TOWNSVILLE · GRAMMAR · SCHOOL

BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI

TGS

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE HANDBOOK

YEARS 11-12 | 2027

BONUS INTRA MELIOR EXI

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IB DIPLOMA

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma is an internationally recognised two-year course of study for Year 11 and 12 students, preparing them to proceed on to tertiary education and for life after school. It is a sought-after diploma which qualifies students for entry into both Australian and overseas universities.

The IB Diploma emphasises high academic standards, critical thinking, intercultural understanding and respect for others. Its broad curriculum ensures students are provided with a range of skills and knowledge to equip them well for the complex and global community in which they live.

Since the late 1960s, the programme has:

- Provided an internationally recognised curriculum that balances subject breadth and depth and considers the nature of knowledge across disciplines through the unique Theory of Knowledge course.
- Encouraged International Mindedness in IB students, founded in an understanding of their own culture.
- Developed a positive attitude to learning that ensures students are well prepared for university education.
- Gained a reputation for its rigorous external assessment with published global standards, making this qualification sought after by universities worldwide.
- Emphasised the development of the whole student – physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

The course is designed and administered by the IB Organisation (IBO), based in Geneva, Switzerland and examined by an international Body of Examiners representing many cultures and countries.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ORGANISATION

The IB was founded in Geneva in 1968 as a non-profit educational foundation. Its original purpose was to facilitate the international mobility of students preparing for university by providing schools with a curriculum and diploma recognised by universities around the world. Since then, its mission has expanded, and it now seeks to make an IB education available to students of all ages.

IB MISSION STATEMENT

The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a more peaceful world through inter-cultural understanding and respect.

To this end, the organisation works with schools, governments, and international organisations 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.

IB LEARNER PROFILE

The IB Learner Profile is the IB Mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century.

The Learner Profile provides a long-term vision of education and is the foundation on which the IB course is built. It is a set of ideals that can inspire, motivate and focus the work of schools and teachers, uniting them in a common purpose.

IB LEARNERS STRIVE TO BE:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

These ten aspirational goals inspire and motivate the work of teachers, students and schools, providing a statement of the aims and values of the IB and a definition of what is meant by 'international mindedness'.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THE IB DIPLOMA ONLY FOR ELITE STUDENTS?

The answer is a definite no! The rigours of the IB Diploma should not be construed to mean that only the very best students can benefit from the programme.

Any student at Townsville Grammar School who aspires to continue with their studies at university and who is motivated and diligent is an appropriate Diploma candidate. The more important selection criteria include a love of learning, curiosity and self-motivation. The broad nature of the programme, especially in the core components aim to produce a holistic education for the well-rounded learner.

WHY SHOULD A STUDENT CHOOSE THE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

The IB Diploma programme is a comprehensive and balanced two-year curriculum and that requires students to study across six disciplines.

Through careful subject selection, students can tailor their course of studies to meet their individual needs. Regardless of the subject selection, all students will explore – through the core components – the connections between the six major subject areas. They will study each subject through an international perspective, they will consider knowledge and skills from different perspectives in order to effectively manage and problem solve, and they will reflect critically on what it means to be a 'knower'. In addition to this, they will pursue one subject in detail, through independent research (extended essay), and will have an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills through local and community outreach.

Townsville Grammar School views the IB Diploma Programme as a means to achieving a number of important School goals, which include:

- Promoting the international scope and vision of our School and community.
- Encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence through a challenging, broad educational programme with rigorous academic standards.
- Preparing students with the skills and attitudes for success in tertiary studies nationally and internationally.
- Encouraging depth and breadth of study and research.
- Promoting the concept of internationalism and our place in the global community.
- Providing an international academic benchmark for our students.
- Providing world class professional development opportunities to our academic staff. Allowing students to transfer to schools inter-state and internationally without disrupting their education.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

Past Townsville Grammar Students with IB Diplomas currently studying at universities report that their involvement with the IB has given them the tools needed to succeed at university and to make the most of their post-secondary education. In particular, students comment on their sense of preparedness, their self-confidence, their research skills, their ability to manage their time, and their willingness to be actively engaged in their own learning. Additionally, they have developed a sense of the world around them, their responsibility to it and the skills with which to embrace the complexities of life.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARDING OF AN IB DIPLOMA?

Students must study six IB subjects from the six subject groups. They are required to select three of the six subjects to study at the Higher Level. Irrespective of the level of the subject, the result is awarded on a 1-7 scale. (HL = Higher Level; SL = Standard Level).



WHAT ARE THE CORE ELEMENTS?



Theory of Knowledge (ToK)

The Theory of Knowledge course is an interdisciplinary requirement intended to stimulate critical reflection on the knowledge and experience gained inside and outside the classroom. The course challenges students to question the basis of knowledge, to be aware of subjective and ideological bias and to develop the ability to analyse evidence expressed in rational argument. It is a key element in encouraging students to appreciate other cultural perspectives.



Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

The CAS requirement is a fundamental part of the programme and takes seriously the importance of life outside the world of scholarship, providing a refreshing counterbalance to academic studies. The IB's goal is to educate the whole person and to foster responsible, compassionate citizens. The CAS programme encourages participation in activities and encourages sharing with the local community to gain real life experiences outside the classroom.



Extended Essay (EE)

The Extended Essay is the requirement that most purposefully acquaints students with the type of independent research and writing skills expected at university. Focusing on research and writing skills, students choose a topic of interest and produce an essay, with guidance from a chosen supervisor. It is recommended that the essay topic relates to one of the student's IB Diploma Subjects. The Extended Essay which should be between 3,000 and 4,000 words in length, is assessed externally.

HOW DO THESE THREE CORE ELEMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL RESULT?

In order to earn an IB Diploma, all three core elements must be completed to a satisfactory standard. The combined ToK and EE scores can earn students up to three 'additional' marks (bringing the maximum marks available to 45).

HOW DOES A STUDENT DECIDE WHICH COURSES TO TAKE AT SL AND HL?

Students are encouraged to consider their strengths and weaknesses, confer with teachers and consider their future university and career options. The decision as to which subjects students choose to follow at a HL or SL will – as is the case in most Australian schools – be decided on early in Term 4 of Year 11.

HOW MANY EXAMINATIONS DO IB DP STUDENTS TAKE AND WHEN DO THEY SIT THEM?

Diploma students generally sit at least six examinations; at least one and as many as three per subject – with the exception of Visual Art and Theatre. Students at TGS will take their examinations in October/ November of Year 12 with results available in late December.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO APPEAL AN EXAM RESULT OR RE-SIT AN EXAM?

As with university results, IB students may appeal for a re-mark of any of their subjects. Costs associated with appeals are borne by the candidate. Students may also re-sit exams the following year if they are unhappy with the mark that they receive.

HOW IS THE IB DIPLOMA ASSESSED?

The IB programme provides an international, liberal education that emphasises a philosophy of learning. Consequently, a range of assessment procedures are used. External examinations are complemented by internal assessment.

Classroom teachers and IB examiners work in partnership to ensure that students have ample opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned. Between 20% and 50% of the final IB grade is internally assessed by the classroom teacher (subject dependant). IB examinations ask mainly essay questions or short-answer questions, through which students are given the opportunity to demonstrate what they know, rather than what they don't know. Academic judgments about quality of student work rest with over 4000 IB examiners and chief examiners worldwide. These examiners are international authorities in their fields.

Students at TGS will be well prepared for the examination process with past IB examination papers being available both at School and online.

At both Higher (HL) and Standard Levels (SL), each examined subject is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum).

The award of Diploma requires a minimum of 24 points (12 of which must be obtained across their HL subjects) with satisfactory completion of the Theory of Knowledge course, the Extended Essay and CAS. Other conditions apply. The maximum attainable points score is 45 (6 subjects at 7 points plus a maximum of 3 points for the core components, EE & ToK)

External Assessment: These components are sent to examiners around the world.

- Written exams
- Essays, research folios
- Extended Essays

Internal Assessment: These items are marked by the teacher and are subject to external moderation. Samples are sent to examiners to ensure that standards are correctly applied.

- A variety of assessment instruments, including: oral, written, field work, laboratory experiments, exhibitions, performances.

IS IT TRUE THAT IB STUDENTS STUDY ALL THE TIME AND HAVE NO TIME FOR ACTIVITIES AND SPORT?

A core focus of the IB DP Learner Profile is balance, and, as such, IB students are encouraged to continue to participate in all aspects of TGS school life. The homework requirements are similar to those of students following the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA) program.

WHAT DO UNIVERSITIES THINK ABOUT THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

Universities in Australia and throughout the world welcome IB Diploma graduates and recognise the Diploma as a rigorous and well-balanced programme that prepares students for university study. It is important that students consider their future study and research the necessary prerequisites. Students considering tertiary study overseas will find the IB Diploma their gateway to international universities. University entry is certainly not compromised; rather it is enhanced through choosing the IB Diploma programme. In Australia, at least 70 Universities currently recognise the IB Diploma qualification.

All tertiary institutions participating in QTAC welcome applications from students completing the IB, providing that prerequisite subjects and other requirements are met.

QTAC.EDU.AU/ABOUT-QTAC/PUBLICATIONS

HOW SUCCESSFUL ARE IB STUDENTS IN APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY?

Recipients of the IB Diploma enjoy a high rate of acceptance at leading universities. In addition, a growing number of universities offer dedicated scholarships to IB graduates. Some universities award credit for studying Diploma subjects.

HOW ARE TEACHERS AT TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR PREPARED TO TEACH THE IB CURRICULUM?

Townsville Grammar School has an ongoing commitment to provide staff with the training necessary to teach the IB curriculum.

