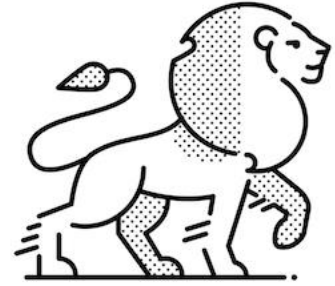


# ISD

Counselling Department

INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF  
DÜSSELDORF

SINCE 1968



**Grade 10 Students**

**Gr. 11 & 12 Academic Programme Choice,  
Course Choice, and Higher Education**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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**ISD Counselling Department**

**[www.isdcounselling.org](http://www.isdcounselling.org)**

# GRADE 11 & 12 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME & COURSE CHOICES

## Frequently Asked Questions

### SHOULD I TAKE DIPLOMA COURSES (CERTIFICATES) OR THE FULL IB DIPLOMA (DP)?

Which higher education institutions accept the IB Diploma (DP)?

**All of them!** Institutions around the world regard the DP very highly. Although not required for admission in some countries such as the United States, Canada, and The Netherlands, the DP opens the door to institutions from around the world and makes you a more competitive candidate at the more selective ones. **All DP courses are classified as “Honours” courses on the ISD Senior School Transcript. For more information about the recognition of the IB Diploma in countries around the world, please visit the IBO ‘Country Recognition Statements’ and/or ‘Country-specific Guides’.**

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/find-countries-and-universities-that-recognize-the-ib/>

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/support-students-transition-to-higher-education/guides-for-students-applying-to-university/>

Which higher education institutions accept the ISD High School Diploma (HSD) + Diploma Courses (Certificates)?

**All Canadian and U.S.** institutions accept the ISD HSD + Diploma Courses (Certificates), as do the Applied Science Universities in **The Netherlands** and many institutions in **Japan**. Many **UK** institutions also accept **Diploma Courses (Certificates)** via the **UCAS Tariff**. UCAS Tariff points are awarded for individual Diploma Courses (Certificates) at SL and HL, including Theory of Knowledge and the Extended Essay.

<https://americanuniabroad.com/> | <https://www.aaicu.org/>

<https://www.studyinholland.nl/dutch-education/universities-of-applied-sciences>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-pts>

Where can I learn about DP courses and the differences between a Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL) course?

The **IBO Subject Briefs** can help you select the courses that best fit you and your goals.

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/support-students-transition-to-higher-education/course-selection-guidance/>

### IB DIPLOMA (DP) SCORES

What is a good IB Diploma (DP) score?

The worldwide average IB Diploma score is usually between **29-30** pts (out of 45 pts) each year. ISD students typically average **33-34** pts. You can see the most recent summary of ISD student scores by visiting the **ISD Senior School Profile**:

<http://www.isdcounselling.org/isd-senior-school-profile.html>

The IBO also publishes detailed **Statistical Bulletins** for each examination session:

<https://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/facts-and-figures/statistical-bulletins/diploma-programme-statistical-bulletin/>

Can I get into a “good” institution with 30 pts?

**Absolutely**, although it does depend on the country and the subject. For example, many Canadian institutions, including **Top-50 world-ranked** University of British Columbia, University of Toronto and McGill University will consider DP students with **28** pts for their Bachelor of Arts degrees. What is most important, however, is that each institution you are considering is a good fit for your academic level, your interests and your abilities.

Will my DP score affect my chances of getting into Master, MBA or PhD programmes later on?

At that point, the most important academic factor will be the grades you earned in your Bachelor (B.A./B.Sc.) and/or Master studies. However, you will likely be asked to submit evidence of your DP score when you apply to a Master or PhD programme.

### WHICH DP MATH COURSE SHOULD I TAKE?

If I take Math Applications & Interpretations SL, will that negatively impact my higher education plans?

**No.** If you are leaning more towards studying the **Humanities/Arts** or **Creative/Performing Arts**, then **Math Applications & Interpretations SL** is a great choice. However, you should take **Math Analysis & Approaches HL** if you want to study **Engineering, Physics, Computer Science** or **Mathematics**. For **Medicine, Science** and **Business** degrees, **Math Analysis & Approaches SL** is the best choice, however, **Math Applications & Interpretation SL** is also widely accepted to study these subject areas.

Can I get a good job with Math Applications & Interpretations SL?

**Absolutely.** For students who wish to pursue degrees in the **Humanities/Arts, Social Sciences, Creative and Performing Arts**, Math Applications & Interpretations SL is a great choice and you can go on to pursue an exciting career in many different fields.

