

Aspiring and achieving:

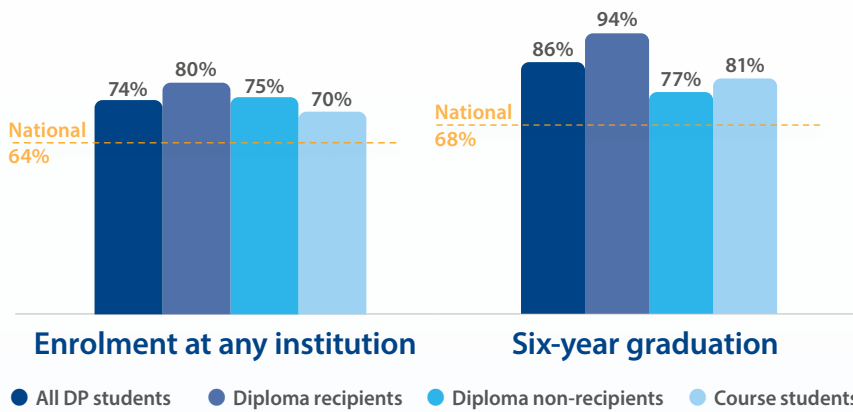
Key findings from DP and CP student research

Research consistently shows that students in the **Diploma Programme (DP)** and **Career-related Programme (CP)** achieve strong higher education outcomes. Compared to national averages, International Baccalaureate (IB) students enrol, persist and graduate from university at notably higher rates. These results are reflected across diverse schools and contexts, demonstrating the value of IB programmes. Beyond academic success, research suggests that IB students develop important skills and global perspectives that support their future education and personal development.

DP students benefit from a rigorous curriculum. Studies comparing DP courses with equivalent courses from high-performing education systems worldwide found strong evidence that the DP offers **world-class courses** that support significant **depth and breadth of learning**.¹



Based on a large international data set, by the end of the DP, **98%** of students aspired to attain at least a bachelor's degree, while **81%** aspired to attain a master's, doctoral or professional degree.²



Leake and Townsend (2024)

In the United States, recent research found that **74%** of all DP students enrolled in university immediately after high school, compared to 64% nationally. DP students also graduated at higher rates, with **86%** graduating within six years, compared to 68% nationally.³

At both the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia in Canada, DP students were much more likely than non-DP students to enter **science faculties** compared to other fields of study.

University of Toronto

Degree programme on entry	High school programme		
	Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) ⁺ (%)	French Immersion ⁺⁺ (%)	DP (%)
Arts	48.0	62.0	29.8
Commerce	11.7	4.3	8.4
Engineering	8.2	8.1	11.7
Science	32.1	25.5	50.1

Notes: Due to rounding error, some columns may not total to 100%.

⁺ Students who complete Ontario's traditional high school curriculum receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

⁺⁺ French Immersion students provide a useful comparison to DP students in most Canadian contexts, as both sets of students may undergo selection processes to enter and/or remain enrolled in intensified and/or enriched alternative education programmes.

Davies and Guppy (2022)

University of British Columbia

Degree programme on entry	High school programme		
	Dogwood Diploma (DW) ⁺ (%)	French Immersion (%)	DP (%)
Arts	36.9	39.6	25.5
Business/Commerce	8.3	8.3	9.4
Engineering	10.2	13.6	14.6
Forestry	5.1	0.0	0.0
Human kinetics	4.8	4.7	1.9
Land and food systems	11.0	2.6	2.7
Science	22.9	30.6	45.1

