

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I'm interested in becoming an IB teacher. What are my options for professional development?

Here are three suggestions for you to gain more knowledge of IB philosophy and pedagogy:

Face-to-Face Workshops

You may be interested in attending one of our workshops to gain a better understanding of the IB curriculum. If so, please contact your regional office directly with specific inquiries. You can view workshop details at <http://www.ibo.org/en/professional-development/find-events-and-workshops/>. This page includes details of the workshops that are scheduled. Some of the workshops are generic to the programmes, and others are subject-specific, so your choice would depend on what you wanted to experience in attending.

Regional websites:

IB Americas: www.ibo.org/iba/workshops

IB Africa, Europe, Middle East: www.ibo.org/ibaem/workshops

IB Asia Pacific: www.ibo.org/ibap/workshops

Online Workshops

If you are interested in our online workshops, please visit <http://ibo.org/programmes/pd/online/> to find more information about the content of the workshops. You may also email ibid@ibo.org with any additional queries.

IB Educator Certificates

IB World Schools often recruit teachers who have prior IB teaching experience, leaving those without IB teaching experience fewer employment opportunities in IB schools. To address this problem, the IB partners with universities and institutions to offer the IB certificate in teaching and learning and the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research. These IB educator certificates are a professional certificate that complements your academic qualifications and signals to school heads that you are capable of teaching in an IB World School. If you want to develop your understanding of the IB programmes, you might enroll in a program of study at one of our partner institutions. Please note that while the programs undergo a rigorous recognition procedure before being officially recognized by the IB, the training itself is provided by the institutions and not by the IB. Upon completion of the program of study, you are eligible to register for an IB educator certificate. The entrance requirement for each university's program of study will differ depending on the institutions' admissions policies.

For more information about the IB educator certificates, please visit our web page: <http://ibo.org/en/educator-certificates>.

While there may not be an institution located near you, some offer a convenient distance learning option. If you are interested, please visit <http://ibo.org/globalassets/digital-toolkit/pd/ib-educator-certificate-uni-en.pdf> and contact the institution that offers the most suitable program. The institution will provide more information about the modes of delivery, length of the program and fee structures.

2. *What are the benefits of gaining an IB certificate in teaching and learning or an IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research?*

As an IB educator certificate holder, you receive the following benefits:

- A valued credential: the IB certificate in teaching and learning and the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research confirm to prospective employers in the international education community that you have a deep understanding of IB programmes.
- A competitive advantage: you are more desirable to prospective employers because hiring teachers with this credential saves them thousands of dollars on mandatory introductory IB training of new staff.
- Access to the rich resources of the IB community: if you register for an IB educator certificate, you'll receive access to the Online curriculum centre (OCC) that contains the latest developments in the IB programmes and online resources. The OCC also connects you to a community of IB practitioners around the world.
- A one year subscription to *IB World*: the IB's official magazine, published twice a year, will keep you informed of news and stories happening within the ever-widening IB community.
- Opportunities for collaborating with IB educators at regional conferences and other events

3. *What specific benefits does the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research provide?*

The IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research will:

- Improve the quality of your classroom teaching
- Allow you to contribute to the body of knowledge so others can benefit from your wisdom
- Expand your career path into leadership roles
- Increase your competitive advantage in the education job sector
- Demonstrate your commitment to continuous self-improvement and lifelong learning
- Increase your access to teaching jobs worldwide
- Demonstrate your deep understanding of and engagement in student learning.

4. *How do I know which educator certificate is right for me?*

The **IB certificate in teaching and learning** is perfect for anyone:

- pre-service student teachers
- new teachers
- experienced IB educators

Students who work toward this certificate demonstrate an understanding of the principles and practices associated with implementing one of the three IB programmes. The certificate is designed to build reflective practitioners and teacher researchers.

If you want to teach in an IB World School, improve your practice in an IB World School, develop an understanding of teaching and learning in an IB context and increase your access to teaching jobs worldwide, then the IB certificate in teaching and learning is a great choice for your professional development.

The **IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research** is for educators who:

- are experienced teachers
- are committed to research in a specific area of IB education
- may already have an IB certificate in teaching and learning

The IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research acknowledges the achievements of IB educators who undertake in-depth research to explore the relevant research and their own IB practice in the areas of curriculum development, pedagogy and assessment. If you have been teaching in the IB for several years and/or have already received the IB certificate in teaching and learning, then the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research is best suited for you.

