

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate (or IB) is an internationally recognized course of study which is offered in nearly 2000 schools and 124 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 southern Norway.

IB is directed by the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO). This 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 in order 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 the age group 16-19 which builds upon the completed first year in the general studies programme qualifying for higher education in the Norwegian upper secondary school or a corresponding background.

In order 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 different 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 subsidiary-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 general studies and economic/administrative branch. IB students do well in the competition for admission to universities and colleges, both in Norway and abroad.

For more information, visit the official IBO website: <http://www.ibo.org/diploma>

Trondheim Katedralskole offers the following IB subjects:

- Group 1 Native Language (Language A):
Norwegian for Norwegian students
English for English-speaking students
- Group 2 Foreign Language (Language B):
English for Norwegian students
Norwegian for non-native speakers
French and German may also be chosen
- Group 3 Social Studies:
History
- Group 4 Natural Science subjects:
Physics, Chemistry
- Group 5 Mathematics:
Mathematics, Mathematical Studies
- Group 6 One of the following subjects:
Music or one extra subject from group 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 written under the guidance of a teacher and must be approved by IBO.
3. Creativity, Action, Service (CAS): Participate in practical social, aesthetic or artistic activities comprising a half day per week.
Participation in an aesthetic subject may be used as a partial alternative to this.

The available subjects - and which subjects are taken at High Level or Standard Level - will depend upon 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 studies are demanding and students who choose this must be motivated and prepared to take on a heavy work load.

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. The native language of the candidate is given on the papers and 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. Those candidates who do not satisfy the minimum requirements for a diploma will receive certificates for the individual subjects.

The grades which are 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 pay for their own books. The students must also pay an annual fee of currently NOK 6500 to cover certain expenses in connection with the IB exams. Each year the amount may be adjusted in relation to the general consumer price index and increase in IB exam fees.

TARGET GROUP AND ADMISSIONS

As mentioned above, IB is firstly intended for internationally mobile families. Therefore applicants with such a background will be given priority. However, it is also an alternative 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 their high level of abstraction.

Children with English as their native language who are residing in Norway for short or long periods of time will also be placed in this category. These may be children of parents who are residing in Norway because of their studies, business or industrial activities, or for research or teaching purposes. 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 to the school as early as possible. It is also necessary to complete the general application form from Sør-Trøndelag Fylkeskommune for all upper secondary schools in the region.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE APPLICATION FORM

Trondheim Katedralskole
 Munkegt 8
 7013 Trondheim

Application deadline: **1 March**

*Please fill in using block letters or a typewriter!
 See overleaf for instructions*

Name:	
Address:	
Postal code:	City:
Country:	Tel:
Personal identity code:	Citizenship:

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

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

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

GROUP	OPTION	SUBJECT	HL/SL
1. Native Language	Norwegian A1 HL – English A1 HL - Other SL*		
2. Second Modern Language	English A2/B – Norwegian B (Cf. Group 6)		
3. Individuals and Societies	History		
4. Experimental Sciences	Physics – Chemistry		
5. Mathematics	Mathematics - Math Studies		
6. - Other ** - Subject from Gr. 2 - Subject from Gr. 4	Music SL French B SL - German B SL Physics – Chemistry		

* 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.

French and German are advanced courses requiring a solid base in the language, at least three years of previous studies.

The following courses are offered only at Standard level (SL):
German B, French B, Mathematical Studies, Music

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

Students who want another A language, 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.

Mathematics:

Mathematical Studies (only Standard Level) is the alternative for those who do not need mathematics for further studies. The emphasis of this course is on the practical application of mathematics (statistics, probability etc.). If you wish to study natural science subjects, engineering or medicine, you should not choose Mathematical Studies.

Mathematics SL is designed to provide a sound mathematical basis for those who plan to pursue further studies in such fields as chemistry, economics, psychology and business administration.

Mathematics SL is taught during the first year of IB. The students who complete their first year with the Mathematics Standard Level exam, may choose to continue with Mathematics High Level 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.