



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Student and Parent Information Handbook

2022 – 2023

Head of School: Dr. Kristen DiMatteo

Principal: Mr. Jerome Duggan

Coordinator: Mr. Christopher Brown

**Via Cassia 811
00189 Rome, Italy
www.aosr.org**

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

Inquirers: We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Knowledgeable: We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Thinkers: We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators: We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

Principled: We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Open-minded: We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring: We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Risk-takers: We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Balanced: We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Reflective: We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Mission	1
The IB Diploma– an overview	3
The Curriculum Model	4
The International Baccalaureate at AOSR	5
Criteria for IB selection at AOSR	6
IB subjects offered	7
The Core Components	8
Award of the Diploma	9
Assessment of TOK, Extended Essay and CAS	10
Recognition in Italy (written in Italian)	11

AOSR MISSION, OUR BELIEFS AND HISTORY

OUR MISSION

AOSR offers the best of an American-International education. We inspire our diverse student body to courageously meet the demands of a changing world.

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1947, the American Overseas School of Rome blends a rich history with future ready learning. Grounded in rigorous and individualized curriculum, AOSR offers American and international educational excellence to Pre-K through Grade 12 students. Our students are well-prepared to gain admission to universities in the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, and beyond.

OUR BELIEFS

Respect:

We believe that the dignity and worth of each person in our community must be honored. Guided by honesty and integrity, we build respect, acceptance and appreciation of ourselves and others.

Responsibility:

We believe that responsibility contributes to self-direction and the opportunities that education provides; it guides students to an understanding of their role in our community and to the compassionate service needed to be productive world citizens.

Integrity:

Our community is founded upon our ethical actions. We reflect upon our interactions and seek to continuously better ourselves. When we make mistakes, we admit them and use restorative practices to seek a harmonious resolution.

Trust:

We believe that trust is promoted through the honest and free exchange of ideas and opinions and is strengthened through communication, compromise and understanding.

Our Strategy at AOSR

AOSR currently applies a strategic plan that is supported by three strategic pillars for excellence.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Inspire, challenge and nurture each student to achieve individual academic excellence.

1. We will implement learning programs that **challenge and empower** each student to succeed.
2. We will attract and retain **highly skilled, internationally experienced teachers** who build relationships that inspire students to ask tough questions, try harder, and believe in their own potential.
3. We will use Data to inform instruction for **optimal student growth**.

ACTIVE LEARNING

Develop partnerships to engage students to learn from and care for our local and global community.

1. We will **develop partnerships** with parents, businesses and NGOs to create learning experiences that extend beyond our campus.
2. We will **expand experiential learning trips** in Rome, Italy, and Europe as a component of our curricular and co-curricular program.
3. We will **engage student voice** and **agency for sustainability and service opportunities** in our actions and decision-making.

FUTURE READY LEARNING

Ensure an international and diverse community, with state-of-the-art facilities and sustainable resources for future-ready learning.

1. We will continue to **actively promote AOSR to ensure diversity and internationalism** in enrollment and faculty recruitment.
2. We will **develop the Campus Master Plan** to offer 21st century teaching and learning.
3. We will **create a financial plan that optimizes our financial resources** and creates long term financial stability.

The IB Diploma– an overview

The IB diploma program is a demanding pre-university course of studies designed for highly motivated students. It is a broad based two-year course that aims to encourage students to become responsible members of local, national and global communities. It provides a cohesive curriculum where concurrent studies lead to examinations in six different subject areas and a central core consisting in completion of three requirements.

IB Diploma students aim to develop the traits of an IB learner profile represented by 10 attributes valued by all IB World Schools. IB learners strive to be: Inquirers, Open-minded, Knowledgeable, Caring, Thinkers, Risk-takers, Communicators, Balanced, Principled, Reflective. AOSR is an IB World School and has been offering students the opportunity to obtain an IB diploma or IB certificates since 1989.

IB students at AOSR are expected to:

- Demonstrate self-discipline and responsibility
- Have the desire and work ethic required to maximize learning from their course of studies
- Learn from fellow students as well as teachers
- Share with and contribute to the community
- Seek assistance and not hesitate to give it
- Be challenged, excited, as well as sometimes disappointed and exasperated
- Enjoy the challenge of opportunity

THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CURRICULUM MODEL

The curriculum is modeled by a circle where the inner circle shows the pedagogical approach to teaching and learning in the program. The six academic areas surround the three core requirements, and the watermark of the world indicates the global context of the program.