### I WANT TO STUDY BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & ECONOMICS

Can I study Business Management with Math Applications & Interpretations SL?

**Yes**, but you may have fewer options in some countries. **Some** institutions in the **UK, Canada** and **The Netherlands** require **Math Analysis & Approaches SL** as a minimum.

### Which DP Math course do I need to study Business Management in The Netherlands?

For the **Research Universities**, the full IB Diploma (DP) with **Math Analysis & Approaches SL or HL**. Some institutions, such as **Erasmus University Rotterdam**, will also accept **Math Applications & Interpretations HL** for their International Business Administration degree. If you do not have the correct level of mathematics, some Research Universities offer the opportunity to sit an additional mathematics entrance examination in order to prove that you have the appropriate level for the degree. The **Applied Science Universities** accept the **ISD High School Diploma** and both **Math A&A SL** and **Math A&I SL**.

<https://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/research-universities>

<https://www.studyinnl.org/dutch-education/universities-of-applied-sciences>

### What if I don't take DP Economics? Can I be accepted onto a Business degree?

**Absolutely.** However, many higher education institutions teach Economics as part of their Business Management degree so taking DP Economics SL or HL would provide a great foundation in the subject. DP Psychology SL or HL is also appropriate.

### If I want to study PURE Economics do I need to take Math HL?

North American institutions do not typically require Math HL to study Economics. Several **UK** institutions **require** or **recommend** Math HL, with a strong preference for the **Math Analysis & Approaches HL** course. **ALWAYS** verify directly for each institution. For example: University of Bath; University of Bristol (6 in HL Maths or 7 in Maths SL); University of Cambridge; London School of Economics (38 pts + 7/6/6 HL with 7 in Maths HL); University College London (39 pts + 7/7/6 HL including Math HL); University of Warwick (38 pts + 6 pts in Maths HL).

## I WANT TO STUDY COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

### Which DP courses do I need to get a place at a good Communications/Media/Journalism school?

There are no specific requirements, however the most appropriate DP classes will be any Literature HL or Language & Literature HL course and other essay-based courses such as Digital Societies HL, History SL, Global Politics HL, Psychology HL, or Economics HL. You should try to join any creative writing clubs or write for the student newspaper. Many students who wish to pursue these majors choose to study English Literature and/or Creative Writing as their first degree and then complete a Master degree in Communication/Media/Journalism.

## I WANT TO STUDY ENGINEERING

### Which HL subjects do I have to take if I want to study Engineering in The Netherlands or elsewhere?

**TU Delft**, **TU Eindhoven** and the **University of Twente** all **REQUIRE** **Physics HL** and **Math Analysis & Approaches HL** for their Engineering courses. Most other countries will also accept **Math Applications & Interpretation HL** for their Engineering courses. **DP Design Technology** and/or **DP Digital Societies SL or HL** are great complimentary courses for aspiring Engineers.

## I WANT TO STUDY MEDICINE

### Which HL subjects do I have to take if I want to study Medicine?

To be eligible to apply to medical programmes in most countries, we recommend **Chemistry HL** and **Biology HL**. **Math Analysis & Approaches SL** is also recommended; however, **Math Application & Interpretation SL** is also widely accepted to study Medicine in Europe, including **Germany**, the **UK** and **Ireland**.

### What do I need to study Medicine in The Netherlands?

First, you must be **fully fluent in Dutch**. Secondly, to study Medicine in **The Netherlands** and some other EU countries (**Sweden**, for example), you need to have **all 3 sciences** – **Chemistry**, **Physics** and **Biology** – which is only possible in the IB Diploma Programme via a special request which you must submit to the IB Diploma Coordinator. Students can also meet the requirement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> science via one of the Boswell-Bêta online courses.

<https://www.boswell-beta.nl/en/>

### What do I need to study Medicine in Germany?

**Germany** is one of the few countries where you can apply for medical studies with just **one SL/HL science** – Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Both **Math A&A SL** and **Math A&I SL** are also accepted. However, admission is ultra-competitive and requires the **Abitur equivalent of a 1,0-1,2 score**. For DP candidates, that equals a score of **41+** pts, a total achieved by **less than 10%** of DP students each year. You also need to be **fully fluent in German** to study Medicine at the public universities in Germany.

### Do I need to take an admissions test to study Medicine?

**UK** medical schools require the **University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)**. Applicants to medical schools in **Ireland** require the **HPAT**. German citizens/permanent residents may take the **Test für Medizinische Studiengänge (TMS)** for their application to study Medicine in Germany.

