

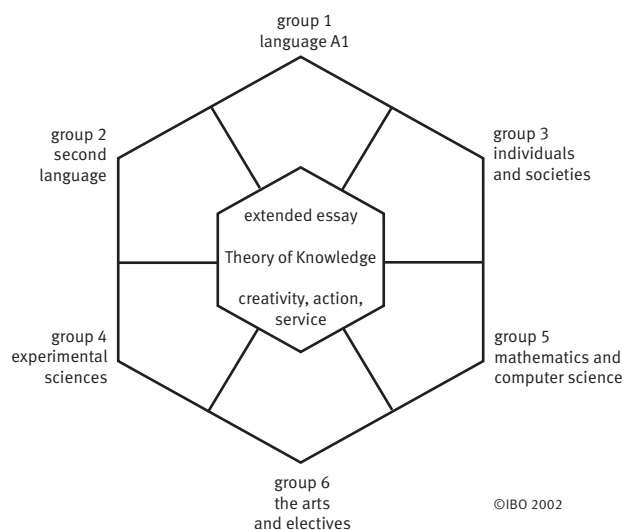
Department of International Studies

The International Baccalaureate Diploma

Founded in Switzerland in 1968, the IB Diploma curriculum covers a wide range of subjects. Every year more than 70,000 young people at schools all over the world take the Diploma examinations. Most of them then go on to study at universities, other higher education institutions, business schools or enter professional training programmes. It is probably the fastest growing university preparation course in the world.

IB subject choices

The IB curriculum is often represented as a hexagon with six subject groups:



Students must select six subjects, one from Groups 1–5, plus either an arts subject from Group 6 or a further subject from Groups 1–5. Three subjects must be at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).

At the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz students can put together their programmes from the following range:

Group 1 Mother tongue or best language

English or German A1. Other languages by arrangement as «self-taught» at SL only.

Group 2 Second Language

English A2 and B, German A2 and B, Spanish ab initio, French B

Group 3 Individuals and Society

Economics, History

Group 4 Experimental Sciences

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Group 5 Mathematics

Mathematics Higher Level, Mathematics Standard Level, Maths Studies SL

Group 6 The Arts and Electives

Visual Arts or another subject from Group 1–5

Additional requirements

Theory of Knowledge: An inter-disciplinary course in critical thinking on fundamental questions of knowledge, ethics, beliefs and values.

The Extended Essay: an independent research assignment of 4,000 words in one of the six subject areas.

CAS: Creativity, Action, Service (minimum of 150 hours in two years with a reasonable balance between them). This allows students to gain real-life experience beyond the classroom and helps them develop their creative faculties, their physical and personal well-being and their ability to be of help in the local or global community.

University recognition of the IB

The world's leading universities welcome applications from IB students because IB graduates are assessed on the basis of reliable international performance criteria. Universities know that IB students have been educated to think critically, to apply knowledge and to debate real-world issues from an international perspective.

Recognition of the IB in Germany and Switzerland

- To be admitted to a German university students must study a foreign language at an advanced level (English A2), take a science at Higher Level (Biology), complete a challenging Maths course (Mathematics Standard Level) and provide evidence of previous language studies (e.g. four years of French or Latin).
- For Swiss universities, students must obtain at least 32 points in their Diploma examinations and include either a science or mathematics at Higher Level.

Please refer to our homepage, section College Counselling, for details.

Student guidance and counselling at the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz

The school's university and college counsellor helps students with their applications to institutes of higher education. Please refer to our homepage for details of recent offers at European and North American colleges and universities.

Students are helped to gain self-knowledge by taking the Morrisby Test, widely used in schools and businesses. It yields reliable information on a range of skills and aptitudes. The test is administered at the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz by the Independent Schools Careers Organisation (ISCO). A few weeks after the test students receive a detailed report based on the test results.

The Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz is a test centre for the ACT, IELTS and SAT. Preparation courses by experienced members of staff are available at the school.

Pre-Diploma programme – Grade 8

This class is designed for students who are most likely aiming to follow the IB Diploma programme in due course, who already have some knowledge of English and who have perhaps grown up in international surroundings. Students therefore study these subjects:

- English
- German
- Mathematics
- Science
- Global Citizenship
- Geography
- History
- Music
- ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)
- Art

In English it is possible that the school may decide to group some students with students of grade 9 depending on their ability and experience.

Pre-Diploma programme – Grades 9 and 10

These classes prepare students for the IB Diploma programme in years 11 and 12.

- English
- German
- French
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Business Studies (grade 10 only)
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Music
- Art
- ICT (Information and Communication Technologies)

In English and Mathematics students are generally grouped within their year grade to offer two levels of study. In French and German students may be grouped with students from other grades within the grade range 8 to 10 so that the level is appropriate to their ability and experience.

International standards and the Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz

The Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz is fully accredited with the Council of International Schools (www.cois.org).

The Lyceum Alpinum Zuoz is also accredited with the following international education organisations:

- The International Baccalaureate Organisation: www.ibo.org as an IB World School
- Cambridge International Examinations: www.cie.org.uk
- Swiss Group of International Schools: www.sgischools.com