



International Baccalaureate®  
Baccalauréat International  
Bachillerato Internacional



Your government and the International Baccalaureate

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**PARTNERS FOR A BETTER WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION**



The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a **non-profit educational foundation**, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has offices in the Netherlands, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Founded in 1968, the IB pioneered a movement of international education, and now offers four high quality, challenging **educational programmes to students aged 3-19**. We work with governments to develop these innovative programmes.

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*At the IB, we place our trust in children. We nurture their curiosity, we encourage them to be caring, balanced and reflective. We develop their abilities to think critically, and we believe that they will grow into adults who will act with integrity.*

*Education is not only about what knowledge, skills, values and attitudes students should get, but also learning to value what the world is asking from each one of us. ... Agency is central in creating conditions for young people to flourish as individuals, but also as communities taking into consideration the planetary wellbeing and flourishing of future generations.*

*Olli-Pekka Heinonen*

**Olli-Pekka Heinonen**  
Director General

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## Our mission

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.



EACH YEAR, THE IB OFFERS FOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES TO MORE THAN **1.95 MILLION STUDENTS AGED 3 TO 19 ACROSS THE GLOBE**. BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022, THE NUMBER OF IB PROGRAMMES OFFERED WORLDWIDE **GREW BY 34.2%**.



## IB World Schools by the numbers



About **50%** of our schools are **state schools** funded by governments, giving many students access to a world-class education.

Over **8,000** IB programmes offered worldwide



September 2023



Across over **5,700** schools



In over **150** countries/territories

# Working in partnership with governments

As an organization, the IB seeks to understand each government's educational strategy, aspirations, challenges and opportunities. We ask: **how do the IB mission and vision support and align with the government's educational mission?**

When the IB enters a partnership with a government, we work together to meet the government's strategic

educational goals and to **improve teacher education, student achievement and experiential learning**. We also advocate for education legislation and policies that support introducing IB programmes in schools, offer data and reporting services, and provide marketing support to encourage new schools to take on the IB programmes.

## EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIPS



### Japan and South Korea

The IB has partnered with **Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)** since 2013 to introduce IB programmes in the country's public schools. In 2019, the IB established a similar partnership with **Metropolitan and Provincial City Offices of Education in South Korea**. Through such government partnerships, the IB has offered select IB subjects in the countries' respective national languages and offered IB professional development to public school teachers in Japanese and Korean.



### Perú

Since 2010, the Ministry of Education implemented a public sector project that established **25 high achieving schools** (Colegios de Alto Rendimiento), representing each of the various regions or departments (departamentos) across the country. These high-achieving schools offer the IB Diploma Programme (DP) to all students.



### Spain

In July 2014, the **government of Spain signed an agreement with the IB for joint educational initiatives**. The agreement covers several points and means that graduates of the Diploma Programme (DP) can gain entry to the Spanish university system. The Middle Years Programme (MYP) now has equivalence with the national secondary curriculum (ESO) within the Spanish education system. The State of Madrid is creating a network of public MYP schools as accelerators of competence acquisition.




### United States of America

The first IB World School in the United States (USA) was authorized in 1971. Since then, the IB has worked with **state departments of education, commissions of higher education, school districts and the federal government in supporting IB schools**. Nearly 90% of IB schools in the USA are state-funded public schools. Of these, 63% also receive federal funds to serve significant numbers of economically disadvantaged students in their student populations. Students from IB schools perform well beyond national measures of success during their post-secondary education, as demonstrated by recent studies from California and Chicago, Illinois.


# The importance of recognizing IB programmes

One form of partnership includes **governmental recognition of IB programmes**. When governments choose to recognize the IB, that action can be a catalyst for transforming their own education systems and policies and positioning the government as a leader in

international education. Through our partnerships, we work together to improve student outcomes and student quality. Independent research consistently shows the **positive benefits of an IB education** including:



Performing well academically and often better than their non-IB peers



Performing well on 21st-century skills measures, such as having higher levels of critical thinking than their non-IB peers



Outperforming their non-IB peers on post-secondary measures



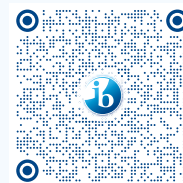
Developing as well-rounded individuals who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically

## With IB partnerships in place, governments may:

- attract more international students
- improve academic performance and outcomes for students
- expand high-performing students' opportunities to study post-secondary education in their own country and abroad
- encourage foreign and private investment in education in the country/region/locality.