### What does it take to get into a good medical school in Canada and the United States?

Medicine is a **graduate** programme in the U.S. and Canada. In other words, you cannot apply directly to medical school as a high school student. You must complete a 4-year Bachelor degree first. **It is exceedingly difficult for international students to be accepted to medical programmes in the U.S. and Canada. Places are very limited for non-U.S./Canadian citizens or residents, and some U.S./Canadian medical schools do not admit international students at all.**

### What should I study at university if I want to apply to medical school in the U.S. or Canada?

Most students major in the sciences and follow a “Pre-med” or “Pre-health” prescribed set of required courses during their Bachelor degree programme. Students generally work with a Pre-med advisor on campus to help them choose the appropriate courses that will prepare them for the medical school admission process.

### What does it take to get into a good medical school in the UK, Ireland and/or EU?

In the UK, Ireland and EU, you apply directly to Medicine straight out of high school – it is **exceptionally** competitive. We recommend (and some institutions require) **Chemistry HL, Biology HL** (\*Some institutions prefer **Physics HL**) and Math Analysis & Approaches SL as a **minimum**, although **Math Applications & Interpretation SL** is also widely accepted. For UK medical schools, **grade 10 results in MYP Math, MYP Science and MYP English with a score of 6 or 7 are also key admission factors** (i.e. the **Mittlere Reife** for German students – 1 ‘sehr gut’). As an example, the **University of Edinburgh** is looking for **37 pts** with **7/6/6 at HL** plus **Chemistry HL** and **two** further sciences. **University of Bristol** asks for **36 pts** with **6/6/6 at HL** including **Chemistry** and **one** further science at HL.

### What alternatives are there for studying Medicine elsewhere in the EU?

There are many English-language medical programmes in **Spain, Italy** and all across Eastern Europe. **Medical Doorway** maintains a great list of options for studying medicine.

<https://www.italymedicalschoools.com/> | <https://www.medicaldoorway.com/>

## I WANT TO STUDY IN GERMANY

### Which academic qualification do I need to study in Germany?

For **direct** admission to **all** German universities and Universities of Applied Science, you must have the full IB Diploma (DP), with a prescribed DP course combination that meets the KMK guidelines for the recognition of your DP as equivalent to the German Abitur. Please refer to the ISD Counselling Department website for more details:

<http://www.isdcounselling.org/the-ib-diploma-dp-the-abitur--german-higher-education-admission.html>

### What if I don't have an IB Diploma that meets the Abitur-equivalent guidelines? Can I still study in Germany?

**Yes.** Students who do not have the correct DP subject combination can complete a **pre-university study year**, also known as a **Studienkolleg**. Students specialize in a particular pathway in order to prepare to study that subject area at university. At the end of the preparatory year, students must successfully pass the **Feststellungsprüfung** (FSP) exam in order to be eligible to be admitted to university. Many Studienkollegs require a minimum level of German – usually **A2/B1**.

<https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/requirements/studienkollegs/>

### Can I study in Germany if I don't speak German?

**Yes**, although currently, there are less than 400 English-language Bachelor degrees available so your options will be limited. By far, the vast majority of Bachelor degree programmes at German institutions are taught in **German**. Depending on the institution, students must submit evidence of a **B2/C1** level of German prior to beginning their degree.

<https://www.myguide.de/en/degree-programmes/>

## I WANT TO STUDY IN THE UK

### What does it take to get into a UK institution?

For direct entry to many higher education institutions/courses in the UK you are required to complete the full **IB Diploma (DP)**. However, a significant number of UK institutions recognize **Diploma Courses (Certificates)** for admission to their courses.

### To get into a good course in the UK how many points do I need?

The answer is directly related to what you want to study and where. If you are considering the most popular courses – Law, Medicine, Psychology, English, History – you may need a minimum of **36+** pts, although you can find many great options that require between **28-34** pts. The most selective institutions typically require **38-40** pts, plus **7/6/6** or **7/7/6** in your **HL** courses.

### What is required to be accepted to Oxford?

DP students are expected to achieve **38-40** pts with **6/6/6** in their **HL** courses as a **minimum**. Depending on what you want to study, Oxford may require specific **HL** subjects. For Economics, for example, **Mathematics HL** is “recommended”.

### What is required to be accepted to Cambridge?

DP students are expected to achieve somewhere between **7/6/6** and **7/7/7** in their **HL** subjects, with overall scores between **38-42** pts out of 45. A number of courses at Cambridge also require certain DP courses at both **HL** and **SL**.

