

33 Points to Oxford University PhD

Nelson Mandela said, *“Education is the most powerful tool which you can use to change the world”*.



3 STEP PRESENTATION

Step 1: An introduction to me and the IB Diploma

Step 2: A look at research on IB graduates at University

Step 3: Channelling the IB to reach my goals

1. Introduction: Aims

What do I want you to get out of this presentation?

- Some ideas for supporting your students beyond the IB Diploma
- Reinforce your belief in the holistic pedagogical value of the International Baccalaureate

This session will contextualise the myriad of research on IB graduates at University by looking at the story of one IB student.

2. Who am I?

- At 16, with 11 A*s at GCSE, I was on course for my dream of Oxford University
- 2007 move to Johannesburg, South Africa
- New to IB community and the international world
- International Baccalaureate as the path to University



3. The IB and Me

Results

- I only achieved 33 Points on the Diploma

Effects

- I was rejected from Law at Oxford University

Reactions

- Moved to a degree in Geography at University of Birmingham



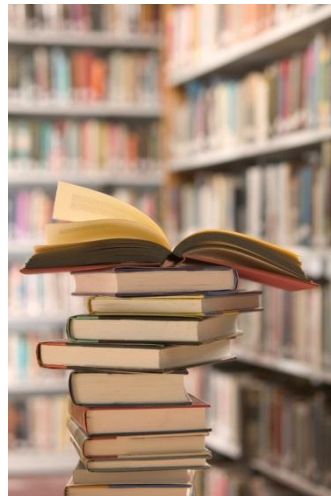
So why am I talking to you about
the IB Diploma Programme?

4. Existing Research



Studies from across the World have shown the IB prepares students better for University:

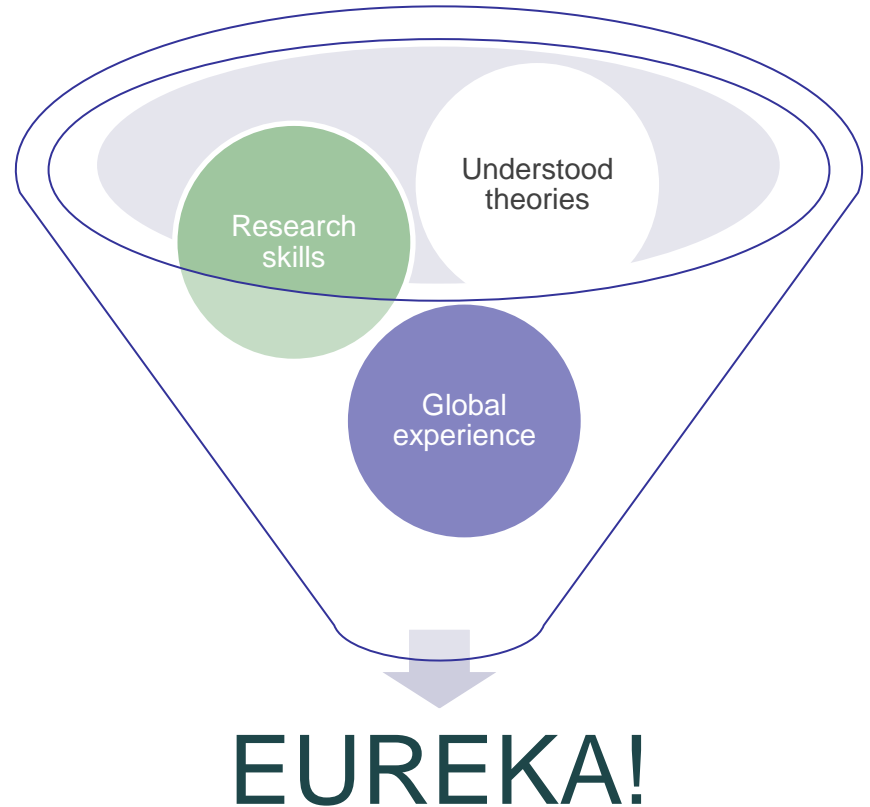
...Critical thinking, research skills and self-management (Coates et al. 2007 study of NZ and AU Universities)



- ...IB Graduates deal better with coursework and time management (McGill and Warwick University)
- IB graduates often have the benefit of extra language capabilities

5. The real longitudinal value of IB

- Does research relate to me?
- Geography at University of Birmingham – top 15 in UK but not Oxford
- I began to think - was the IB more than just about grades?...



6. Some challenges that IB students can face



- “Third Culture Kids” in action
- Frustrations of IB students entering higher education across the World (my own research)
- One-Dimensional debate

These are the challenges that many IB students face when they reach University

7. Tips for your students applying to University

1. Really know the kind of University you want to apply to:
 - International experience; city; course
2. Encourage your students to harness their international experience in creative ways via societies, research, trips
3. Help students understand the **SKILLS** that the IB engenders

[IB Survival](#)

[The Student Room](#)

8. Overcoming my challenges



Channelled the IB experience into my thesis

“Social effects of international education on students” through a case study in Johannesburg



MPhil at Cambridge

9. The IB and Me Now

- FINALLY there – Oxford ...only took me 5 years!
- Using not only my skills from IB but the experience itself.

Moving
forward...



10. Working in International Education Community

1. Using my skills to give back to IB students in business and academia
2. Working with OSC to support students and sales in online resources
3. PhD research:
 - Impact of international education in emerging markets
 - Focus on the IB in developing countries across Africa
 - How International Education integrates with communities



Conclusion

Aims:

“Aimed to look at reinforcing your belief in the holistic pedagogical value of the International Baccalaureate”

“Give some ideas for supporting students to stress the value of the IB outside of curriculum”

Outcomes:

- You can support your students harness the skills they learn in the Diploma Programme into Higher education
- Reinforce the value of the IB Diploma beyond the syllabus they learn: i.e. research and enquiry skills through the CORE
- Let you know some of the challenges IB students face at HEI

Thank you for listening

