

The International Baccalaureate at a Glance

What is the International Baccalaureate (IB)?

The International Baccalaureate offers three high quality and challenging educational programs for a worldwide community of schools. For over 40 years, the programs have established a reputation for their high academic standards, for preparing students for life in a globalized 21st century, and for helping to develop the future citizens who will create a better, more peaceful world.

The IB was founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland as a non-profit educational foundation. Its original purpose was to facilitate the international mobility of students preparing for university by providing schools with a common pre-university curriculum, a common set of external examinations and a diploma recognized by universities around the world.

The IB currently works with more than 2,400 schools in 129 countries. IB North America was established in 1977 and works with schools in the US, Canada and the Caribbean. The greatest concentration of IB programs is in the US, 92% of which operate in public schools.

What is the relationship between IB and schools?

The IB does not own or manage any schools. Instead, the IB works with schools around the world (both state and privately funded) that share our commitment to international education. Schools that have been authorized by us to offer one or more of our programmes are known as “IB World Schools.” These schools:

- Share the mission and commitment of the IB to quality international education.
- Play an active and supporting role in the worldwide community of IB schools.
- Share their knowledge and experience in the development of the IB programs.
- Are committed to the professional development of teachers and administrators.

What does the IB offer?

The IB develops and offers three programs of international education spanning the years from pre-kindergarten to pre-university. The programs can be offered individually or as a continuum.

- The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), for students aged 3 to 12, focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world outside.
- The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP), for students aged 11 to 16, provides a framework

of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and to become critical and reflective thinkers.

- The IB Diploma Programme (Diploma) is an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students for success at university and in life beyond, normally for students aged 16-19.

Who recognizes the IB?

The International Baccalaureate is acknowledged around the world for providing challenging programs of international educational and rigorous assessment.

Diploma Programme graduates are strongly courted by universities and colleges; these institutions often offer credit or advanced standing to Diploma Programme graduates. Additionally, local, state, provincial and federal governments are recognizing the quality of the International Baccalaureate programs and increasingly allowing IB assessments to replace standardized tests.

What makes the IB unique?

The IB offers a continuum of high-quality education, consisting of three individual programs. We span the years from pre-kindergarten to the final year of secondary school. Our curriculum represents best practice from schools worldwide.

The IB maintains its high standards by providing extensive professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators. These workshops are organized by experience level and are available throughout the region.

The IB ensures quality through criterion-referenced internal and external assessments of its students and schools.

The IB encourages international-mindedness in IB students. To do this, we believe that students must first develop an understanding of their own cultural and national identity. All IB students learn a second language and the skills to live and work with others internationally—essential for life in the 21st century.

The IB fosters a positive attitude to learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to critically reflect, to develop research skills, and to learn how to learn.

What are the IB regions? Where are the regional offices?

There are four IB regions:

IB North America and the Caribbean: Regional office: New York, New York.

IB Europe, Africa and the Middle East: Regional office: Geneva, Switzerland.

IB Latin America: Regional office: Buenos Aires, Argentina

IB Asia Pacific: Regional office: Singapore

For more information about IB's regional offices, please visit the IB web site at www.ibo.org.