



Last Updated 6 Oct



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF FLORENCE

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME





MISSION

A laboratory for learning where we collaborate to add meaning to a shared future.

VISION

We aspire to build communities of creative makers and doers.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE AT ISF

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is a rigorous pre-university course of study, leading to examinations, that meets the needs of the highly motivated and academically-inclined secondary school students. Designed as a comprehensive curriculum that allows its graduates to fulfill requirements of the various national systems of education, the IB is based on the pattern of no single country. It provides students of different linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds with the intellectual, social and critical perspectives necessary for the adult world that lies ahead of them.

The educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate is found in their 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.”*

The IB Diploma is an extremely demanding course both for teachers and students alike. It is designed for students who are hard-working and self-motivated and no amount of teaching can replace these vital ingredients for success. It is expected that students take responsibility for themselves and realize that no one is going to complete work for them. The consequences of poor performance in the class will be poor exam results. Enrolment is not a guarantee of success. Students attending and passing IB Diploma courses at ISF, and who fulfill other passing requirements, will earn the International School of Florence High School Diploma, regardless of whether they sit, or pass, their final IB Diploma exams. It should be noted that all courses in 11th and 12th Grade at ISF are IB Diploma classes.

The philosophy of the IB is to allow any student to register for the Programme and at ISF this philosophy is supported. However, teachers provide students and their families with guidance regarding subject choices and whether to pursue the full IB Diploma or IB course certificates in certain subjects only.

The IB Diploma is awarded on the successful completion of all the components of the course by the IB organization based in Geneva. Although it is an extremely demanding course, the rewards of success are the recognition by, and entry into, the majority of Higher Education Institutes throughout the world. Students and parents should ensure that the subjects they have chosen are accepted by the universities and colleges that they wish to attend after leaving school before selecting and starting the course.

The faculty at ISF has experience in teaching the IB (ISF was the 308th school to register as an IB School; there are now over 3,421 schools offering the IB Diploma in 157 countries) and a good rate of success.



Jason Blackstone, IBPD Coordinator

THE IBDP CURRICULUM

GROUP 1 - LANGUAGE A (STUDIES IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE)	
English A: Language & Literature	Higher Level/ Standard Level
English A: Literature	HL/SL
Italian A: Language & Literature	HL/SL

GROUP 2 - LANGUAGE ACQUISITION	
English B	HL/SL
Italian B	HL/SL
Italian ab initio	SL

GROUP 3 - INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES	
Art History*	SL Only
Business Management*	HL/SL
Global Politics	HL/SL
History	HL/SL

*may be offered as a Group 6 elective

GROUP 4 - EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES	
Biology	HL/SL
Chemistry	HL/SL
Physics	HL/SL
Sports, Exercise, and Health Science (SEHS)	SL

GROUP 5 - MATHEMATICS	
Mathematics: Analysis & Approaches	HL/SL
Mathematics: Applications & Interpretation	HL/SL

GROUP 6 - ARTS AND ELECTIVES	
Theatre	HL/SL
Visual Arts	HL/SL
French B**	HL/SL
Spanish B**	HL/SL
Chemistry (as a second science)	HL/SL

**may also be offered as a Group 2 option

INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE	
Environmental Systems & Societies (ESS)	SL Only

One subject from each of the above Groups must be chosen for the two years of the Diploma Programme. At least three and not more than four must be taken at Higher Level (HL) and the others at Standard Level (SL).

The school strives to satisfy as far as possible the requirements of its student body, which changes each year, but lack of numbers and other timetabling restrictions may further limit the proposed choices (including offering the HL version of a class) that are illustrated above.

In addition to completing the six subjects, each Diploma candidate must meet the following requirements:

Extended Essay: A substantial piece of independent work of no more than 4,000 words in an area that interests the student and in one of the subjects of the IB curriculum. Additional points may be awarded to the final six subject score -- see section "The IB Marking System".

Theory of Knowledge (ToK): A course in the Theory of Knowledge. Additional points may be awarded -- see section "The IB Marking System".

Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS): Activities that broadly cover the above mentioned areas are completed over the two years of the Programme, starting in September of the first year - see CAS section for more details.



SELECTING CLASSES FOR SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

In Grade 10 students need to make informed choices about their future IB subjects as this can have a direct effect on the choice of university/college degree programme. This is even more important if students are choosing to go to university in the UK. It is strongly advised, therefore, to research several universities to check their general entrance requirements for specific subjects.

Students can check with the College & Careers Counsellor, for degree course descriptions and entrance requirements and students can also check the site <http://www.ucas.com> for exact requirements at specific universities in the UK.