The heart of the curriculum model is the IB learner profile.



Over the course of the two-year program, students:

- ❖ Study one subject from each of the six subject groups
- ❖ Three of the six subjects are studied at higher level (240 teaching hours)
- ❖ The remaining three subjects are studied at standard level (150 teaching hours)
- ❖ Complete an extended essay (EE)
- ❖ Follow a theory of knowledge course (TOK)
- ❖ Participate in creativity, action, service (CAS)

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AT AOSR

Our aim at AOSR is to prepare the students in the IB Diploma program for university acceptance throughout the world as well as for advanced placement in universities in the United States.

Students at AOSR may choose to participate in the program in one of three ways:

- As a student undertaking the full IB Diploma.
- As a student taking one or more IB certificates.
- As a student following an IB course for internal credit.

Diploma Candidates

The full IB Diploma student will have the opportunity to apply for college admission in most countries of the world. In Italy the IB is fully recognized as a valid Italian diploma provided the student has followed the Ministry of Public Education's specific guidelines for IB recognition. For students planning to attend universities in the USA, high marks in high level exams are recognized as a year's college work and some universities will grant sophomore standing to recipients of the IB Diploma.

Certificate Candidates

Students who choose to take IB courses for the certificates they offer, may select any course at the higher or standard level that fits into their schedule and as determined through consultation with their teachers, counselor, and IB Coordinator. Certificates obtained in higher level courses are usually accepted for advanced placement at universities while certificates obtained in standard level will enhance university applications.

Internal Credit

Students may choose to enroll in year one of an IB course because of an interest in the subject matter. They will follow the first year of the selected IB course without taking the external examination. They will benefit from the experience since the academic rigor of the course will enrich their curriculum and enable them to receive AOSR credit towards their High School Diploma. Students taking the full two years of an IB course are expected to pursue a certificate in that course.

Criteria for IB Selection at AOSR

Students at AOSR will apply for admission to the IB Diploma program after completing the first semester of grade 10.

Students need to submit an application in grade 10 in order to be considered for the IB Diploma program. The application will be considered on the basis of the students' GPA, teacher recommendations and PSAT scores. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. In the two years of the program it is expected that students maintain a 3.0 GPA and that they strive constantly to develop the traits of the IB Learner Profile.

Student admission to IB Certificates and/or internal credit only is subject to teacher approval and satisfactory completion of prerequisite courses.

IB COURSES OFFERED

The list below gives the subjects offered at AOSR. This list is not definitive. The school will guarantee the classes needed for a student to complete the diploma once a course of studies has been established but reserves the right to add or delete courses according to student needs and staff availability.

IB GROUP	SUBJECT AREA	AT AOSR
1	Language A: Literature	Italian (SL, HL)
	Language A: Language & Literature	English (SL, HL)
2	Language B	Italian, French, Spanish (SL, HL)
	Language Ab Initio	Italian, French, Spanish (SL)
3	Individuals and Societies	History, Economics (SL, HL), Environmental Systems and Societies (SL)*
4	Experimental Sciences	Biology, Physics, Chemistry (SL, HL), Environmental Systems and Societies (SL)*
5	Mathematics	Mathematics Analysis and Approaches (SL, HL), Mathematics Applications and Interpretations (SL)
6	Electives**	Visual Arts (SL,HL), Film (SL, HL),

*Environmental Systems and Societies (SL) can be taken as a course in Group 3, 4, or 6.

**An additional course in any Group can be taken as a Group 6 course.

THE CORE COMPONENTS

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

TOK provides coherence to the IB program. It is a course of study mandatory for every diploma candidate that explores the relationship amongst the various areas of knowledge and the different ways of knowing. It encourages critical reflection and analysis of knowledge acquired within and beyond the classroom. Students are helped to consider how they know what they know and to develop habits of reflection which they bring to each subject. There are two assessment tasks in the TOK course.

- The TOK exhibition assesses the ability of the student to show how TOK manifests in the world around us.
- The TOK essay engages students in a more formal and sustained piece of writing in response to a title focused on the areas of knowledge.

The Extended Essay

IB diploma candidates are required to undertake original research and write an extended essay (research paper) in one of the subjects of the IB curriculum. The extended essay is written under the supervision of a qualified teacher at the school.

