepared for higher education.
- DP graduates excel at university and often begin their studies with advanced standing

What's unique about the DP curriculum?

DP students complete courses from six subject groups, ensuring a depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding. By engaging with a range of subjects, they experience a comprehensive education that encourages them to link their learning to form a more useful way to apply what they've learned. The study of an additional language is also required, as well as the completion of a compulsory programme core consisting of three components:

- Theory of knowledge (TOK) challenges students to reflect on the nature of knowledge and how we know what we claim to know.
- The Extended essay introduces students to the demands and rewards of independent work prior to entering university, requiring them to produce a self-directed piece of research in an area of personal interest
- Creativity, activity and service (CAS) is an experiential learning component where students engage with a wide variety of extracurricular activities, including community service and athletic options.
- [Assessment and examination](#) at the end of DP courses are a recognized worldwide standard, measuring student understanding and providing a passport to university.

University and beyond

The DP is uniquely designed to support all students for success going into, and throughout, university. It is offered in many schools across the world, including private, independent, international, and state-funded schools. DP graduates are well-equipped to adjust, engage and succeed. They graduate with analytical, writing, communication and presentation skills; research experience; excellent organization and time management; the ability to approach a topic from multiple perspectives; and a deep understanding of academic concepts.

University admissions

Because of the striking geographical, cultural and linguistic diversity of DP schools and students, universities across the globe can recruit a broad range of students from diverse backgrounds while remaining confident in the quality and consistency of their pre-university academic experience and credentials.

CURRICULUM

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) curriculum sets out the requirements for study of the DP.

The curriculum is made up of the DP core and six subject groups.

Made up of the three required components, the DP core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

The three core elements are:

- [Theory of knowledge](#), in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.
- [The extended essay](#), which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.
- [Creativity, activity, service](#), in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

The six subject groups are:

- Studies in language and literature
- Language acquisition
- Individuals and societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The arts

There are different courses within each subject group.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS IN THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Students choose courses from the following subject groups: studies in language and literature; language acquisition; individuals and societies; sciences; mathematics; and the arts.

Students may opt to study an additional sciences, individuals and societies, or languages course, instead of a course in the arts.

Students will take some subjects at higher level (HL) and some at standard level (SL). HL and SL courses differ in scope but are measured according to the same grade descriptors, with students expected to demonstrate a greater body of knowledge, understanding and skills at higher level.

Each student takes at least three (but not more than four) subjects at higher level, and the remaining at standard level.

Standard level subjects take up 150 teaching hours. Higher level comprises 240 teaching hours.

RECOGNITION OF IB PROGRAMMES

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is one of the world's most innovative educational courses for 16-19 year olds.

It focuses on personal, professional and academic development and is globally recognized by universities for the holistic and rigorous education it provides.

The IB works consistently to make sure the DP is globally recognized by universities, with its students gaining competitive offers for further study.

All DP curriculums are reviewed on a seven-year teaching cycle to ensure that each is fit for purpose in a changing world and incorporates the latest educational research and lessons learned from a thorough evaluation of the existing curriculum. The DP curriculum review is a collaborative process that aims to produce excellent, internationally minded, research-based curriculums and support material that enable students to develop the attributes of the learner profile and the IB mission, thereby providing an excellent preparation for life in the 21st century.

The contributions from university faculty towards the development and evaluation of our curriculums over the course of the 7-year teaching cycle are essential. Other opportunities to support curriculum development include participating in the assessment trial of a new component, joining a focus group on potential developments in a given subject area, completing a survey on teaching and assessment of a subject area at your institution, or writing a commissioned review of a new guide. If you have questions about programme development or would like to participate in curriculum or programme review activities, please email us.

You can also [read more about upcoming curriculum updates](#).

HOW IS THE IB RECOGNIZED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES?

There are IB World Schools in 156 countries throughout the world, and students send exam results to higher education institutions in nearly 90 countries annually. Given the wide diversity of local education systems it can be difficult to understand how the IB is recognized in various parts of the world.

To learn more on IB recognition information at the national level, [read about the IB by country](#).

WHICH UNIVERSITIES RECOGNIZE IB PROGRAMMES?

Higher education institutions around the world admit students based on their IB credentials, and many have specific admissions policies and guidelines for IB students. Admissions criteria can vary widely across educational systems and selectivity of the institution.

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT SAIGON SOUTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: COURSE OFFERINGS⁽¹⁾

Links will take you to the IB Subject Briefs for each subject

Standard Level (SL) - 150 hours of study

Higher Level (HL) - 240 hours of study

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature

- [Language and Literature](#)
 - English SL and HL
 - Korean SL and HL
- [Literature](#)
 - English HL
 - School-Supported Self-Taught SL
 - For students wishing to study a mother tongue not taught at SSIS

Group 2: Language Acquisition

- [Language ab initio SL](#) (for students with little to no prior study)
 - Mandarin
 - Spanish
- [Language B](#)
 - Mandarin SL and HL
 - Spanish SL and HL
 - English B HL

Group 3: Individuals and Society

- Economics [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- [Geography SL and HL](#)
- History [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- [Psychology SL and HL](#)

Group 4: Sciences

- Biology [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- Chemistry [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- Physics [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- [Environmental Systems and Societies SL](#)

Group 5: Mathematics

- [Applications and Interpretations SL and HL](#)
- [Analysis and Approaches SL and HL](#)

Group 6: Arts

- [Music SL and HL](#)
- Theater [SL](#) and [HL](#)
- Visual Arts [SL](#) and [HL](#)

The Core - students are supported in completing the core elements in our SSIS-designed IB Core Class

- [Theory of Knowledge \(TOK\)](#)
- [Extended Essay \(EE\)](#)
- [Creativity, Activity, and Service \(CAS\)](#)

⁽¹⁾ Course offerings are tentative and driven by student-demand. Not all courses will be run every year.