5. Are the IB educator certificates programme-specific?

Yes, the IB certificate in teaching and learning is programme-specific. The institutions that are recognized to offer programs for this certificate encourage you to focus your studies on only one of the IB's three programmes (Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme or Diploma Programme). Participants investigate one IB programme with respect to the following areas of inquiry:

- curriculum processes
- teaching and learning
- assessment and learning
- professional learning

The IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research is not programme-specific. This certificate reflects a deeper level of understanding of all aspects of an IB education. Participants identify areas of interest within their own IB practice and focus on the following areas of inquiry:

- contemporary issues in IB education
- linking theory to practice in the IB context
- building capacity for practitioner inquiry
- researching practice

6. Why is it necessary to have teaching experience to be eligible for the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research?

The IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research is aimed at experienced educators who have gained a deep understanding of an IB programme through teaching the programme for a number of years. A large component of the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research is a participant's ability to reflect on their own IB teaching experience.

7. Are the IB educator certificates available to school administrators?

Yes, the IB educator certificates are open to anyone who has a professional teacher qualification and has successfully completed an IB-recognized program of study. In addition to the IB certificates in teaching and learning, we also offer IB certificates in leadership – the IB certificate in leadership practice and the IB advanced certificate in leadership research.

8. What are the IB certificates in leadership?

Along with the degree that you receive from a recognized university, these certificates formally acknowledge an understanding of the principles and practices of leadership associated with becoming an authorized IB World School and implementing the three IB programmes. The IB certificates in leadership are achieved through undertaking specific IB-recognized leadership programs. These programs allow you to build on and reflect on the leadership capabilities that are involved in authorization and evaluation at an IB World School.

9. What is the difference between the two IB certificates in leadership?

The **IB certificate in leadership practice** is for those who want to develop their capacity to take on leadership responsibilities in IB contexts. It recognizes the applied understanding of the role that leadership plays in taking a school through authorization, and addresses issues related to the implementation of one or more IB programmes.

The **IB advanced certificate in leadership research** develops students' profound understanding of leadership responsibilities and capabilities through investigative work in IB leadership contexts and deep reflection on their own leadership practice.

To learn more about our leadership certificates and the institutions that offer them, please visit our directory:
<http://www.ibo.org/globalassets/digital-toolkit/pd/ib-leadership-certificates-uni-en.pdf>.

10. How do I notify the IB that I'm enrolled in one of the recognized programs of study and wish to pursue an IB educator certificate?

When you begin a recognized program of study, you should complete an enrollment form, which will be provided by your institution, and email the form to pd.pathways@ibo.org. If you have any questions about the enrollment form, please contact us at this email address. Once we receive your form and confirm with your institution that you are enrolled, we will create an OCC account for you.

11. If I complete a recognized program of study, will the IB automatically send me one of the IB certificates?

No, in order to receive one of the IB educator certificates you must register for the certificate. When you finish a recognized program of study, you should complete a registration form provided by your institution and submit the form to pd.pathways@ibo.org. We will confirm with your institution that you have successfully met the requirements for one of the IB educator or leadership certificates, and will then send instructions to pay the registration fee.

12. How do I pay the registration fee?

You can pay the registration fee by credit card or bank transfer. Instructions for payment will be emailed to you after you complete the program of study and submit a registration form.

13. I am already enrolled in a postgraduate education program but it's through a university that is not recognized by the IB. Am I eligible for an IB educator certificate?

If your university is not recognized by the IB to offer the IB certificate in teaching and learning or the IB advanced certificate in teaching and learning research, but you are an experienced IB teacher, then you may be eligible for the portfolio pathway. We have partnered with the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) to offer a portfolio pathway to the IB educator certificates. The ECIS International Teacher Certificate portfolio is compiled by candidates to demonstrate their professional development as internationally minded educators. The purpose of the portfolio is to provide the best examples of evidence for each of the ITC Standards. The portfolio is submitted electronically and assessed by Cambridge International Examiners (CIE) at University of Cambridge International Examinations. Once your portfolio has been assessed, you may be eligible to register for an IB educator certificate.

14. I want to keep up to date with the latest professional development information for IB teachers. Is there a newsletter I can receive?

Yes. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please send your name and email address to pd.pathways@ibo.org and we will add you to the distribution list.