Q&A on the International Baccalaureate Programme at BCS

Marie-France Labelle, Director of Academics
mlabelle@bcs1836.com

Amber Rommens, School and IB DP Coordinator
arommens@bcs1836.com

bishopscollegeschool.com

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB)

The International Baccalaureate is recognized as the global leader in international education. The IB provides students with a course of study that develops the intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills needed to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. (IBO, 2017)

Students choosing the full Diploma Programme commit to a challenging and unique academic experience which requires successful completion of the following over the course of two years (Forms VI-VII/Grades 11–12):

- One course in each of the six subject groups (with the possibility to substitute an extra Science, Social Science, or Language course in the place of an Arts course). Three courses must be taken at the Higher Level and three at Standard Level.
- The three core elements which include:
  - >Completion of the Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) component.
  - >Completion of the Extended Essay (EE).
  - >Completion of the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course.

What is unique about the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is a comprehensive and balanced two-year course of study that combines six subject areas with core requirements meant to build character, community, global mindedness, and critical thinking skills. Students complete internally and externally assessed evaluations.

Why International Baccalaureate?

The IB's philosophy and pedagogy align well with BCS' core values: Excellence, Community, Character, and Leadership. The academic program at BCS is student-centred and encourages students to become knowledgeable, principled, and balanced inquirers, communicators, and risk-takers. In addition, the IB's international curriculum complements the well-established co-curricular programs at BCS such as Round Square and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program. At BCS the focus on community is a central core value. BCS already has a significant international community of students, parents, and alumni. Being an IB World School expands this international community to include IB World Schools around the globe. This expanded community provides more opportunities for collaboration, sharing, and exchange.

BCS is committed to providing excellence in all its programs. The IB provides an international curriculum and assessments that have gained the respect of universities worldwide. University admissions in Canada, the US, and around the world consider IB graduates very well-prepared to take on new challenges and engage fully in university studies.

IB COURSES

How many subjects must a student study to fulfill IB Diploma Programme requirements?

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses, three at Standard Level (150 hours) and three at Higher Level (240 hours), over the course of two years. IB Diploma Programme students must also successfully complete CAS, EE, and TOK.

What is the difference between a Standard Level (SL) and a Higher Level (HL) course?

For each course in the Diploma Programme there is a core curriculum that is common to both SL and HL. This core curriculum prepares students well for university study in a specific subject area. At HL, students explore a subject in greater depth. For some subjects there is an additional assessment task at HL.

Students are encouraged to discuss specific IB HL & SL requirements for university entrance with the University Advising Department.

What subjects in each of the six groups does Bishop's College School offer?

(Subject level offerings may change from year to year.)

- **Group 1 – Studies in Language and Literature:** English A: Language and Literature, French A: Langue et littérature, and English A: Literature. *Students may choose two Group 1 courses and eliminate a Group 2 course for a bilingual diploma.*
- **Group 2 – Language Acquisition:** French *ab initio* and French B.
- **Group 3 – Individuals and Societies:** Business Management, Philosophy, History, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Psychology, and Geography.
- **Group 4 – Sciences:** Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Sports Exercise and Health Science.
- **Group 5 – Mathematics:** Analysis and Approaches, and Applications and Interpretation.
- **Group 6 – The Arts:** Music, and Visual Arts. *Students may choose to substitute a Group 2, 3, or 4 subject in the place of the Arts.*

What is the difference between the IB Diploma Programme and an IB Diploma course (certificate)?

In order to obtain an IB Diploma, students must fulfill the requirements listed above over a two-year course of study. IB course certificates may be earned on a subject by subject basis. Students register for IB exams in November of their Form VII/Grade 12 year.

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME CORE REQUIREMENTS (CAS, EE, TOK)

What is CAS and how does a student fulfill the CAS requirement at BCS?

CAS stands for Creativity, Activity, and Service. CAS consists mostly of experiences that have always been at the heart of the BCS holistic program. By participating in the regular activities associated with BCS life, including athletics, Cadets, Round Square, school performances, our leadership program, clubs, and community service, students will not only fulfill the required experiences for CAS, but will also progress through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program and can achieve further distinction. Students also reflect on how they demonstrated initiative, perseverance, and skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and decision-making.

What is the Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay (EE) allows students to develop organizational and research skills that prepare them well for university study. In addition, they are given an opportunity to explore a subject and topic about which they are passionate.

In January of Form VI/Grade 11, all BCS students will preview the EE. They will learn valuable research skills and learn more about what is required to complete the EE. In February of Form VI/Grade 11, students will choose a topic that will be the focus of their 4,000-word EE. Students complete independent research and are guided through the process by the EE Coordinator, as well as a supervisor with subject-specific knowledge. A first draft of the EE is due by September of their FormVII/Grade 12 year, and the final EE is due in December of that same year. Students completing the EE process (40 hours) set themselves on a path to earning a full IB Diploma or an individual EE certificate.

What is Theory of Knowledge (TOK)? What are the requirements of the TOK course?

Theory of Knowledge is a course in critical thinking. TOK asks students to analyze 'how they know the things they know.' Students examine different ways of knowing (by themes, technology, language, religion, etc) in addition to a variety of areas of knowledge (scientific, mathematical, historical, etc). For our Form VI/Grade 11 students, the requirements of the TOK course are consistent with those of the Quebec Ethics course.

TOK students will be evaluated on a TOK essay and TOK exhibition on a prescribed title. Since the TOK course is completed in March of their Form VII/Grade 12 year, students will use the rest of their class time to complete assignments in other courses and study for IB examinations in May. Successful completion of TOK (100 hours) (both Forms VI-VII/Grades 11 and 12) is required to receive the full IB Diploma.