Those classes listed below are generally requirements for UK universities and are also highly recommended for the USA.

For the rest of the world, including France, Italy, and the Netherlands, the universities tend to be autonomous and parents/students need to check specific IB requirements by contacting the universities directly.

The courses and classes listed below are a guide only – students and parents are strongly advised to check with the universities/colleges of their choice to confirm admission requirements.



GENERAL RULE	
	If you wish to take a subject you are studying at school at university level, you should take that subject at HL.
Architecture	Art and Math and/or Physics at HL
Bio-Technology/ Engineering	Biology HL and another science at HL; usually Math at SL
Business Management	Some may require Math at HL
Chemical Engineering	Usually Require Chemistry at HL with Math and Physics at HL
Economics	Math HL
Environmental Science	At least one Science at HL, usually Chemistry
Law/Politics/Philosophy	History HL
Mechanical/Electrical/ Aeronautical/ Automobile Engineering	Math and Physics at HL
Medicine/Dentistry	Chemistry HL and another Science at HL, usually Biology; Math at HL or SL

Modern Languages (French, Italian, Spanish)	Usually require Language B HL if you want to study that specific language at university
New Language (Arabic, Russian, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin)	Check with the university, but usually require a Modern Language at HL
Physiotherapy/Nursing	Usually require Biology at HL with some universities also needing Chemistry at SL
PPE (Philosophy, Politics, Economics)	History HL advisable; Math HL preferred
Psychology	May require Biology or Chemistry at HL; some may require Math HL
Veterinary Science	Biology and Chemistry at HL; Math at HL or SL



CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE (CAS)

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The General Regulations of the IB stipulate that all IB Diploma students must engage in extra-curricular activities to be eligible for the award of the Diploma. This is a very important aspect in the education of the “whole person” and is one of the “core” activities in the whole IB Programme. These activities must take place during the IB Diploma course that starts in September; therefore, activities completed during the summer prior to the commencement of the course (i.e. September of 11th Grade) are inadmissible.

Each Diploma student must keep a diary to record and reflect on the various activities undertaken. Proof of participation in activities is mandatory. Each student’s CAS diary will be reviewed and evaluated at regular intervals by the CAS Coordinator.

The three areas involved are:

CREATIVITY - This includes regular individual or group activities in any form of art or craft, drama, debate, music, dance, film-making, photography, chess, etc. Such activities may be done outside the school as long as the CAS Coordinator is assured of the student’s regular participation and attendance.

ACTIVITY - This may include participation in organized school activities and also serious interests in which the student has outside of school, subject to the approval of the CAS Coordinator.

SERVICE - The student’s community service, both within the school as an officer or member of committees, and outside school helping the less privileged and less fortunate or integrating with the local community, is taken into high consideration. This may be done during holiday time.

Evaluation will be based on a written report to be given to the CAS Coordinator. All students should bear in mind the relevance and importance of CAS activities. Both ISF and the IB organization consider such activities very significant and relevant to the development of the “whole” person. ISF expects that all 11th and 12th grade students participate in CAS activities, whether or not they are pursuing a full IB Diploma, as CAS participation and completion is a requirement of the ISF Diploma. CAS activities start in September of 11th Grade and must finish by March of 12th Grade.

EXAMPLES OF CAS ACTIVITIES AT ISF

During School Hours:

- Tutoring: Math, Italian and English language
- Classroom assistants: Computer lab, Junior School Art, Early Years, Foundation, Grade 2 Physical Education
- Other: School Office help, newsletter distribution, Counselor’s Assistant, school wastepaper recycling, Library Assistant, journalism

After School:

- Yearbook, charity fundraising activities, sports, visits to retirement homes, church services, drama, Model United Nations (MUN), musical activities, Scouts, hospital art project, veterinarian’s help.



IB DIPLOMA RECOGNITION - ITALIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

For the IB Diploma candidates wishing to apply to **Italian Universities**, the Italian Ministry of Education has officially approved the IB Diploma programmes outlined below.

All three programmes are offered at ISF, with the subsequent IB Diplomas being recognized as the equivalent to the Italian “liceo linguistico,” “liceo scientifico,” or “liceo scienze umane.” In order for the particular category of liceo to be recognized, one assigned class must be taken at HL. This class is noted below with “HL” in bold.

According to the Italian Ministry of Education, one of the three programmes below must be followed by those IB Diploma candidates wishing to apply to an Italian University.

With their increased autonomy, however, Italian Universities may choose to accept other programme combinations. If a student wishes to follow another programme, it is *his* responsibility to present the programme to the Italian university of his choice for approval **prior to selecting and embarking on the course**.

