THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME

A District Program of Choice for Enrichment

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IB INFO SESSION AGENDA

- What is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program?
- Admission criteria and deadlines
- What do Universities say about IB?
- Feedback from IB Grads
- IB DP Programme at Semiahmoo

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM?



WHAT IS THE IB PROGRAMME?

For more than 50 years, the International Baccalaureate (IB) has been the leader in international education providing high-quality and rigorous assessments to millions of IB students across over 150 countries.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA?



Academically challenging and balanced



International uniform standard for assessment



External and internal assessments factor into students' final grades

WHAT IS THE IB PROGRAMME?

The IB offers a unique assessment model that ensures a high level of validity and reliability.

Exams are graded by international examiners from different countries that apply the same criteria and follow the same standard that is developed by subject committees every single exam session.

BENEFITS OF THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

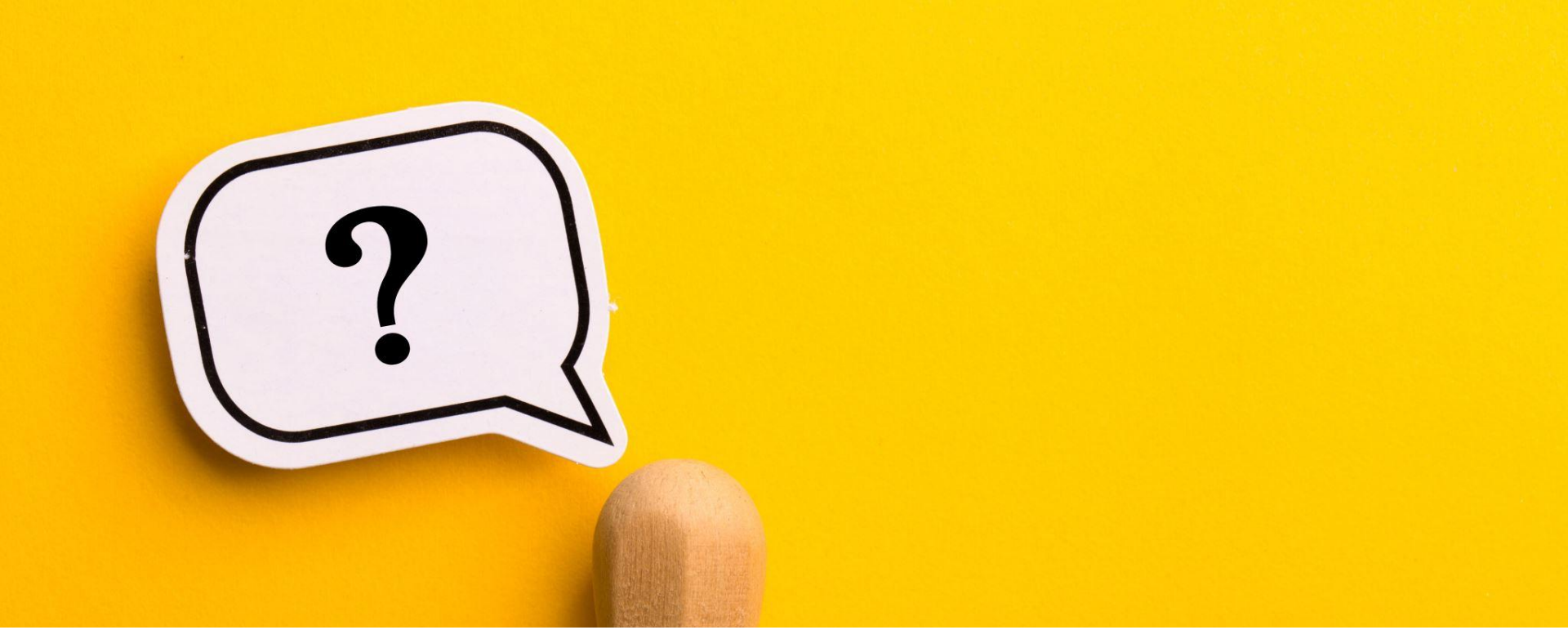
- Personal and academic challenge
- Supportive, nurturing environment
- Unified program of studies
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Global education emphasis
- University level preparation



BENEFITS OF THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The IB Diploma Programme's challenging curriculum educates the whole student, developing the capacity for inquiry, research and problem solving as well as essential skills for communication and collaboration.





