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University application strategies for IB Coordinators and counselors

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What will we be looking at today?

- Main criteria for students' IB choices
- Information that PBS provide their students to make informed choices
- Pre-requisites from previous study
- How schools can help students take suitable IB courses
- Specific national secondary school requirements and/or university entrance criteria that can influence IB choice decisions
- Assisting students with “looking ahead” to post-secondary studies
- The importance of being candid with students from the outset



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What we will not be focusing on

Linking
IBDP with
the IBCC

Advising
toward non-
academic
careers



Main criteria in considering IB course selections

Subjects the student enjoys studying

National educational board or specific university requirements

What subjects is the student good at?

Which subjects represent an “achievable challenge”?

School-set IB pre-requisites met?

What is the student’s intended course at university?



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Microsoft Word
7 - 2003 Document



Microsoft
oint 97-2003 Presenta

Information for students, parents

- PBS course synopsis booklet
- IB Fair and Information Evening for Year 11 students (second year IGCSE) in March
- When in doubt, students to prioritize IB courses that interest them
- Look at university websites (also UCAS) – intense competition: (LSE Maths HL)
- Working together with parents; awareness of their influence on their children
- Awareness of “less typical” careers



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PBS pre-requisites (for overall admission to the program)

- 6 grades of A*-C in IGCSE or the Pre-IB program for overall admission to full IBDP
- 3 grades of A*-B at IGCSE or Pre-IB for consideration of Higher Level subjects
- Subject-specific requirements!





PBS pre-requisites (Groups 1 & 2)

SUBJECT	LEVEL	PRE-REQUISITE
English A: Lit	HL	IGCSE English 1 st lang.: B and IGCSE Lit.: B
English A: LL	SL	IGCSE English 1 st lang and IGCSE Lit.: <u>Average</u> of C
Other Lang A	HL/SL	Native-language ability, skill in literature
Language B	HL	IGCSE 2 nd lang.: B*
Language B	SL	IGCSE 2 nd lang.: C*
Lang. ab initio	SL	Good attitude in all previous language studies!



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PBS pre-requisites (Group 3)

SUBJECT	LEVEL	PRE-REQUISITE
B&M, History, Geography, ITGS	HL	IGCSE B in the respective subject or a similar Humanities subject
B&M, History, Geography, ITGS	SL	IGCSE C in the respective subject or a similar Humanities subject
Economics	HL/SL	Strong ability in Maths and English at IGCSE
Psychology	HL/SL	Strong ability in Maths; interest in the Sciences



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PBS pre-requisites (Group 4)

SUBJECT	LEVEL	PRE-REQUISITE
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	HL	IGCSE B in that subject or IGCSE AA in Coordinated Science (Physics – also Maths grade B)
Biology, Chemistry, Physics	SL	IGCSE C in that subject or: IGCSE CC in Coordinated Science <u>and</u> teacher approval
ESS	SL	IGCSE CC in Coordinated Science
(Starting 2015: Science pilot)	SL	TBD



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PBS pre-requisites (Group 5)

SUBJECT	LEVEL	PRE-REQUISITE
Mathematics	HL	IGCSE A in Maths Extended
Mathematics	SL	IGCSE B in Maths Extended
Maths Studies	SL	IGCSE C in Maths (D need to take an entrance exam in late August)



PBS pre-requisites (Group 6)

SUBJECT	LEVEL	PRE-REQUISITE
Music	HL	IGCSE A in Music, ABRSM Level 6 and previous recording experience
Music	SL	IGCSE C in Music or proven interest in music
Theatre/Visual Arts	HL	IGCSE B in the respective subject or proven success in acting/art
Theatre/Visual Arts	SL	IGCSE C in the respective subject or proven interest in acting/art



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Measures we undertake at PBS

- Adherence to the pre-requisites attained at IGCSE or pre-IB
 - Check national qualifications if new entering student from another country
- Academic probation for borderline incoming students
- Meetings with parents to discuss Diploma Courses or full Diploma
- No course changes after Sept. 20
- Autumn: “Monday meetings” with UCAS students; workshops for CommonApp students
- Possibility of focusing on Prague-based English-speaking private universities after IB
- Currently in a potentially temporary “CEM hiatus” (ALIS)



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Now let's focus on post-IB!

