



The IB Diploma and Certificate Programs at M'KIS

The International Baccalaureate Program is a two-year pre-university course of studies **undertaken by** students in their grade 11 and 12 years at Mont'Kiara International School. The IB Program can be taken either as a full Diploma Program or individual courses can be taken for IB Certificates.

The aims of the program are to:

- Provide an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond.
- Encourage international-mindedness in students starting with a foundation in their own language and culture.
- Educate the whole person emphasizing intellectual, physical, emotional, personal and ethical growth.
- Develop enquiry and thinking skills and the capacity to reflect upon and to evaluate actions critically

By focusing on the dynamic combination of knowledge, skills, independent critical and creative thought and international mindedness, the IBO espouses the principle of educating the whole person for a life of active, responsible citizenship. (IBO 2006)

WHO IS THE IB DIPLOMA FOR?

The program is suited to motivated and responsible students with a combination of the following characteristics:

- desire and ability to cope with university studies when they leave M'KIS
- willingness to develop personal study habits, including self-discipline, the ability to ask questions, and time management
- capacity for thinking critically and creatively
- willingness to be both an independent and cooperative learner combined with a desire to become intrinsically motivated
- an international outlook and a genuine concern for others

The Diploma Program, while demanding, is open to the average and above-average student. It is not an elitist program for exceptionally gifted students, but a course of studies for the dedicated student who has a strong desire to learn. The ideal IB Diploma candidate should have a GPA of at least 2.5 for the grade 10 academic year.

Overview of the IB Diploma Program

IB courses are divided into higher level (HL) and standard level (SL). Diploma Program candidates take six courses, of which there are normally 3 HL and 3 SL. Under exceptional circumstances, a student might be allowed to take 4 HL and 2 SL courses.

In addition the Diploma Program has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.

The Extended Essay is an in-depth study of a focused topic chosen from one of the school IB subjects, normally one of the student's six chosen subjects for the IB diploma. It is

intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in personal research in a topic of their choice, under the guidance of a supervisor (a teacher in the school) This leads to a major piece of formally presented, structured writing containing no more than 4000 words in which ideas and findings are communicated in a reasoned and coherent manner, appropriate to the subject chosen.

Students commence work on their extended essay in January of their first year and submit the finished product in January of the second year.

Theory of Knowledge is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

TOK encourages students to share ideas with others and to listen to and learn from what others think. In this process student's thinking and their understanding of knowledge as a human construction are shaped enriched and deepened.

Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the Diploma program. The three strands of CAS which are often interwoven with particular activities are characterized as follows.

Creativity: arts, and other experiences that involve creative thinking.

Action: physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle, complementing academic work elsewhere in the Diploma Program.

Service: an unpaid and voluntary exchange that has a learning benefit for the student. The rights, dignity and autonomy of all those involved are respected.

CAS enables students to enhance their personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning. At the same time, it provides an important counterbalance to the academic pressures of the rest of the Diploma Program. CAS should be both challenging and enjoyable, a personal journey of self-discovery. Each individual student has a different starting point, and therefore different goals and needs, but for many their CAS activities include experiences that are profound and life-changing.

Overview of the IB Certificate Program

Students can choose to study for individual subject certificates, rather than the school diploma, if the diploma combination does not best meet their individual needs or circumstances. Also there is no requirement to take Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and CAS.

Universities look well on full Diploma students, but they also recognize that IB Certificates are an additional challenge that shows a student wants to do more than just take a simple high school diploma. As well as the advantageous effects in the university application process, if **Certificate candidates receive a grade of 5 or higher out of a possible 7 on an HL exam, many universities will grant college credits. It should be noted, however, that by taking only individual Certificates, students miss the benefits of the integrated philosophy of the IB Diploma Program.**

IB Transfer Students

M'KIS is willing to accept IB transfer students who have already started the IB Diploma Program at another school, provided their selected courses match our course offerings and timetable at M'KIS. This availability should be discussed prior to enrolment at M'KIS.

IB Fees

The largest single relevant fee is the school's membership fee in the IB Organization, which is covered by the school itself. The school is also responsible for ensuring that our IB teachers receive the necessary additional training to teach in the IB Program, and teachers are frequently sent to overseas training workshops at the school's expense. However, the direct individual fees for each student are the responsibility of the parent to pay, due early in the first semester of the second year of the program. Although these fees vary slightly each year, the following breakdown has been provided for the May 2009 exam session:

Fees for a Diploma candidate

(May 2009)

Registration fee	UK Pounds GBP 73
Subject fees	6 x 50 = GBP 300
TOTAL	GBP 373

Fees for a Certificate candidate

(May 2009)

Registration fee	GBP 73
Subject fees	GBP 50 per subject

EXAMPLE TOTAL

If a student takes 3 Certificates GBP 223

Fees may be paid in RM at the appropriate exchange rate, as set by the school.

Assessment

Students take written examinations at the end of the program, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks within the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external examiners or sent directly to external examiners.

The marks awarded for each course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest).

Students can also be awarded up to three additional points for their combined results on Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay. The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole program and to satisfactory participation in the CAS requirement. The highest point score that a Diploma Program student can be awarded is 45 points.

Minimum levels of performance

The student must NOT have achieved the lowest possible score (E) in BOTH the Theory of Knowledge AND Extended Essay.

The student must NOT have a grade of 1 in any subject.

The student must NOT have a grade of 2 in any HL subject.

The student must NOT have more than one grade of 2 in any SL subject.

The student must NOT have more than three grades of 3 or lower.

The sum of the student's three HL grades must be at least 12.

The sum of the student's three SL grades must be at least 9.

These conditions are eased SLIGHTLY if the student scores a total of 28 or higher for the Diploma.

Result information is available online in the July following completion of the final year.