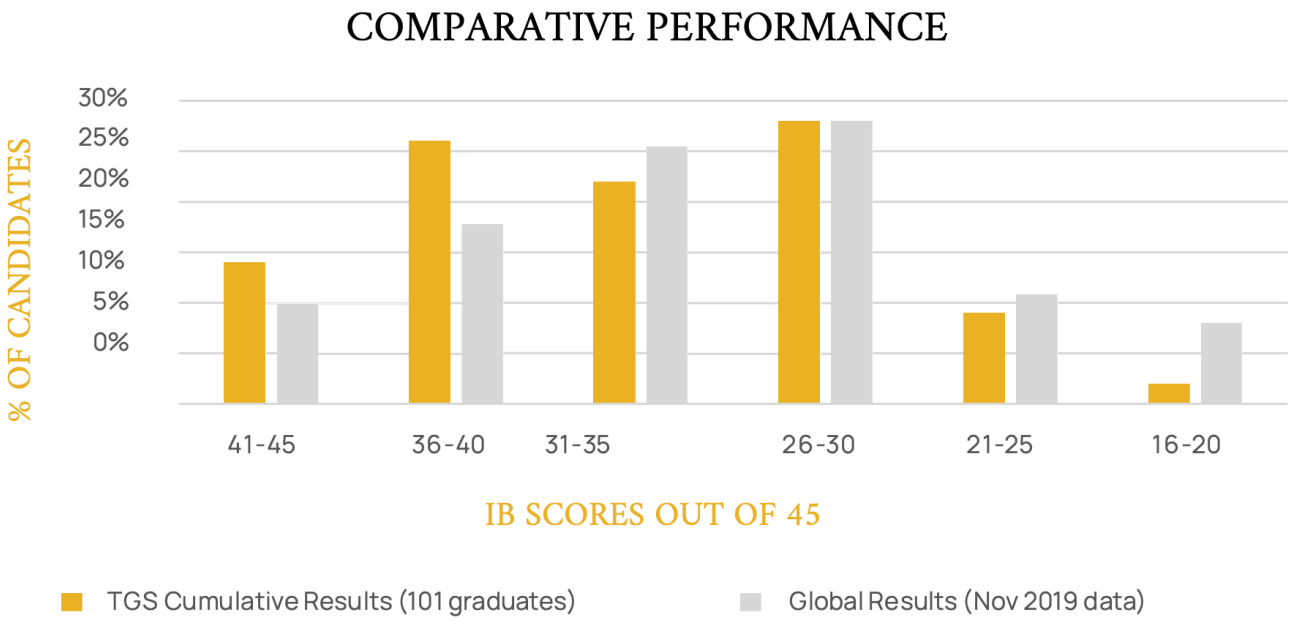
WHAT ARE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARENTS OF THE IB PROGRAMME?

Townsville Grammar School will levy IB students an additional $250 per term for the full Diploma Programme. This levy helps subsidise cost of the external IB examinations fees. There are additional costs associated with some IB subjects for textbooks.

An IB Retreat is held when circumstances allow. Whilst optional, participation in this retreat is highly recommended. This retreat facilitates and enhances leadership and team building as well as CAS engagement. The retreat costs will vary depending on the location of the retreat.

TGS IB RESULTS

In the short time TGS has offered the IB Diploma programme, we have already achieved some exceptional results with three students earning perfect scores of 45 and the School out-performing state, national and international averages.



WHAT IS AN IB SCHOOL WORLD SCHOOL?

IB programmes can only be offered at schools which have been assessed and authorised by the IBO.

In Australia, the IB programmes are becoming increasingly popular and recognised. Schools in both the Independent and State sectors have and continue to embrace its philosophy.



156 COUNTRIES



5000 SCHOOLS



1.3 MILLION STUDENTS

WHICH OTHER AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS OFFER THE IB PROGRAMME?

The IB has been taught in Australia since 1978. There are currently 212 IB World Schools in Australia with 84 running the Diploma programme. Currently, Australia is a growth region for the IB with around 34 schools gaining accreditation in recent years.

A complete listing is available on the IB website, but notable schools offering the IB Diploma programme include:

WWW.IBO.ORG

- Anglican Church Grammar School (QLD)
- John Paul College (QLD)
- Somerset College (QLD)
- Queensland Academy for Creative Industries/ Health Sciences / Science Mathematics (QLD)
- Methodist Ladies College (NSW & VIC)
- S.C.E.G.S. (NSW)
- St Paul's Grammar (NSW)
- Trinity Grammar (NSW)
- Carey Baptist Grammar (VIC)
- Geelong Grammar (VIC)
- Ivanhoe Grammar (VIC)
- Lauriston Girls' School (VIC)
- Tintern Anglican Girls' Grammar (VIC)
- Wesley College (VIC)
- Mercedes College (SA)
- Pembroke School (SA)
- Prince Alfred College (SA)
- St Peter's College (SA)

In Queensland, all three of the Education Queensland Academies (Toowong, Kelvin Grove and Ashmore) run the IB exclusively, while John Paul College, Somerset College, St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly State High and Mountain Creek State High also offer the IB Diploma Programme.



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