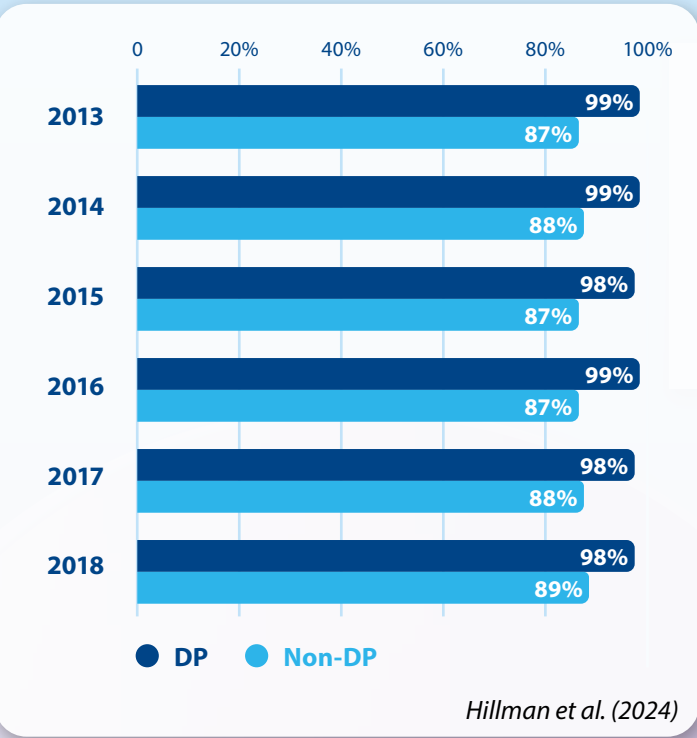
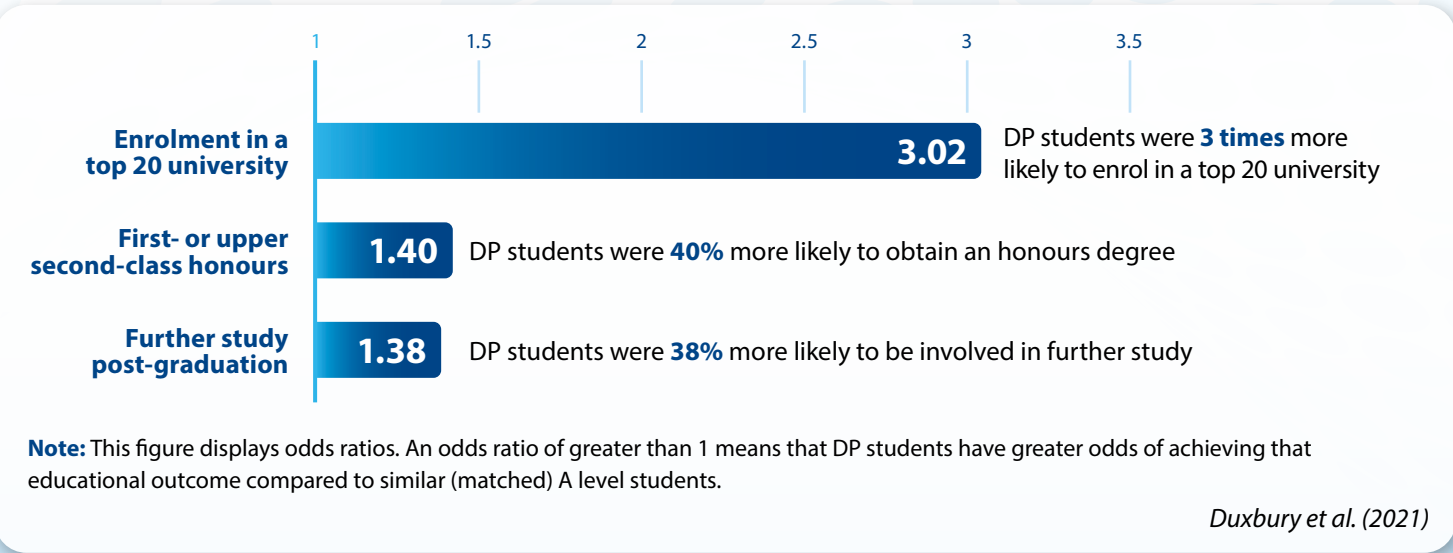
Notes: Due to rounding error, some columns may not total to 100%.

⁺ British Columbia's traditional public high school curriculum is known as the "Dogwood Diploma" (DW).

Davies and Guppy (2022)

Additionally, compared to students with traditional high school diplomas in Ontario and British Columbia (OSSD and DW, respectively), DP students earned **higher university grades**, were **less likely to drop out** of university and were **more likely to graduate in a timely manner**.⁴

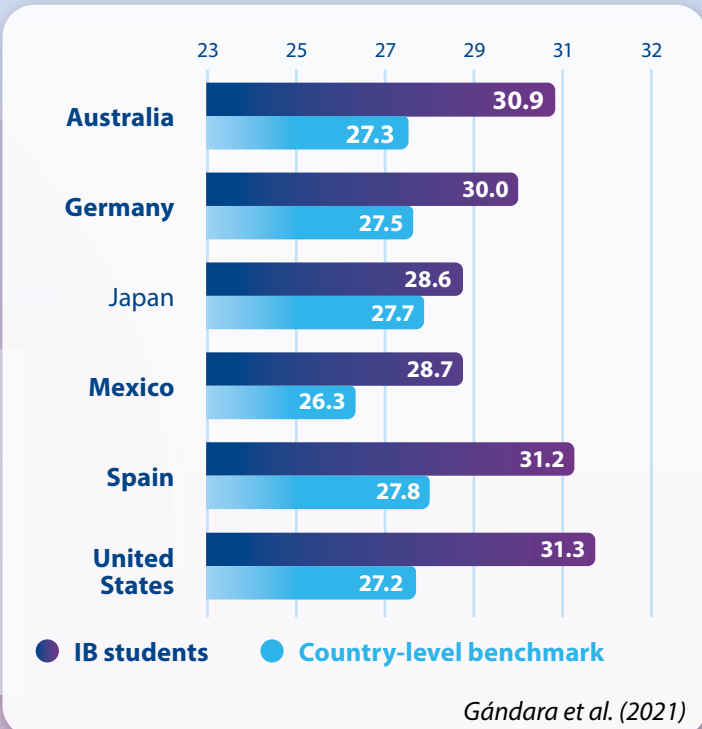
In the United Kingdom, DP students were more likely than matched A-level students to **enrol in top universities**, **achieve honours degrees** and **pursue further** study after university.⁵