Other countries and individual institutions in Italy may have similar restrictions. These restrictions must be checked **by students and parents prior to selecting and starting the IB course**.

In addition, although the Ministry documents do not specifically require it, ISF strongly recommends that all students wishing to apply to Italian universities take Italian A (either Language & Literature or Literature) in order to fulfill the Group 1 requirement below.



(The table below references the documents Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 30 ottobre 1986, n. 738, further updated with art. 2 legge n.738/86 D.M. 18 ottobre 2010 applicativo del D.P.R. 2 agosto 2010 n.164.)

	LICEO SCIENTIFICO	LICEO LINGUISTICO	LICEO SCIENZE UMANE
Group 1	Language A (ISF strongly recommends Italian A)	Language A HL (ISF strongly recommends Italian A)	Language A (ISF strongly recommends Italian A)
Group 2	Language B (or 2nd Language A)	Language B (or 2nd Language A)	Language B (or 2nd Language A)
Group 3	History	History	History HL
Group 4	Biology, Chemistry, or Physics	Biology, Chemistry, ESS, or Physics	Biology, Chemistry, ESS, or Physics
Group 5	Math HL	Math SL	Math SL
Group 6	Chemistry (only if not taking Chemistry in Group 4), ESS, or Art	Third Language	Art

THE IB MARKING SYSTEM

The grading scheme in use for IB examinations is from 7 to 1 and is described as follows:

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

In many subjects, a part of the Programme ranging from 20 to 30% may be assessed by the subject teacher. This assessment is externally moderated by IB examiners and marks may be adjusted.

Core Points: A maximum of three Core (or additional) points may be added to the total score awarded for the individual subjects based on performance in the Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. Performance in each of these requirements will be assessed using the following scale: excellent (A), good (B), satisfactory (C), mediocre (D), and elementary (E). Additional points will be awarded according to a candidate's combined performance in both areas.

CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DIPLOMA

The IB Diploma will be awarded to a candidate provided all the following requirements have been met:

- CAS requirements have been met;
- The candidate's total points are 24 or more;
- There is no "N"* awarded for theory of knowledge, the extended essay or for a contributing subject;
- There is no grade E awarded for theory of knowledge and/or the extended essay;
- There is no grade 1 awarded in a subject/level;
- There are no more than two grade 2s awarded (HL or SL);
- There are no more than three grade 3s or below awarded (HL or SL);
- The candidate has gained 12 points or more on HL subjects (for candidates who register for four HL subjects, the three highest grades count);
- The candidate has gained 9 points or more on SL subjects (candidates who register for two SL subjects must gain at least 5 points at SL).

Please note that a maximum of three (3) examinations sessions is allowed in which to satisfy the requirements for the award of the IB Diploma.

*An "N" grade will mean one or more of the following: withdrawal from the *examination; absence from one or all parts of the examination; failure to meet one or more of the examination requirements; breach of regulations (e.g. being found guilty of malpractice, including plagiarism, collusion, etc.).*



ISF DP ASSESSMENT

DP ASSESSMENT

ISF DP Teachers present to students the assessment criteria for each component of their course. This usually occurs in the first weeks of teaching and/or immediately before starting a particular component of the course.

ISF DP assessment tasks are assessed using the DP criteria that most closely correspond to a specific DP component. ISF DP assessment uses the most appropriate grade boundaries, as decided in departments and based on the IB's published grade boundaries, which are communicated to students in a written and/or electronic format. If an ISF DP assessment task does not exactly correspond to a DP component, the grading criteria for this assessment will nevertheless be communicated to students.

Grade 11 DP assessment criteria and boundaries may be adjusted slightly as decided in departments to emphasize the building of skills over final competence. It is usual practice that by the beginning of Grade 12, IB final grade boundaries will be applied to internal work.

Regarding DP Internal Assessment (IA), please note that while teachers are expected to give feedback to students on first drafts of the IA (including general advice about where and how to improve with references to the grading criteria), teachers are not permitted by the IB to edit these IA drafts in any way.

