Establish an IB policy that recognizes achievement within the IB Diploma Programme

A strong IB policy is an effective way to attract IB students from all over the world.

www.ibo.org
A well-developed International Baccalaureate (IB) recognition policy demonstrates an understanding and appreciation of the IB Diploma Programme, including the skills, content knowledge and attitudes developed during the programme that prepare students for success at the university level.

With 120,000 students participating in the Diploma Programme each year from nearly 140 countries, the development of an IB policy can assist your higher education institution in:

- recruiting IB Diploma Programme students who are prepared for higher education with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in university
- enrolling students who will be engaged in campus life and the community
- attracting a greater diversity of students from different nationalities and backgrounds.

“We are looking for students who specifically took academic challenges, who sought a rigorous curriculum. Our policy is to admit all IB students to the Honors Program, regardless of diploma attainment or attempt.”

Dr Christy Fox, director, Honors Program, Utah State University, USA

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**Resources available for developing an IB policy**

- Subject guides, examinations and other relevant resources for creating an IB policy are available online.
- IB recognition staff can provide access to all of IB’s materials. Contact the IB at recognition@ibo.org to access and get answers to your questions.
- Local IB World Schools or associations of IB World Schools can provide information about the Diploma Programme in their school.
- IB alumni on your campus can speak first hand about their experience in the programme and how it prepared them for university.
- The IB can provide curriculum materials for your faculty to review, including guides, samples of past examinations and other materials.
- Visit the IB website, www.ibo.org, a central resource for IB students deciding where to apply to university, and update your policy there.
“The University of Queensland welcomes IB students from Australasia and across the IB world. Our experience is that IB diploma graduates are incredibly well prepared for university success. The program’s international flavour, academic rigour and emphasis on inquiry based learning means that IB Diploma students enter university with a global outlook, an excellent work ethic and the critical thinking skills to ensure they achieve.”

Margaret Fairman, director, Office of Prospective Students and Scholarships, University of Queensland, Australia

Create a policy that acknowledges and values IB students and their achievement in the Diploma Programme

Our global recognition team is eager to work with your institution to develop an IB policy that offers IB students a possible mix of the following.

Admissions statement
- Recognizes the intellectual rigour of the IB Diploma Programme
- Encourages applications from IB Diploma Programme students
- Acknowledges achievement within the IB Diploma Programme core components: theory of knowledge, extended essay and creativity, action, service

Scholarship
- Award of a designated merit scholarship based on the IB diploma
- Automatic consideration for other institutional scholarships

“We find that IB students adapt more easily to university style of learning and become independent learners from an earlier stage compared to those from other backgrounds. IB students cope more easily with the wide range of subjects that each student is required to study from year 1. They are less focussed on achieved marks, and value the education that we provide.”

Dr Lorraine Craig, admissions tutor, geophysics and engineering department, Imperial College, UK
Questions to consider in establishing an IB policy

While varying by region, the following are questions to consider in the development of a IB recognition policy for IB diploma students at your university.

Admissions considerations

- Do you have a statement on your website for recruitment and admission of IB students?
- Can you identify your current students who participated in the IB Diploma Programme? If so, do you know how they are performing?
- Is participation in the IB Diploma Programme considered for admissions purposes?
- Will students in the IB Diploma Programme be eligible for admission based on either completion of the Diploma Programme or their score on the IB diploma?
- Are the additional points for theory of knowledge and extended essay considered in admissions decisions?
- Are anticipated grades for IB examinations submitted by the schools accepted or considered for admissions purposes?
- Are there other considerations that your university offers for IB students, such as designated scholarships, honours courses or research opportunities?
- Does your university have different IB course requirements for certain courses?
- Does your university have different admissions processes or policies for domestic and international IB students?
- Does your university have a language proficiency requirement that can be met by an IB language examination?
- Does your university have a policy on the IB website? If so, has it been updated recently?

To learn how other universities recognize IB students, contact the IB recognition team.

Email: recognition@ibo.org

University and college admissions resources

www.ibo.org/recognition

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