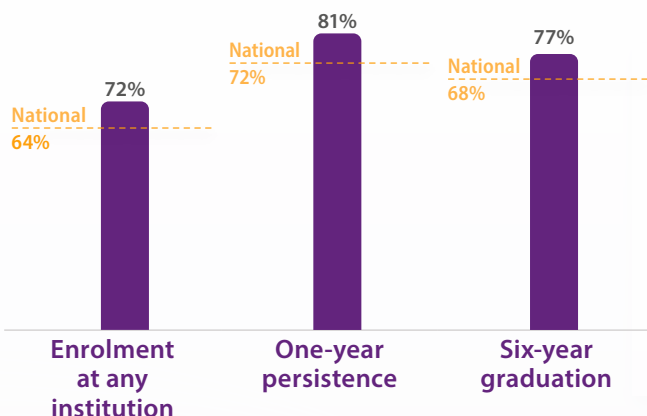


Across all cohorts examined (2013–2018), **almost all** DP students in Australia who applied to university **received an offer of admission** (98%–99%), compared to 87%–89% of non-DP students (see figure). DP students also had significantly higher rates of second-year persistence and university graduation than non-DP students.⁶

Compared to young adults from a similar age range, DP and CP students had higher levels of **global mindedness** across all six countries studied. The differences were statistically significant in five of the six countries.⁷

Note: Countries shown in bold had a statistically significant difference between groups at a 5% level.

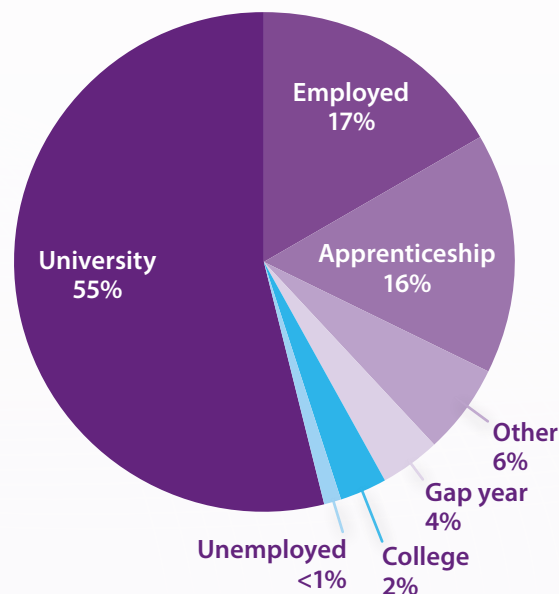




Leake and Townsend (2024)

In the United States, CP students outperformed national averages on key outcomes. **Seventy-two percent** enrolled in a postsecondary institution, compared to 64% nationally. CP students were also more likely to persist into their second year (**81%** versus 72%) and graduate within six years (**77%** versus 68%).⁸

Among CP alumni in Kent, United Kingdom, **55%** were enrolled in university, **17%** were employed, **16%** were engaged in apprenticeships and fewer than **1%** were unemployed.



Hopfenbeck et al. (2021)

Students viewed the CP positively as a means of developing skills for education, work and life. **Eighty-seven percent** agreed that the CP supported the development of their academic skills, while **82%** said it helped them develop work-based skills and **70%** said it helped them develop personal skills.

87% CP offers an excellent opportunity to develop my academic skills

49% Definitely true 38% Probably true

82% CP offers the opportunity for me to learn work-based skills

39% Definitely true 43% Probably true

70% CP has helped develop my personal skills

38% Definitely true 32% Probably true

● Definitely true ● Probably true

Hopfenbeck et al. (2021)

Additionally,

92%

of these CP students successfully completed the programme and earned the CP certificate.⁹

¹<https://ibo.org/research/curriculum-research/dp-studies/dp-curriculum-alignment-studies-2023-2025/>

²<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/educational-aspirations-of-international-baccalaureate-diploma-programme-students-2021/>

³<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/postsecondary-outcomes-of-dp-graduates-in-the-united-states/>

⁴<https://www.ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/comparing-university-outcomes-of-dp-graduates-to-their-peers-in-toronto-and-vancouver-canada-2022/>

⁵<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/uk-higher-education-outcomes/>

⁶<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/australian-university-outcome-2024/>

⁷<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/diploma-studies/global-mindedness-in-ib-schools-2021/>

⁸<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/cp-studies/postsecondary-outcomes-of-cp-graduates-in-the-united-states/>

⁹<https://ibo.org/research/outcomes-research/cp-studies/evaluation-of-ib-career-related-programme-implementation-in-the-county-of-kent-uk-2021/>