By choosing the IB, governments can be international leaders—facilitating the exchange of innovative educational ideas with private, international and public education schools and systems in more than 150 countries and territories where IB programmes are offered.

Access the IB's Recognition Statements Database ([recognition.ibo.org](https://recognition.ibo.org)) to learn how governments recognize the IB



# IB programmes

The IB offers **four programmes** that can provide a learning progression for students **from age 3 to 19**. The programmes are continually evaluated and adapted based on academic research and evidence. This ensures that students and teachers benefit from **best-practice learning** and **up-to-date curricula** that develop the skills, knowledge and attributes they need to thrive.

## Each IB programme offers:

- strong international relevance
- educational content from different cultures around the world
- flexibility for students to meet national curriculum requirements
- a broad range of subjects for study
- additional individual subjects and transdisciplinary/interdisciplinary areas
- special emphasis on learning languages
- opportunities for individual and collaborative learning and research
- space for students to become responsible, active members of their community.

## The IB supports schools and teachers with:

- a written curriculum or curriculum framework
- appropriate student assessment
- professional development and networking opportunities
- support, authorization and programme evaluation.



### The Primary Years Programme (PYP)

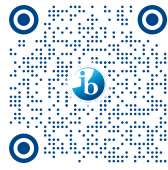
The PYP is for students aged 3 to 12 and develops confident lifelong learners who can demonstrate cultural empathy and respect. The PYP's child-centered framework can be customized to different needs, cultures and contexts, and government curricula can be taught within it.



### The Middle Years Programme (MYP)

The MYP is for students aged 11 to 16. The MYP produces happy and purposeful students with above-average academic results (International Baccalaureate, 2017). Teachers can adapt the framework to government curricula and different contexts and abilities, encouraging self-directed and interdisciplinary learning. Schools can register for optional external assessment (eAssessment) that offers students the chance to earn a formal, internationally recognized certificate.

Read more information  
on IB programmes and  
their impact



### The Diploma Programme (DP)

The DP is for students aged 16 to 19 and requires students to complete 6 courses in:

- Studies in language and literature
- Language acquisition
- Individuals and societies
- Sciences
- Mathematics
- The arts

DP students are required to complete the extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper; theory of knowledge (TOK), in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know; and creativity, activity and service (CAS), in which students complete a project related to those three concepts. DP courses can be taken at either standard level (SL) or higher level (HL). Students can enrol in individual DP courses rather than completing the Diploma Programme. The DP courses are measured through in-school assessment, as well as externally reviewed tasks and timed examinations.



### The Career-Related Programme (CP)

The Career-related Programme (CP) is for students aged 16 to 19 who would like to pursue their passions and advance their chosen career paths. It combines courses from the DP with practical, real-world career-related studies through providers such as research universities, business schools, technology institutes, art schools, government-approved career pathways and many more industry-focused institutions. The DP courses taken by CP students are measured through in-school assessment, as well as externally reviewed tasks and timed examinations. Other components of the CP are assessed by the school.

# What makes the IB unique?

The world is always changing—and so is education. That is why we continuously evolve our programmes and curriculums so we can deliver the best possible education for our students.

The IB commissioned Ecctis, an organization that compares international educational frameworks, to conduct a series of in-depth studies to examine alignment in learning outcomes, content and demand between DP courses and their upper secondary equivalents from Australia (Victoria), Canada (Ontario), Finland, France, Singapore, South Korea, Spain and the USA. Taken together, these studies provide substantial evidence that the DP courses examined can readily be implemented within a variety of national contexts and represent rigorous curricula designed to support significant depth and breadth of learning (International Baccalaureate, 2023).