- Key initial thoughts:
 - WHAT to do – university, learn a trade, gap year?
 - WHERE to study (if university)?
 - Distance from family
 - Large/small university
 - Campus or integrated in a city
 - Money issues
 - Climate, seacoast, affinity for the region, etc.
 - Rankings: e.g. Times, Guardian, Shanghai
- “Limiting factors”
 - Cost (incl. dearth of scholarships)
 - Grades
 - Course/major not available



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UK universities: things to consider

- Application keys:
 - Personal statement (the “3” parts)
 - Predicted grades (combining optimism with realism)
 - Reference (subject teacher, HoD)
- Standardized tests, where applicable (BMAT, HAT, PAT, UKCAT, TSA, etc.)
- 3 years (Scotland 4)
- £9000+, Scotland much less
- The “points game”!

The UCAS website!



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UK universities: subject-specifics

- Let's look at some subjects
 - Medicine (Chemistry + 1 Science + Maths HL)
 - Engineering (Physics HL + Maths HL)
 - Physics (Physics HL + Maths HL)
 - Art/Music (High grade at HL + good portfolio)
- Not sure? Take 'facilitating subjects'
 - Mathematics, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Economics (min. 2 at HL)
- Oxbridge-specific requirements
- UK university-specific requirements should be checked asap on UCAS and at university
- See Russell Group Report "Informed Choices"



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USA universities: things to consider

- More emphasis on extra-curricular activities
- Elite US universities looking for leadership experience as well as top grades
- SATs
- Student and adviser “proficiency” in CommonApp
- Flexible path for “late bloomers” and/or Courses candidates
 - Community college → 4-year university
- Sometimes higher costs
 - 4 years (although credit often given for good IB scores)
 - Tuition
 - Flights





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Other possibilities

- Canada, Hong Kong, or the Netherlands (sample)
 - Quality, tradition
 - English-speaking programs
 - Often, lower cost than England, Wales, USA
- University in the home country
 - Native language, or in English
- Other continental European programs in English
 - Jacob's University in Bremen
 - Webster University – Vienna, Geneva, Leiden, etc.
 - Schiller Int'l Univ. – Paris, Madrid, Heidelberg
 - John Cabot University in Rome
 - European University – Barcelona, Geneva, Munich
 - Anglo-American University in Prague
 - **Need to research carefully, check accreditation and/or visit**



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Other national requirements

- Germany (Abitur)
 - NO Maths Studies or ESS accepted
 - Maths OR Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) must be at HL
 - German A HL or SL, but no self-taught
 - Check document from Ministry of Culture (originally written in 1986, frequently revised since)
- Austria – need Austrian curriculum courses, even if the subject is virtually the same as at IB!
- Czech Republic (Maturita)
 - Czech A: Literature
- USA - SATs





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Important considerations

- Staying positive – working within the realm of student capacity
- Students' overall happiness
 - Watch out for depression, eating disorders, etc.
- Reinforce the notion that universities highly respect the IBDP and that IB graduates more likely to attend selective universities
- Ability to do the work within the IBDP frameworks
 - Diploma vs. Diploma Courses
 - Taking on an “unnecessary” HL course
 - External revision courses and/or private tutoring
 - We recommend only as an extension for those students putting in a strong effort already



Main conclusions

- Let's revisit the introductory slide!

Subjects the student enjoys studying

National educational board or specific university requirements

What subjects is the student good at?

Which subjects represent an "achievable challenge"?

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Sources consulted

- The World University Rankings (The Times Higher Education)
- The Guardian University Guide
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University (for rankings)
- The Russell Group Report on Informed Choices
- IB research presentation entitled “Slides for Coordinators: Research findings about the IB Diploma Programme”, 2012.
- Vereinbarung über die Anerkennung des “International Baccalaureate Diploma”, German Ministry of Culture, 1986-2013.
- OSC newsletters: Gwen Martinez “How to make the right IB subject choices” and Layla Moran “Choosing your IB subjects: Don’t Panic!”
- The UCAS website (for entry requirements course descriptions)
- Input from my fellow IB Coordinator colleagues at the various Prague schools as well as my IB teachers!
- Windermere School’s pamphlet “IB Subjects: Making the Right Choice: A Guide for Parents and Students”



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Do you have any questions?

