



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate (or IB) is an internationally recognized course of studies which is offered in more than 2000 schools and 139 countries around the world. Graduates of this school are qualified for matriculation at the majority of higher educational institutions in the world, along equal lines with such diplomas as British A levels, the French Baccalauréat and the German Abitur. There are now IB schools in several of the major cities in Norway.

The IB, directed by the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO), is an international foundation with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

One of the basic ideas behind the International Baccalaureate, which was founded in 1962, was to develop an educational institution for internationally mobile families. This idea was supported by UNESCO. The IB diploma programme is a two-year pre-university course which enables children of itinerant families to continue their upper secondary school studies without major changes in subjects or syllabuses. Another intention of the IB programme is to internationalise education to promote understanding and tolerance across borders. Moreover, as with the Norwegian upper secondary school, IB aims to promote personal growth and maturity. The syllabus and the studies as a whole require a high degree of independence and critical, reflective thinking and reasoning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

IB is a two-year course for pupils between 16 and 19 years of age, building on the completed first year in the programme for specialization in general studies in Norwegian upper secondary school qualifying for higher education, or a corresponding background.

To attain the IB diploma you must pass exams in six subjects, your extended essay must be accepted, you must participate in aesthetic and social activities (CAS - for Creativity, Action, Service), and you must pass a course in Theory of Knowledge (TOK).

The six subjects are chosen from six groups – one subject from each group. Three of the subjects must be taken at High Level (HL) and three at the lower Standard Level (SL). The high-level requirements are substantially higher than for corresponding subjects in the ordinary Norwegian upper secondary school, and standard-level subjects are at least equal to corresponding subjects in upper secondary school.

The IB diploma gives full qualifications along equal lines as the certificate from the programme for specialization in general studies. IB students do very well in the competition for admission to universities and colleges, both in Norway and abroad.

For more information, visit the official IBO website:

www.ibo.org/diploma/

Trondheim Katedralskole offers the following IB subjects:

Group 1 Studies in language and literature (“A” language):

Norwegian for Norwegian students
English for English-speaking students

Group 2 Language acquisition (“B” language):

English for Norwegian students
Norwegian for non-native speakers
French

Group 3 Individuals and societies:

History

Group 4 Experimental sciences:

Physics, Chemistry

Group 5 Mathematics:

Mathematics

Group 6 One extra subject from group 1, 2 or 4

In addition to the six chosen subjects from the list above, the students must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Theory of Knowledge (TOK): Take a course in Theory of Knowledge
2. Extended Essay: Submit a major essay of at least 4000 words in one of the chosen subjects. The essay is supervised by a teacher and must be approved by IBO.
3. Creativity, Action and Service (CAS): Participate in practical social, aesthetic or artistic activities comprising a half day per week.

The available subjects – and which subjects are taken at High Level or Standard Level – will depend on the collective selections of the students and the available resources at the school.

THE TEACHING

Generally, the majority of the teaching will be given in English, and the majority of textbooks are in English. Good English skills are therefore an important prerequisite for doing well in IB. The requirement for students who have a native language other than Norwegian is that they understand Norwegian reasonably well. With regard to the language used during the exam please see below.

The studies are a combination of teacher-controlled instruction and self-study. Some of the teaching time is reserved for tutorials where the teacher gives individual guidance to each student. This means that there are relatively fewer teacher-controlled classes. Therefore training in self-study is a central part of IB.

The IB Diploma Programme is demanding and students who choose this must be motivated and prepared to work hard.

EVALUATION AND FINAL EXAMS

IB students at Trondheim Katedralskole have the same rights and obligations as the school's other students. Continuous evaluation is given through internal reports.

Exams are administered by the IB Exam Office in Wales (IBCA) and are held in the month of May on the same days in all the countries in the northern hemisphere. A universal standard is ensured through common questions and grading based upon common criteria.

With the exception of the language subjects all exams must be answered in English. Orthographic and stylistic mistakes will not affect the grade – except, of course, the exam for the English courses.

Candidates can sit for an exam up to three times. If a candidate does not satisfy the minimum requirements for a diploma he or she will receive certificates for the individual subjects.

The grades used in IB are:

1 = very poor	5 = good
2 = poor	6 = very good
3 = mediocre	7 = excellent
4 = satisfactory	

To attain a diploma one must have a minimum of 24 points (points being the sum of grades) and also have satisfied the requirements as stated above.

EXPENSES

The students must pay an annual fee, currently NOK 6 500, to cover expenses incurred from arranging the IB examinations. Each year the amount may be adjusted according to the general consumer price index and if there has been an increase in IB examination fees.

TARGET GROUP AND ADMISSIONS

As mentioned above, IB is first intended for internationally mobile families. Therefore applicants with such a background will be given priority. However, it is also an attractive opportunity for students with a Norwegian school background who want a challenging pre-university course.

Regardless of background, students must satisfy the admission requirements, i.e. they must be 16 to 19 years of age and have completed the first year of upper secondary school in the general studies programme qualifying for higher education or a corresponding programme.