WHAT IS IB?

The structure of the two-year programme



- Each course scored on scale of 0 – 7
- 3 additonal points for core
- Maximum score of 45
- Grades issued in Dec – March (anticipated) and July (final)

IB COURSES - HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL

- Higher Level (HL) courses are university transfer credit level courses (depending on the grade and admission requirements of each university) and are three semesters in length.
- Standard Level (SL) courses give graduation credit and IB diploma credit and are two semesters in length.
- The IB courses fill students' entire timetables for Grades 11 and 12





COURSES OFFERED BY IB AT SEMIAHMOO

Group 1: Language A - English: Literature HL and SL, Self-taught languages SL

Group 2: Language B - Spanish SL and French SL

Group 3: Individuals and Society – History HL & SL; Geography HL & SL

Group 4: Experimental Sciences (Biology HL & SL, Chemistry HL, Physics HL)

Group 5: Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL and SL

Group 6: Electives: Visual Arts HL

THE CORE: EXTENDED ESSAY

Develops independent research skills for university preparation

Students research and produce a 4,000- word in-depth study with a mentoring teacher

THE CORE: CAS



CREATIVITY

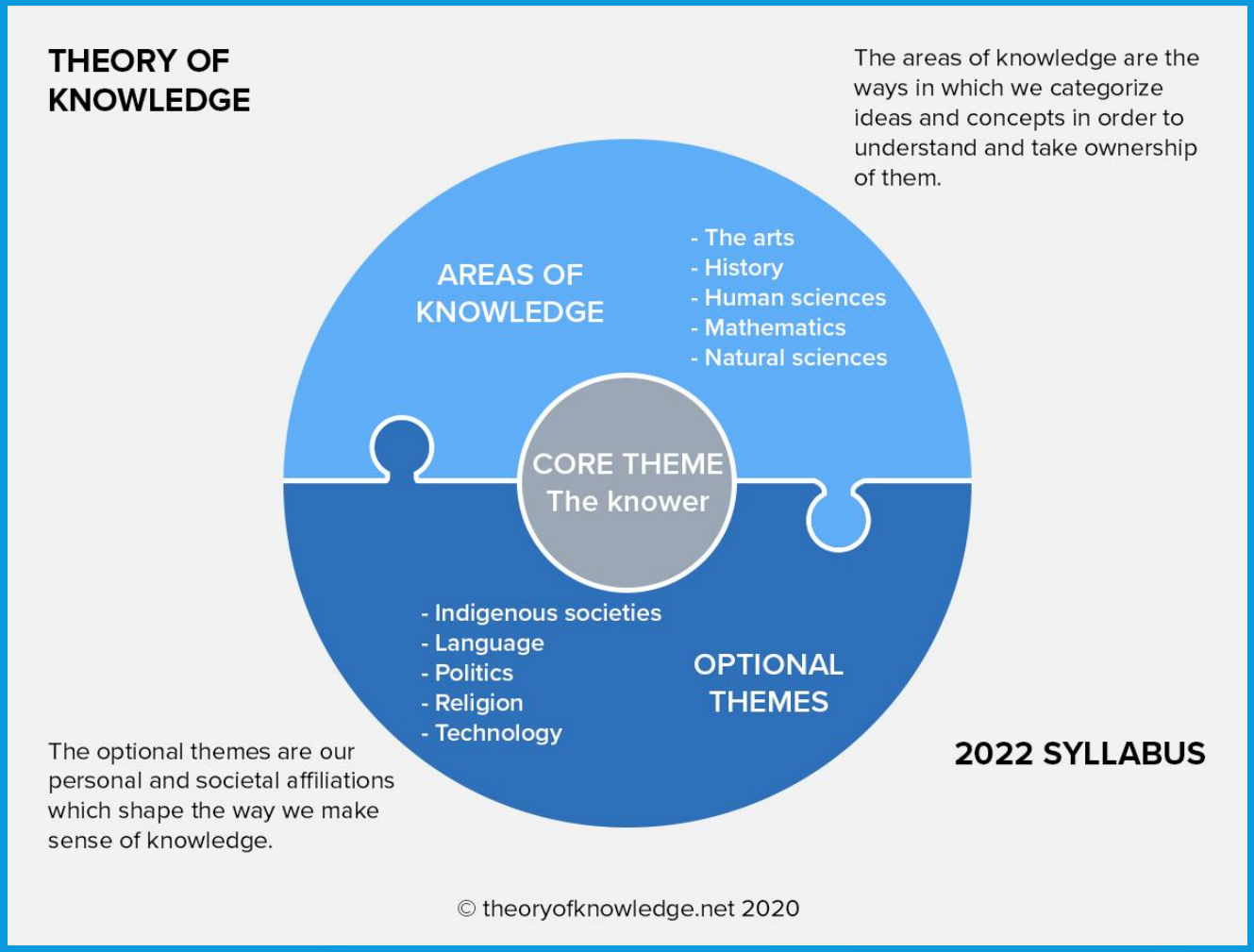


ACTIVITY



SERVICE

THE CORE: THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK)



HOW DO YOU EARN THE IB DIPLOMA?

Complete Extended Essay (EE), Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) and Theory Of Knowledge (TOK) and all required course assessments.



Take six courses and six exams each scored 1-7 on international scale



Accumulate a minimum of 24 points total over six exams

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?

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"IB is well known to us as excellent preparation. Success in an IB programme correlates well with success at Harvard. We are pleased to see the credential of the IB Diploma Programme on the transcript."

Marlyn McGrath, assistant dean of admissions, Harvard University, USA

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?

" What do IB Diploma Programme scores tell us? Our research into student performance at UBC indicates that IB students with diploma scores in the 27-to-30-point range perform the same as straight-A students out of our provincial high school curriculum."

Michael Bluhm, associate director, undergraduate admissions, University of British Columbia, Canada

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?

"Diploma Programme students are well rounded, multifaceted, multiskilled and have studied in depth. They have good time-management skills. They score higher than students in other national systems, and the IB score is worldwide the same measure."

Hrilina Lock, undergraduate admissions manager, London School of Economics, UK