The main purpose of the essay is to train the candidate with the kind of independent research and writing skills expected at the university level. For more information please refer to the Extended Essay booklet of AOSR

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) Program

CAS stands for Creativity, Action and Service and is a fundamental part of the diploma experience. The IB goal of educating the whole person, fostering active citizenry, approaches to learning and the attributes of the learner profile is reached through the completion of CAS experiences and CAS project(s).

At AOSR the program is administered by the CAS coordinator, with the active participation and assistance of other teachers. The participation of parents in the program as well as new ideas from students, for CAS activities, is always encouraged. The CAS program is spread through both years of the diploma program and organized around three strands:

- Creativity—exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance (school examples: sing in the chorus, perform in plays)
- Activity—physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle (school examples: play on the school sport teams)
- Service—collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need (school examples: work in student government, work on student publications and/or the AOSR yearbook, organize charity events, assist elementary and middle school teachers)

For a complete understanding of this area please read the AOSR CAS Handbook

AWARDING OF THE DIPLOMA

Candidates for the diploma normally take all examinations in a single session at the end of the two-year period of preparation, but some opt to take one or two exams at the end of their first year.

Students at the end of year one may take examinations in not more than two subjects, on condition that these subjects are offered at standard level (SL) only, and that the recommended number of teaching hours has been completed.

The Grading System

Important factors to consider are:

1. In all subjects a part of the program, up to a maximum of 30% is internally assessed and externally moderated by the Chief Examiner. This “Internal Assessment” component of the grade is usually a research paper, a portfolio of investigations or laboratory reports and/or written compositions applicable to the specific subject.
This very important part of the diploma requires a great deal of organization, which is why strict deadlines will be set.

2. Performance in each subject is graded using the following scale:

- 7 – Excellent
- 6 – Very Good
- 5 – Good
- 4 – Satisfactory
- 3 – Mediocre
- 2 – Poor
- 1 – Very Poor

A maximum of 3 extra points is awarded for combined performance in theory of knowledge and the extended essay. The maximum total Diploma Program points score is, therefore, 45.

3. The IB diploma will be awarded to a candidate whose total score reaches or exceeds 24 points, does not contain any failing condition (score of 1), no more than two poor grades (score of 2), no more than three mediocre grades (score of 3), three higher level total scores reaches or exceed 12 points, three standard level total scores reach or exceed 9 points, and meets all requirements stated in the IB Diploma program regulations.
4. A copy of the regulations will be given to each student and his/her parents by the coordinator.

ASSESSMENT OF TOK AND EXTENDED ESSAYS

The total number of points awarded is determined by the combination of the performance levels achieved in both components according to the matrix below

Figure 9: Award of points for TOK and the EE

		Theory of knowledge (TOK)				
Extended essay	Grade awarded	A	B	C	D	E or N
	A	3	3	2	2	Failing condition
	B	3	2	2	1	Failing condition
	C	2	2	1	0	
	D	2	1	0	0	
	E or N	Failing condition				

Diploma Programme Assessment Procedures 2023, p 147.

For questions please feel free to contact the Diploma Program coordinator at chbrown@aosr.org or 06 33438337

Note :

The following pages of this booklet are written in Italian. They are intended only for Italian students needing to pursue a program of studies that leads to obtaining an “equipollenza” with an Italian maturita’.

PER OTTENERE IL RICONOSCIMENTO
DI EQUIPOLLENZA IN ITALIA
DEL DIPLOMA DI BACCELLIERATO INTERNAZIONALE

Uno studente iscritto ad AOSR deve soddisfare i requisiti interni per il diploma di High School insieme a quelli dell’International Baccalaureate (IB).

I diplomi di baccellierato internazionale rilasciati dall’American Overseas School di Roma sono riconosciuti quali diplomi di maturita’ aventi valore legale ai sensi della legge 30 ottobre 1986, n. 738.

Per aiutare a capire il percorso “quasi obbligato” di uno studente italiano che ambisce al nostro diploma insieme al diploma IB, troverete in seguito i due piani di studio proposti della nostra scuola.

Questi piani di studio sono forniti a titolo informativo per aiutare a capire l’impegno scolastico richiesto e le classi necessarie nei quattro anni di scuola superiore.

Maggiori dettagli sulle singole classi sono forniti dal opuscolo “Program of Studies” trovabile nel nostro sito www.aosr.org

AOSR riconosce le esigenze individuali di ogni studente e parte della funzione del coordinatore dell’IB e’ di identificare il piano di studi che meglio risponde a tali esigenze.