In fact, research conducted with universities in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK) and the USA found that IB students are well prepared for university (International Baccalaureate, 2016).

## We are committed to meaningful assessment

IB assessment is ongoing, varied and integral to the curriculum. The IB emphasizes the analysis of assessment data to inform learning and teaching. The MYP, DP and CP offer a range of assessments that balance validity and reliability, offering assessment tasks that require students to demonstrate higher order thinking. The IB takes great care to guarantee the reliability of assessment results and instill confidence in grade standards from year to year. Several studies, blogs and webinars discussing the research that informs IB assessment practices are available for review on the IB research page at [ibo.org/research](https://ibo.org/research).

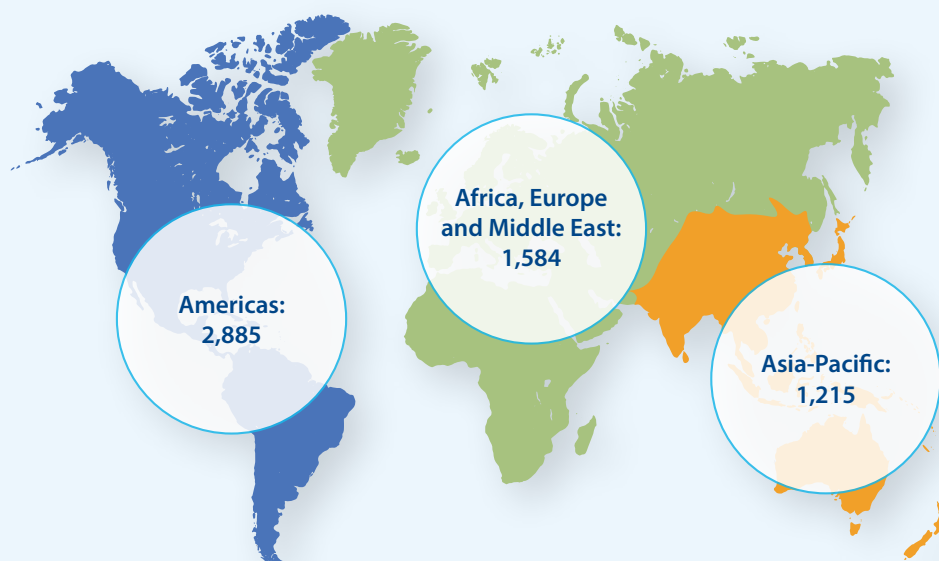
Read DP and CP  
core findings



Read the DP country  
alignment studies



## IB World Schools by the numbers



## We offer a gateway to student success

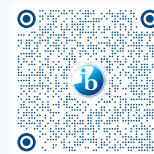
Every year, thousands of IB students apply to over 5,000 universities worldwide in over 100 countries. They are well-prepared for and excel at the university level. Research shows that by the end of the DP, 98% of students aspired to at least a bachelor's degree and 81% aspired to a master's, doctoral or professional degree (Pretlow & Hong, 2021).

IB graduates also attend some of the top universities in the world—for instance, in the UK, DP students were three times more likely than matched A level students to enrol in a top 20 higher education institution (Duxbury et al., 2021). In the USA, more than half of CP graduates who continued to four-year institutions enrolled in large, flagship state universities with a high degree of research activity (Mack et al., 2017).