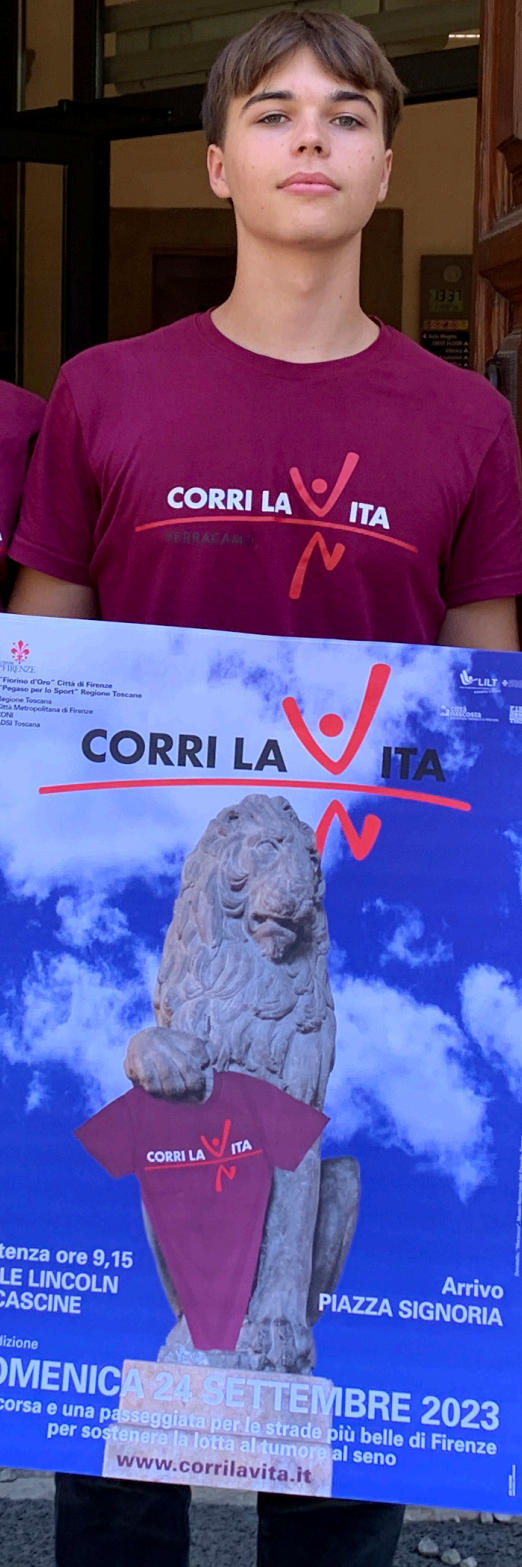
ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

Apart from Language B subjects and Italian A, all DP subjects at ISF are taught in English. Students who enter the school at the beginning of the DP will be required to demonstrate evidence of a sufficient level of academic English to access the program. This will include a WIDA Screening Test and evidence from official school records showing English language proficiency.



LANGUAGE A OPTIONS

ISF offers both English A and Italian A courses to its students. ISF also supports the student choice of taking a Language A subject in their best language, if this is not either English or Italian. Whenever a minimum number of students has been met for a particular Language A course (e.g. French A: Literature), the school will investigate the possibility of a taught class in that Language A. In this case, the subject would be taught as part of the regular DP subject offerings and, therefore, be covered by school tuition. Where this is impossible, the school offers a "school supported self-taught" option for Language A: Literature. In this latter case, however, the cost of the language expert would be the family's responsibility.