What other educational pathways are open to students at BCS?

Students who wish to complete the Quebec High School Diploma (DES) must follow other course Ministry examination requirements.

By successfully completing Form VII/Grade 12, students are awarded a full, provincially-accredited BCS Diploma. BCS is committed to offering students various educational pathways that allow them to make informed choices about their future studies.

What are the requirements to earn an IB Diploma?

(Please note that further rules may apply.)

- A student must earn a minimum of 24 out of 45 points (other rules may apply.)
- A student has taken three HL and three SL courses, one from each of the six subject groups.
- Each of the six subjects is scored out of 7 points.
- Three additional points are awarded for the successful completion of the core requirements, CAS, EE and TOK.

How do I choose if I wish to be enrolled in the Diploma Programme?

The decision to be enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme or to take individual IB certificates is a personal choice but guided by individual requirements. The Director of Academics, the Senior School and IB DP Coordinator, and the University Advising Department will meet with students on a regular basis, both individually and collectively, to help them make an informed decision and guide them through the enrolment process.

IB ASSESSMENT

How are IB courses graded?

An IB course is assessed over two years. IB courses include internal assessments (tasks and projects that are marked by the teacher and moderated by an IB examiner) as well as external assessments (examinations and EE that are marked by IB examiners).

All IB course assignments and examinations are marked according to assessment criteria that can be found in each subject guide. In June, the mark for each assessment component is converted to an IB grade, from 1 to 7, with 7 being the highest possible score. IB grades are reported separately from the BCS transcript. IB grades are made available to students and families on July 6 following the completion of the Form VII/Grade 12 year.

Do all IB students receive a provincially-accredited BCS Diploma?

Yes. All students in the International Baccalaureate Programme will receive a BCS (New Brunswick-accredited) High School Diploma upon successful completion of their Form VII/Grade 12 year. Students must successfully complete all required courses and will be guided through that process as part of the course selection.

Does BCS offer non-IB courses?

In Form VI/Grade 11 all courses offered at BCS will give students the choice to pursue a two-year IB course certificate, while meeting the requirements for the Quebec Diploma in Form VI/Grade 11 and the BCS (New Brunswick-accredited) High School Diploma in Form VII/Grade 12.

In Form VII/Grade 12 some one-year, non-IB courses will be available to students. These courses provide full credit towards a BCS provincially-accredited Form VII/Grade 12 Diploma, but do not lead to IB course certificates or an IB Diploma.

BENEFITS OF IB

How will students benefit from the IB Programme?

Students will be better prepared for university studies globally as a result of the breadth and depth of IB courses. This, combined with the valuable critical thinking skills taught in all IB courses and a focus on internationalism and holistic education, makes IB an ideal program for BCS students.

How do universities 'view' the International Baccalaureate Programme?

Universities around the world are very familiar with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and actively seek to recruit IB students. Many universities give advanced credits for successfully completing IB courses or the Diploma. Please visit the ibo.org website for information about the university recognition policies in Canada and around the globe.

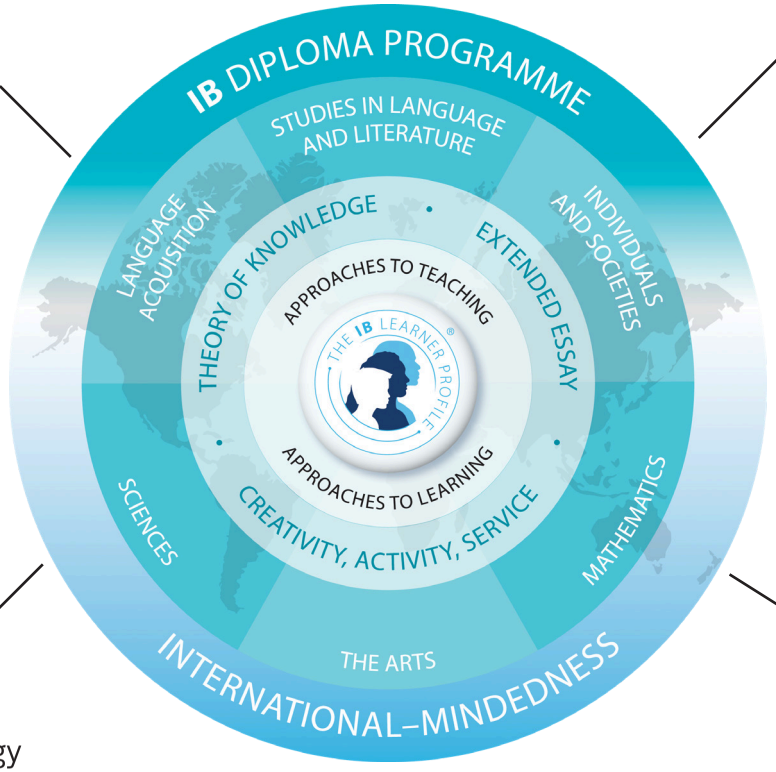
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2026-27
IB Diploma Programme Offerings at BCS

Group 1: Studies in Language and Literature
- English A: Language and Literature
- French A: Langue et littérature
- English A: Literature

Group 2: Language Acquisition
- French *ab initio*
- French B

Group 3: Individuals and Societies
- Business Management
- Philosophy
- History
- Social and Cultural Anthropology
- Psychology
- Geography



Group 4: Sciences
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Sports Exercise and Health Science

Group 5: Mathematics
- Analysis and Approaches
- Applications and Interpretation

Group 6: The Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts (depending on availability)