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?

"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

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?

IB students:

- are more likely than others to enroll in and graduate from selective higher education institutions.
- possess a broader range of skills that enhance their ability to adapt and contribute to university life.
- demonstrate emotional and intellectual maturity which helps them manage the demands of challenging coursework and make meaningful contributions.
- have extensive experience doing independent research and presenting what they have learned through presentations, papers and other projects.
- think critically and draw on diverse perspectives that reflect an international outlook.
- Excel in multiple and diverse academic challenges and their education is a strong predictor for success in university.

New to UBC Survey – start of first semester

SKILL/ABILITY	IB	Non-IB
Research skills	35%	9%
Library skills	24%	9%
Ability to read and comprehend academic material	43%	21%
Ability to prepare and make a presentation	47%	22%
Analytical and critical thinking skills	38%	21%
Ability to be clear and effective when writing	40%	20%
Ability to take personal social responsibility	55%	47%
Ability to work as a team member	50%	40%
Ability to motivate and lead others toward a goal (leadership skills)	38%	28%
Ability to speak clearly and effectively in English	72%	60%
Quantitative (mathematical and statistical) skills	31%	27%
Ability to appreciate racial and ethnic diversity	76%	63%

New to UBC Survey – end of first semester

Skill/Ability	IB	Non-IB
Library skills	48%	27%
Research skills	53%	37%
Ability to prepare and make a presentation	43%	29%
Ability to read and comprehend academic material	62%	43%
Analytical and critical thinking skills	51%	41%
Quantitative (mathematical and statistical) skills	34%	31%
Ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity	84%	72%
Ability to take personal social responsibility	65%	58%
Ability to be clear and effective when writing	46%	37%
Ability to understand and appreciate aboriginal cultures	32%	38%
Ability to speak clearly and effectively in English	77%	66%

New to UBC – first year experience

In which of the following activities have you participated in at UBC?	IB	non-IB
participate in a conference	24%	19%
student leadership activities	30%	16%
research with a faculty member	7%	5%
volunteer work	54%	30%
community service as part of a class	12%	9%
student government	6%	3%
political activities (e.g. local, municipal, provincial, federal other than student government)	9%	4%
tutoring or teaching other students (paid or voluntary)	21%	11%
attend special lectures	38%	29%
join an intramural team	15%	15%
mentoring programs (student to student, alumni to student)	11%	8%
student club or organization	63%	46%

WHY DO UNIVERSITIES VALUE IB?