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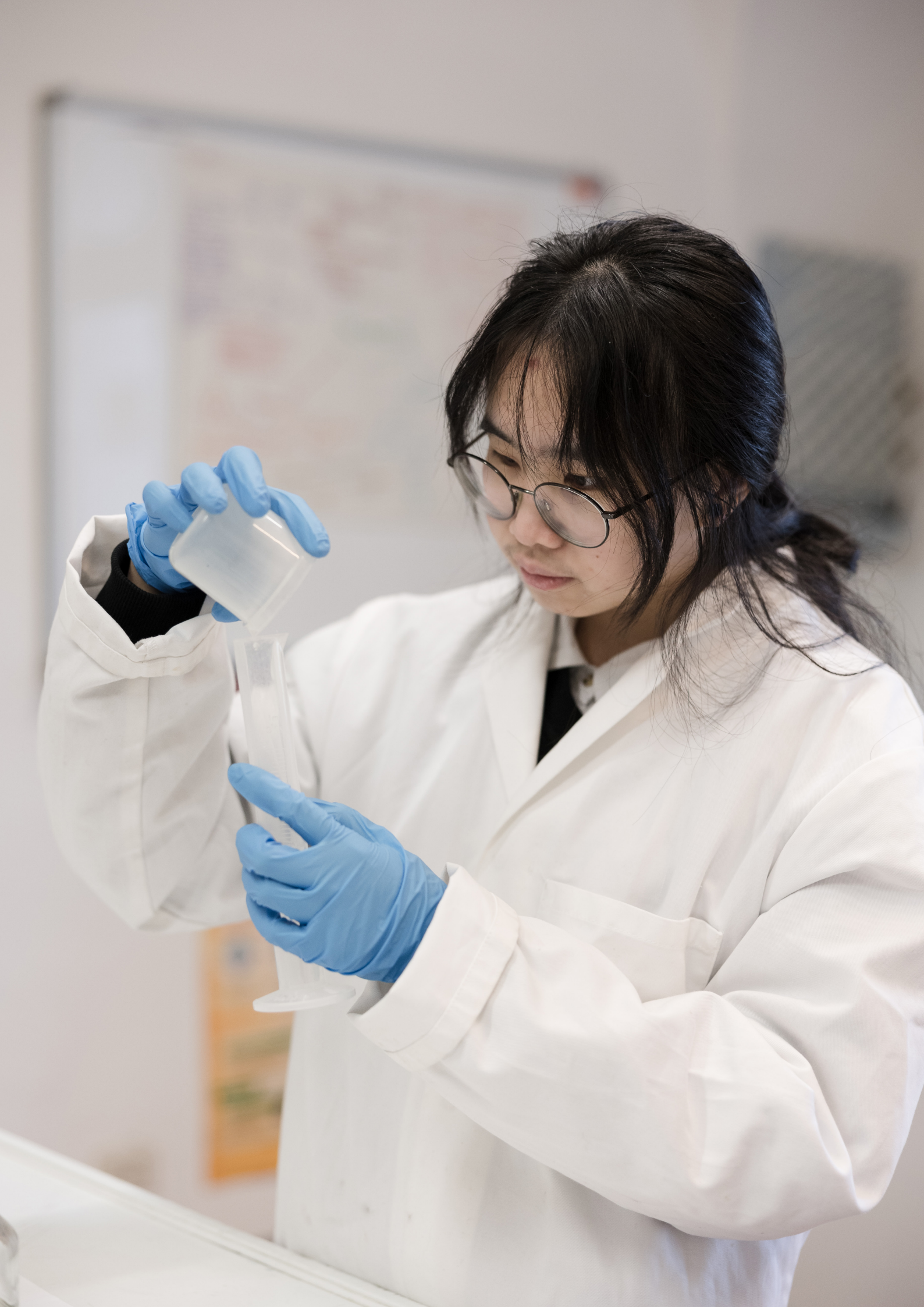
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STUDENT COMMITMENT

As a school we feel the following points constitute the minimum commitment for IB students:

ATTENDANCE

It is expected that IB students will attend at least 90% of their classes. All absences are to be justified by a note or medical certificate, in accordance with the school attendance policy. The consequences of missed school time are often poor grades. Students going on school-organised trips must attend the last day of school before the trip and the first day of school after the trip.

ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR

All students are expected to cooperate with teachers and to work in, and out of, class without the continued supervision of teachers. Failure to do so, or disruption of classes, will result in a review of the student's status. Students should not expect always to sit next to, or work in a group with, their friends and should accept directions on seating and group composition. The IB and ISF put a large emphasis on the ability to work with others.

EQUIPMENT AND IT REQUIREMENTS

Aside from obvious supplies such as pens, pencils, notebooks, binders, and so forth, and in addition to the required TI-84 calculator for Mathematics and Science courses, all students must have access to a reliable computer and printer. This is very important because the majority of ISF and IB work must be completed on a computer. Furthermore, a working printer is essential if students are to respect deadlines for their assignments (a broken printer is not an acceptable excuse for late work!). Finally, Internet access is a requirement in most IB courses.

ORGANIZATION

All students need to organize themselves for each class with the required equipment as suggested by the teacher. Each student should use diary -- whether electronic or paper -- in which they record homework, tests and other requirements. Though the IB teachers try to spread work as evenly as possible it is inevitable that students will experience 'busy' periods. Keeping up to date with assignments and not leaving anything to 'the last minute' is vital. This self-organization is one of the challenges of the IB Diploma. It must be noted that three to four hours of study time each night is expected of all IB students, so they must be willing and able to organize their time.

PUNCTUALITY

Students should not be late to class without a compelling reason. Collecting books, making telephone calls, etc. should all be done either before or after the class in the student's own time.

SUBMISSION OF WORK

Work must be submitted on the day it is due. Late work may be marked down for ISF report card assessment purposes. Students who are absent are fully responsible for finding out about missed course content and homework assignments from their classmates or teachers before the work is due. If a student is absent for an extended period of time, an individual homework plan may be worked out with teachers and the IB Coordinator.



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