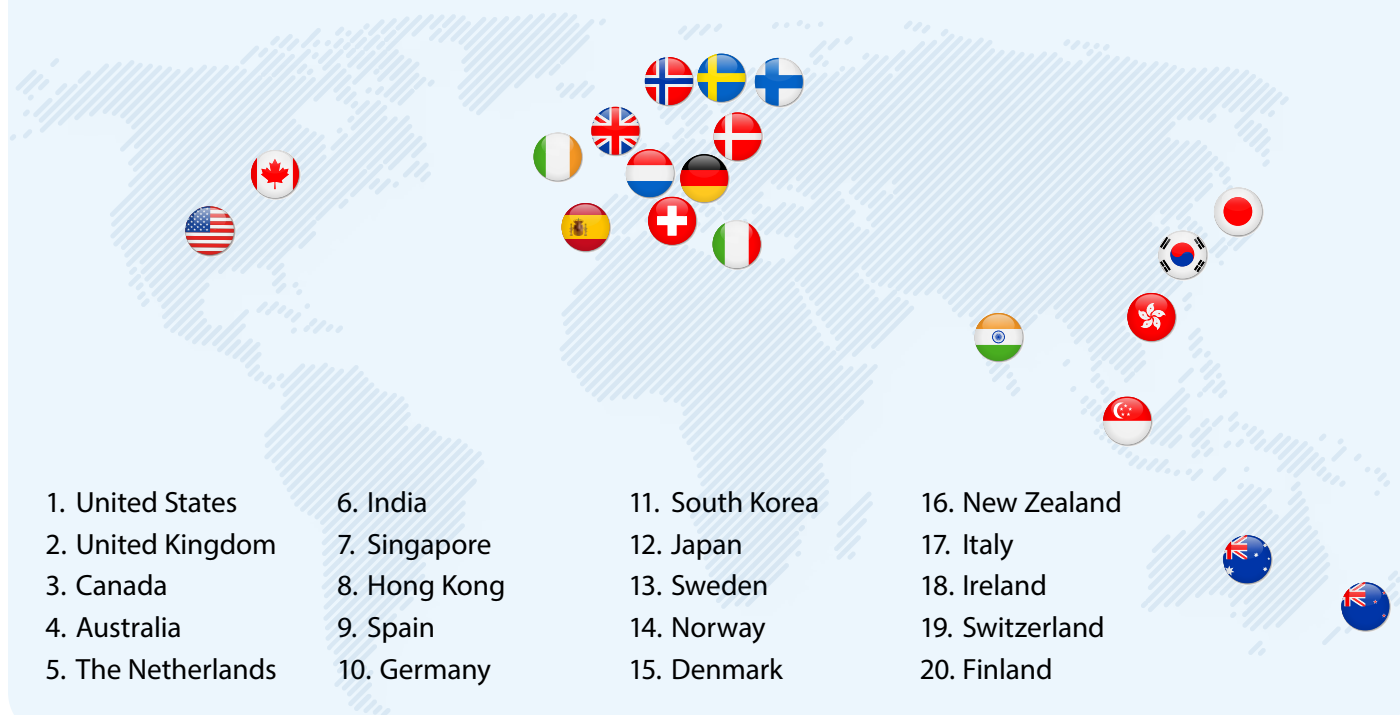
Studies of IB students in the USA show that about 85% of DP graduates in the country enrolled in university immediately after high school, compared to 66% of all high school graduates in the USA (Pilchen et al., 2019). DP graduates also were more likely than other students in the USA to continue to their second year of university.

Much like their DP peers, CP graduates are highly likely to continue to their second year of university. Research found that in the USA, 89% of CP graduates who were enrolled in university returned, compared to the national average of 72% (Mack et al., 2017). CP graduates in the UK have similar continuation rates, and one study showed that fewer than one percent of CP graduates in Kent were unemployed after graduation (Hopfenbeck et al., 2021).

Read more about  
UK higher education  
outcomes



## Most popular countries and territories where the IB sends DP and CP exam results



*(Top 20 destination countries and territories as of January 2023)*

## We promote professional learning

IB World Schools can access a wide variety of professional learning experiences, including online and in-person workshops, self-paced learning modules, and free learning resources. Each year over 85,000 participants take part in over 4,000 IB workshops. Learn more about the IB's high quality professional learning options via [ibo.org/professional-development](https://ibo.org/professional-development).

Pre-service and experienced educators may also pursue programs at more than 50 universities around the world that have been recognized through our IB educator

and leadership certificates (IBEC) program and prepare graduates to teach and lead in IB schools. Over 10,000 educators have graduated from these programs since IBEC's inception in 2008.

Explore the IBEC  
University Directory



## Next steps

Contact [governments@ibo.org](mailto:governments@ibo.org) to begin the conversation about partnering with us to create a better world through education. **We look forward to working with you.**





## References and resources

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