UBC – Skills for STEM fields

LINKS TO VIDEOS

- What is the IB Diploma Programme?
- https://vimeo.com/267608336?fl=pl&fe=cm

- UBC – Skills for STEM fields
- https://youtu.be/FXCtC38emxk?si=q3YHQzptT3FfGa1z

WHAT DO GRADS SAY ABOUT IB?

WHAT DO GRADS SAY ABOUT IB?

- Prepares how to handle tons of reading and take notes
- I never looked forward to school so much in my life
- Everything in IB ties together (opposite to AP)
- Taught me to be an active learner
- Focus on developing skills rather than just knowledge

WHAT DO GRADS SAY ABOUT IB?

- Makes the jump from high school work to more rigorous university work less substantial. Less trouble dealing with the stress of the 1st year while other students are overwhelmed
- Skills to work with people through lots of discussions and group projects (team players)
- Getting credits for university courses; however, do not take IB only for this reason
- The IB experience as a whole is really life-changing

IB AT SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY

IB World School at Semiahmoo was established in 1980

Semiahmoo IB faculty is trained by the IB and participate in IB Professional Development by attending workshops and IB round tables in North America.

Many of us are IB examiners and mark IB exams. Participate in IB curriculum development, and lead IB workshops in North America.

Semiahmoo IB students excel at the Provincial, National and International levels.

Our IB graduates go on to study at excellent universities in Canada, the USA, UK, and Worldwide.

Our alumni have attended such notable universities as UBC, UofT, UC Berkeley, Princeton, Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and many, many more.

IB AT SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY

At Semiahmoo our IB Exam average is between 35 -38 points out of 45; in percentage it equals 93-96%. We score consistently higher than the world average.

In May 2026 – our average was 36, 6 points higher than the IB world average of 30.

Our students achieve excellent results in National and International level competitions and have won numerous accolades:
- National Team Champions – Poetry in Voice
- Gold medal in Provincial Physics Olympics
- BC Green Games Winner for Environmental Action
- and many more

IB students are also active leaders in our Debate, Model UN, Rotary Globalizers, Earthworks Clubs and many others.

APPLY

How to prepare your application for the Semiahmoo IB Programme

WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FULL IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM?

Applications of potential IB Diploma Candidates should demonstrate a balance between:

Intellectual rigour and academic pursuits

Proven commitment to extra-curricular pursuits encompassing Creativity, Activity and Service.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT: INTELLECTUAL RIGOUR



Strong academic performance (minimum B+ average in academic classes for admission).



Consistently good work habits and well-developed time management skills.



Discipline, commitment and maturity.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT: EXTRA-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT



Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they are well-rounded individuals.



Evidence includes meaningful participation in extra-curricular activities as well as valuable contributions to their schools and communities in fine arts, athletics, service, and leadership.

FOR OUT OF CATCHMENT STUDENTS

The full diploma programme is the Surrey School district program of choice for enrichment.