### Which DP subjects are required to get into a good law course in the UK (including amount of points)?

Reading and writing-based subjects such as History SL, Global Politics HL, Literature A HL and/or Language & Literature A HL are good choices. The IB Diploma (DP) with **36+** pts is often required. University College London requires **38** pts with **6/6/6** at HL. Durham University requires **38-40** pts. A number of UK institutions also require the **LNAT** – Law National Admissions Test.

## **I WANT TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES**

### **If I want to go to the U.S. do I have to do the IB Diploma (DP)?**

**No**, the IB Diploma (DP) is not required for admission. **Most U.S. institutions will admit you with the ISD High School Diploma + Diploma Courses (Certificates)**. However, you may be at a disadvantage compared to other applicants if you plan to apply to highly selective institutions without the full IB Diploma (DP).

### **What are my chances of being admitted?**

A lot of media attention focusses on a small group of the most selective U.S. institutions, a handful of which **admit less than 10% of applicants**. Many of the lucky students admitted to these uber-selective schools are specially-recruited for their athletic and/or extra-curricular talents, in addition to their exceptional academic achievement. However, these institutions represent only very small number of the more than 4.000 U.S. colleges and universities. There are many fantastic institutions that admit **50% or more** of their first-year applicants so in fact, it can be quite easy to be admitted to a U.S. institution.

### **How will a U.S. institution decide whether to admit me?**

Admission decisions are based on a variety of factors, the most important of which is your gr. 9-12 **ISD Senior School Transcript**. Institutions consider the level of difficulty of your academic programme, the courses you have taken in each year, and the grades you have earned. Depending on the institution, you may also need to provide standardized test results (SAT, ACT, SAT, TOEFL/IELTS), an essay, a summary of your extra-curricular activities, and recommendation letters from your teachers and/or counsellor.

### **What does it take to study law in the U.S.?**

In the U.S., you cannot study law as an undergraduate student. You must first complete a 4-year Bachelor degree with a major in a subject of your choice and then apply for Law School. The average age of a first-year law student in the U.S. is 26. You will be required to take the **LSAT**. Admissions will be based on your undergraduate GPA, results of the LSAT, your personal statement and references. You will take the LSAT in your junior year and apply to law schools in the senior year. It takes approximately 3 years to complete a Juris Doctorate degree.

### **Is it possible to apply to an Ivy League institution with only TOEFL/IELTS results?**

**No**. They often require the **SAT** or **ACT** as well. Some highly selective institutions have dropped their SAT/ACT requirement for IB DP students (NYU and University of Chicago, for example). Please visit the website of each institution for the most accurate and up-to-date testing requirements. **You may also wish to visit the Fair Test website for a list of test-optional or test-flexible U.S. institutions.**

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

### **Are SAT/ACT preparation courses available outside of school? If so, where?**

In cooperation with **Higher Ground Learning**, ISD offers an online SAT preparation course in the spring.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NPys2AAOjIDMPdy67GkBpyjZ-2Cjmi1o/view?usp=sharing>

Khan Academy offers **FREE** online SAT preparation as does the ACT Academy.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> | <https://academy.act.org/>

## **I WANT TO APPLY FOR AN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP**

### **How do I get a scholarship?**

Many institutions automatically consider you for a scholarship at the time you apply for admission, based entirely on your academic achievement. Other institutions require you to complete a separate scholarship application. The best place to find scholarship information is the **Scholarships & Financial Aid** section of each individual institution website.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WZTfqhO1CmTwG0gozbtb\\_K\\_OvpvjYFx06ukMkaUgdNU/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WZTfqhO1CmTwG0gozbtb_K_OvpvjYFx06ukMkaUgdNU/edit?usp=drive_link)

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jAQGcKa\\_i2cOXycFia3\\_3IC-6Ksmxi-BXYyXQE5InTq/edit?usp=drive\\_link](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jAQGcKa_i2cOXycFia3_3IC-6Ksmxi-BXYyXQE5InTq/edit?usp=drive_link)

## **I WANT TO STUDY IN EUROPE**

### **Where can I find information about studying in Europe or elsewhere in the world?**

The **European Education Area Study in Europe** website is a great resource for learning about your EU study options. Their 'Country Profiles' contain detailed information about Higher Education and study opportunities. The **NACAC Guide to International University Admission** is another great resource for **Europe**, as well as the **Middle East, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and North America**.

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe/countries>

[http://www.isdcounselling.org/uploads/1/0/6/2/10624989/nacac\\_international\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isdcounselling.org/uploads/1/0/6/2/10624989/nacac_international_guide.pdf)