

Frequently asked questions about the Career-related Programme

What is the Career-related Programme?

The Career-related Programme (CP), designed by the International Baccalaureate (IB), is an innovative education programme tailored to students who want to focus on career-related learning in the last two years of high school. It allows students to create an individualized path that leads to either further study or employment after graduation.

By developing academic skills and employment-related competencies, the CP provides the basis for:

- effective participation in the changing workplace
- improved mobility and flexibility in employment
- additional training
- further education
- lifelong learning.

Here's how the CP works: It combines courses from the International Baccalaureate's highly regarded Diploma Programme (DP) with an approved career-related study program and a unique CP core. The core consists of four components—community and service, an approaches to learning course, language development and a reflective project—blended together to enhance critical thinking and intercultural understanding. Combined, these elements help students develop the communication and personal skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world.

Community and service

Community and service is based on the principles of service learning, which emphasize developing local knowledge, civic responsibility, social aptitude and personal growth.

Approaches to learning

This course introduces students to life skills that help make sense of the world. The course emphasizes critical and ethical thinking, intercultural understanding and the ability to communicate effectively.

Language development

Language development ensures that all CP students are exposed to a language, other than their mother tongue, that will increase their understanding of the wider world. Students are encouraged to study a language that suits their needs and background.



Reflective project

The reflective project asks students to identify, analyze, critically discuss and evaluate an ethical issue arising from their career-related studies. The project can be done in different formats, including an essay, a web page or a short film. This work encourages students to ask questions, take action and reflect as they develop strong research and communication skills.

What career-related courses are available to my child at his/her IB World School?

Each school determines the appropriate career-related study course(s) to offer; however, the nature of the course(s) is examined carefully by the IB during the authorization process.

What kind of student is a good candidate for the CP?

The CP is an excellent choice for students who seek academic rigour, have already determined their area of career specialization, and want hands-on learning and experience in their chosen field. The programme provides students with an impressive portfolio of accomplishments for university study and employment.

What's the difference between the CP and the DP?

The DP consists of six academic courses plus a different core than the CP. The DP core components are creativity, activity, service (CAS), a theory of knowledge course (TOK) and an extended essay. Moreover, the DP does not include a career-related course of study.

How do IB programmes support college and career readiness?

College and career readiness refers not only to content knowledge but skills and habits that students must have to succeed in postsecondary education or training that leads directly to the workforce.

In addition to providing academic rigour, IB programmes develop skills such as time management and critical thinking that have been identified as necessary to successfully navigate, persist in and complete university.

Does implementing an IB programme mean my child's school will not teach local or national standards such as the Common Core?

The IB is committed to making sure that students in IB programmes meet and exceed local or national standards. With the implementation of any IB programme, schools are required to examine their curriculum carefully to ensure that there is alignment with local, state or national standards. More information on the IB and the Common Core is available at www.ibo.org.

Do CP teachers receive special training?

All CP teachers receive professional development in the IB's approaches to teaching and approaches to learning from certified IB workshop leaders. This is a requirement for IB World Schools implementing the CP.

How can I learn more about the IB and CP?

- Visit the IB website at www.ibo.org
- Attend school meetings and events
- Speak with your school's CP coordinator
- Speak with your child's CP classroom teachers.