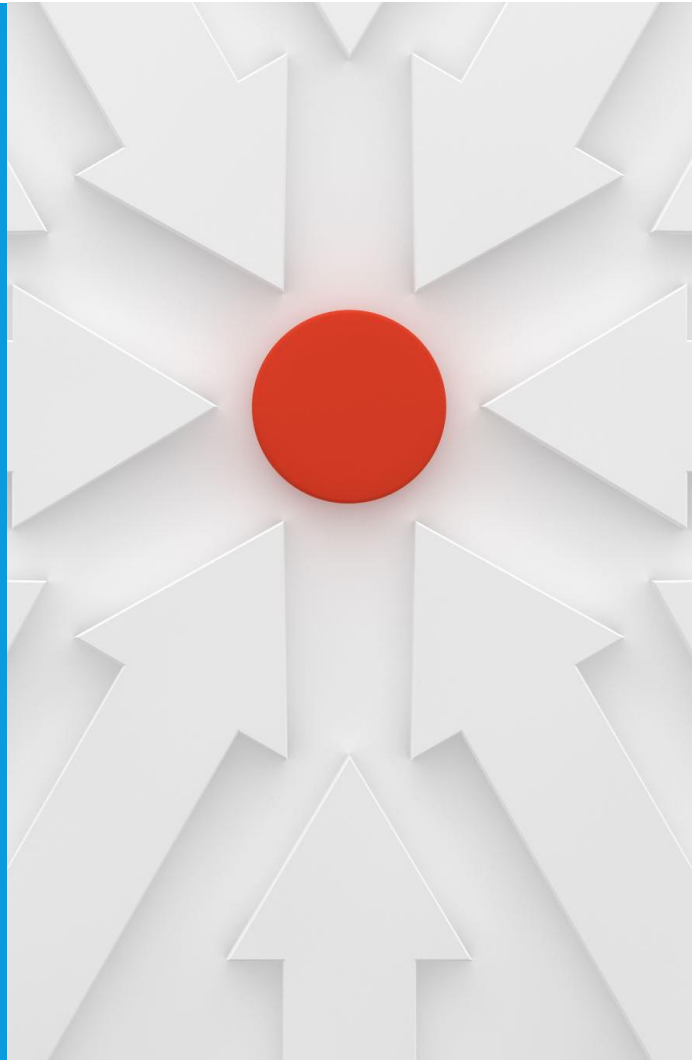
Students from other schools may transfer after the grade 10 year to the FULL IB Diploma Program ONLY. The certificate (partial IB) programme is open only to Semiahmoo students. Out of catchment full IB students who drop the diploma programme must return to their catchment school.

IBO EXAM FEES 2027

- Exam Fees ($200 each subject)
- IB students take 6 IB subject exams total.
  - In grade 11 students pay for Language B exam (French B or Spanish B).
  - In grade 12 – 5 exams (Self-taught students pay for 6 exams in gr. 12)
- These fees are collected by Semiahmoo on behalf of IB students and submitted for payment to IBO.
- There is no registration fee

COURSE SELECTION: CHOICE OF PATHWAYS

- There are 3 pathways to choose from in our programme:
  - Pathway 1: Natural Sciences
  - Pathway 2: Life Sciences
  - Pathway 3: Humanities
- 3 Higher Level and 3 Standard Level courses must be chosen on the pathway of your choice.
- Pathways are flexible
- Visual Arts is an elective, not a requirement.



REQUIREMENTS

- Students applying for IB Math Higher Level MUST complete Pre-Calculus 11 prior to joining the IB Programme.
- It is strongly recommended students complete language pre-requisites in person. Students complete language pre-requisites online (ex. SAIL) will be asked to take an entrance exam.
- Please carefully review all the requirements students need to complete to graduate from a BC school.
- A full checklist of application requirements is provided in the application package.
- All applications must include Grade 9 and Grade 10 (Term 1) report cards.

SELF-TAUGHT LANGUAGES

A program for international students and others lacking the necessary prerequisites for our Spanish and French language courses.

- NOT a language learning course, but a LITERATURE course. Students are required to read and write essays on advanced literature in their chosen language of study.
- MUST have a tutor (an IB requirement since 2019) who will help organize the course, provide feedback to assignments.
- Students who have taken French 9 & 10 or Spanish 9 & 10 will not be considered for the Self-taught languages programme.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the 2027-2029 cohort will open on November 13th. The form is available on our program website

https://www.surreyschools.ca/semiahmoo/apply-join-us-at-semiahmoo-secondary

Late applications will be waitlisted.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'M ACCEPTED?

Diploma Programme Applicants

- Full diploma students will be notified by email by the end of February if they are accepted into the programme.
- Applicants have one week to respond with their formal acceptance of the offer.

Certificate (Course) Programme Applicants

- Semiahmoo students (ONLY) can apply for IB courses as part of the IB Certificate programme. The application is posted on the website. Students can choose from 1 to 3 Higher Level courses
- They may additionally take either French B SL or Spanish B SL
- Course students will be notified in March when the schedule for diploma students is completed.

CHANGES IN ENROLMENT AND WAITLISTING

If you are admitted to the IB Program, but are unable to attend, please contact the IB Coordinator as soon as possible to give notice of your withdrawal from IB.

Your timely notification opens space for other qualified, waitlisted candidates.

QUESTIONS?

For more information about the International Baccalaureate Programme go to

https://ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/

For information about Semiahmoo's IB Programme go to:

https://www.surreyschools.ca/semiahmoo/international-baccalaureate

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