Mobile applicants:

This group comprises all those with a foreign-school background who might encounter problems attending a Norwegian upper secondary school in the general studies programme. This category includes, for example, applicants who have mainly attended English-language schools. This may apply to applicants with Norwegian or English as their native language.

Children with such a background, but who have Norwegian as their native language will often find it easier to express themselves in English than Norwegian. They may also encounter difficulties following Norwegian textbooks because of the high level of abstraction.

Children with English as their native language who are residing in Norway for short or long periods of time are also in this category. These may be children of parents who are residing in Norway because of their studies or jobs. Refugees who have good skills in both the English and Norwegian languages will also come under this category if they have been granted a residence permit in Norway.

Applicants with a Norwegian school background

This comprises applicants with a normal Norwegian background. Persons who have been exchange students abroad for one year come under this group.

Admissions from this group are granted according to the normal admissions criteria, i.e. based upon grades. However, the applicant's ability in the English language is important.

IB admission is granted by the County Admissions Office in consultation with representatives from the school. The basis for admission is primarily the grades attained from the first year of upper secondary school in the general studies programme, or a corresponding programme.

It is possible that entrance tests may be given, especially in English and mathematics, if the evaluation of a foreign certificate presents difficulties in determining the applicant's level of ability.

Deadline for Applications:

The deadline for applications is 1 March.

Applicants with a foreign-school background may be given admittance confirmation before the deadline if special reasons make this necessary. We would appreciate that all applicants send the IB-application form included in this information brochure to the school as early as possible. The electronic application form for upper secondary education also has to be filled in at www.vigo.no (Norwegian applicants only).

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE APPLICATION FORM

Trondheim Katedralskole
 Munkegt 8
 7013 Trondheim

Application deadline: **1 March 2012**

Please fill in using block letters or a typewriter!

See overleaf for instructions

Name:		
Address:		
Postal code:	City:	Country:
Tel:	e-mail:	
Mobile:		
Norwegian identity no. (11 digits):		
Citizenship:		First language:

Educational experience (append certified copies of Diplomas/Certificates):

Personal reasons for wishing to study at IB (use separate sheet if necessary):

CHOICE OF SUBJECTS: Select one subject for each group at HL or SL.

GROUP	OPTION	SUBJECT	HL/SL
1. Studies in language and literature	Norwegian A Literature HL – English A Literature HL – Other Language A Literature SL*		
2. Language acquisition	English B SL– Norwegian B SL– French B SL (Cf. Group 6)		
3. Individuals and Societies	History H/SL		
4. Experimental Sciences	Physics HL/SL – Chemistry HL/SL		
5. Mathematics	Mathematics HL/SL		
6. Other			
- Subject from group 1	English A Literature HL – Norwegian A Literature HL		
- Subject from group 2	French B SL – Norwegian B SL – English B SL		
- Subject from group 4	Physics HL/SL – Chemistry HL/SL		

* Students will have to pay for instruction by an approved teacher in other languages than those listed above. However, another language than English/Norwegian may be taken as a Self-Taught language.

Financial reasons may prevent some of these subjects from being given. Please indicate options in order of priority.

Date:	
Applicant signature	Signature of parent/guardian:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE FORM – READ CAREFULLY!

You must choose six subjects, one from each group. Put an "H" in the box if you want a subject at High level, and "S" if you want it at Standard level. At least three and not more than four subjects must be studied at High level. You can not choose more than six subjects.

The following courses are offered only at Standard level (SL):
English B, Norwegian B, French B.

The following courses are offered only at Higher level (HL):
Norwegian A Literature, English A Literature.

Students who want another Language A, must either pay for tuition themselves from a teacher with IB approval, or study that language as self-taught (ST), with no tuition but guidance for the work to be done.

French B is an advanced course requiring a solid base in the language, at least three years of previous studies.

Mathematics SL is designed to provide a sound mathematical basis for those who plan to pursue further studies in such fields as mathematics, chemistry, physics, economics and business administration. The course requires a basis in mathematics corresponding to “Matematikk 1T” in the Norwegian programme for specialization in general studies. Mathematics SL is taught during the first year of IB. The students who complete their first year with the Mathematics SL exam, may choose to continue with Mathematics HL in their second year.

Mathematics HL is a more demanding course for students expected to include mathematics as a major component of their university studies. Mathematics HL is taught together with Mathematics SL the first year.

If there are too few applicants for a course, it will not be available. Certain combinations of subjects may not be accepted due to scheduling problems. Further notice about this will be given when admissions to the IB course have been decided.

Enclosures:

1. Certified copies of Diplomas and/or Certificates for secondary education
2. Signed copies of internal school reports and/or marksheets for current year's schooling
3. References. Attestations and reports from heads of school, teachers or school counsellors should be sent directly to Trondheim Katedralskole. All information will be treated as confidential.

All documentation must be formally certified.