Per ulteriori informazioni e dettagli riguardanti aspetti generali del diploma, potete chiedere appuntamento con il coordinatore Prof. Christopher Brown oppure contattarlo tramite posta elettronica all’indirizzo chbrown@aosr.org

Per ottenere il riconoscimento di equipollenza in Italia del diploma di Baccellierato Internazionale, uno studente iscritto ad AOSR deve soddisfare i requisiti interni per il diploma di High School insieme a quelli dell’International Baccalaureate (IB).

I diplomi di Baccellierato Internazionale rilasciati da *American Overseas School of Roma* sono riconosciuti quali diplomi di maturita’ aventi valore legale ai sensi della legge 30 ottobre 1986, n. 738.

Per aiutare a capire il percorso “quasi obbligato” di uno studente italiano che ambisce al nostro diploma insieme al diploma IB, troverete in seguito i due piani di studio proposti dalla nostra scuola.

Questi piani di studio sono forniti a titolo informativo per aiutare a capire l’impegno scolastico richiesto e le classi necessarie nei quattro anni di scuola superiore.

Maggiori dettagli sulle singole classi sono forniti nel documento “***High School Program of Studies***”

(disponibile in lingua inglese).

AOSR riconosce le esigenze individuali di ogni studente e parte della funzione del coordinatore dell'IB è di identificare il piano di studi che meglio risponde a tali esigenze.

Equipollenza per Maturità <u>Linguistica</u>				
	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ITALIANO	Italian 3N	Italian 4	Italian 5	Italian IB
INGLESE	English 9	English 10	IB English 1	IB English 2
TERZA LINGUA (un percorso)	French 2 Spanish 2	French 3 Spanish 3	French 4 Spanish 4	French 5 Spanish 5
STORIA	Ancient	European	IB European	IB World History
SCIENZA (un percorso)	Biology	Chemistry	Advanced Bio IB Chemistry Physics	AP/IB Bio IB Physics SL
MATEMATICA (un percorso)	Algebra I Geometry	Geometry Algebra II/T	Algebra 2/Trig Pre Calculus	IB Math Studies IB Math SL
Obbligatori	PE / Health Computer Literacy	Arte/Musica	IB Pastoral Care (1o Sem) TOK (2o Sem)	TOK (1o Sem) IB Study hall (2o Sem)
Numero Corsi	8	7-8	7	7

Equipollenza per Maturità <u>Scientifica</u>				
	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ITALIANO	Italian 3N	Italian 4	Italian 5	Italian IB
INGLESE	English 9	English 10	IB English 1	IB English 2
TERZA LINGUA	French or Spanish	French or Spanish		Elective
STORIA	Ancient	European	IB European	IB World History
SCIENZA	Biology	Chemistry	IB Chemistry	
SCIENZA 2			Physics <i>OR</i> Advanced Bio	IB Physics <i>OR</i> IB Bio
MATEMATICA	Geometry	Algebra 2/Trig	IB Pre Calculus HL	HL Mathematics
Obbligatori	PE / Health Computer Literacy	Arte/Musica	IB Pastoral Care (1o Sem) TOK (2o Sem)	TOK (1o Sem) IB Study hall (2o Sem)
Numero Corsi	8	7-8	7	7

IB Diploma Program: Following the MIUR dictate we offer 3 IB Lanes - Humanistic; Linguistic ; and Scientific.

Mandatory subject for each lane is:

History at High Level for Humanistic

Italian A at High Level for Linguistic

Mathematics at High Level for Scientific.

All other subjects are chosen as per rules of the IBO to obtain a Diploma.

Note:

IB ethic codes and the IB approaches to teaching and learning do not allow Italian natives to have **Italian B** (second language exam) in their program of studies, it must be Italian A at either High or Standard level.

The Only exception is an Italian student that has not lived in Italy for a minimum of 2 years and has not had the opportunity to study Italian as a native language in the country they were residing. That student could choose Italian B HL as an option.

Per ulteriori informazioni, si prega di contattare il coordinatore del programma IB, Prof. Chris Brown, tramite posta elettronica all'indirizzo chbrown@aosr.org

Referenced Materials

Diploma Programme Assessment Procedures 2023. International Baccalaureate Organization, September 2022.

