



Salisbury Composite High School

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

School Handbook



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The International Baccalaureate Information Page: [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)



## **Introduction**

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme provides a challenging, internationally focused, broad and balanced educational experience for students aged 16 to 19. The programme is designed to equip students with the basic academic skills needed for university study, further education and their chosen profession as well as developing the values and life skills needed to live a fulfilled and purposeful life.

The driving force behind the Diploma Programme is a philosophy concerning the nature of education, which is expressed in the IB's mission statement, in the IB learner profile and in the fundamental principles on which the curriculum is based and which continues to inspire its development.

### **The IB mission statement**

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations 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.

### **The IB Learner Profile**

The learner profile is the embodiment of the IB mission statement in ten attributes and aims to define the type of learner that the IB aspires to develop in all three of its programmes. It is intended to provide a focus for reflection on what is most important in IB World Schools and the IB teaching profession, which is why it is located at the heart of the programme.

**The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.**

*As IB learners we strive to be:*

#### ***Inquirers:***

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

#### ***Knowledgeable:***

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.



## IB World Schools

The IB is different from other curricula because it:

- encourages students to think critically and challenge what they are told.
- is independent of governments and national systems, and therefore able to incorporate best practice from a range of international frameworks and curricula.
- encourages students to consider both their local and international environment.

## The IB Diploma Curriculum Model



## **The IB Programme at Salisbury**

### **Diploma Students**

Diploma students at Salisbury take the Core components and 6 IB subjects:

#### ***Core:***

Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

Extended Essay (EE)

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

#### ***Subjects:***

History (HL)

Chemistry (SL)

Biology (HL)

Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (SL)

English A Literature (HL)

Language B French (SL) or German ab initio (SL)

Each student takes three subjects at the higher level (HL), and the remaining at the standard level (SL).

### **Course Students**

Students at Salisbury are encouraged to attempt the full Diploma programme. However, course students can qualify for IB Certificates in any of the subjects offered at Salisbury. Course based programmes are designed with the help of guidance counsellors and the Salisbury IB coordinator. Every attempt will be made to build a programme that best suits each student's needs and goals.

*Courses are designed to meet Alberta Education requirements as well as IB requirements – students receive concurrent instruction when IB and Alberta Education outcomes are the same or similar. Extra IB material is added into courses or supplemental courses (e.g. Biology 25, Western World History 30) to meet additional IB outcomes. The final grade on the IB transcript is based on IB curriculum and assessments only. The final grade on the Alberta Education transcript is based on Alberta curriculum and assessments only.*

## Entering the IB Programme

**Please complete the Returning Student Registration or New Student Registration. You should select IB as your program of choice.**

Students who are interested in the Salisbury IB Programme and have achieved a final grade of 80% in their grade 9 courses are encouraged to register in the Grade 10 Sal pre-IB programme. Students have the option to register in one or more Sal pre-IB courses in Grade 10. A grade of 80% is required in prerequisite courses for students to register in IB subjects. In addition, students must have completed all required IB coursework assigned in each pre-requisite course. Students who have not achieved a grade of 80% in a pre-requisite course may apply to continue in the next IB course. The application will then be considered at the discretion of the Salisbury IB administrative team.

IB subjects begin in Grade 11. The courses are planned to balance the IB requirements (e.g. Internal Assessments, practical work, and written assignments) over Grade 11 and 12. Diploma students will complete their Creativity, Activity, and Service journal (CAS) and the Extended Essay over the 2-year period. Grade 12 courses are non-semestered (full-year) and students write their IB World Exams in May of their grade 12 year.

### Assessment

Internal Assessments – are project-based assignments in each subject. These may take the form of research projects, experiments, essays, oral submissions, or other evidence of learning. These are graded by subject teachers. Samples of student work are moderated by international experts in each field to ensure that IB standards are being met or exceeded. These assessments form a significant portion of the student's final grade in an IB subject.

External Assessments – are exams held in May of the students' grade 12 year. These exams are graded by the IBO (submitted to examiners nominated by IB). Results of these exams comprise the majority of the students' final IB grade out of 7. Written assignments in English and French are also graded by the IBO.

Group IV Science Project – This project is mandatory for completion of IB science subjects. Students spend the day inventing creative and interdisciplinary science experiments in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students present their results to their teachers and peers on the same day.

*Getting assignments done on time requires careful planning, organization, determination, and self-discipline. These qualities are representative of the IB learner and are valuable in both school and personal life. Our policy is that all assignments are due by the deadline set by the teacher. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the due dates for all assignments are clearly communicated to the students in the class. It is the student's responsibility to meet the stated deadlines.*

## **IB Registration and Fees**

In September of their grade 12 year, IB students register for their World Exams (External Assessment) and pay fees associated with the grading of these examinations and moderation of their practical, oral, and written work (Internal Assessment) by international experts in each field of study. Fees charged cover the costs assigned by the IBO, and the exchange rate, as these fees are charged in American dollars (\$US). Exam fees are \$165 per exam (as of the printing date of this handbook). These fees are subject to change by IBO.

IB Fees are non-refundable as we pay these fees directly to IB, who will not refund them to us. Students taking IB courses must register for IB exams in their grade 12 year to maintain their registration in the courses. Students who drop a course after the fee payment deadline will not receive a refund for their exam fees.

## **IB Examinations and Granting of the Diploma**

IB World Exams (External Assessments) are held in May of the student's grade 12 year. The IB schedule of exams is posted on-line each year and supplied to students. This schedule is not flexible and non-participation in these exams will result in incomplete status in the IB course and for potential Diploma students no awarding of the IB Diploma. Students must achieve a combination of acceptable grades in their IB courses, TOK (Theory of Knowledge) and their EE (Extended Essay) to qualify for their IB Diploma.

There is a maximum of 7 points available for each of the six required elective courses; in addition, there are 3 points available for the combination of TOK and the Extended Essay. This makes a maximum total of 45 points. A minimum of three courses must be at Higher Level.

In general, to receive the IB Diploma, a student will have to score at least a 4 in each subject, or 24 points or more in total. The full criteria for passing the IB Diploma are set out at the IB website: [ibo.org](http://ibo.org).

## **Final IB Grades and University Admission**

Final grade results are available in early July of a student's graduating year. Students can visit <http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/> to get up-to-date information about how universities around the world give advanced standing and/or transfer credit to IB students. At the University of Alberta, for example, admission is based upon IB grades or Alberta Education grades for each subject – *whichever is higher*. The U of A also grants early admission after March 1 based upon IB predicted grades for full Diploma students. Earning transfer credit means that you are not required to retake these classes in university, which can free up time in your schedule and save money. Many universities offer scholarships to IB students (especially full Diploma students).

## **Homework**

Homework is an extension of the regular daily school work and is given in all courses. The functions of homework are to help students prepare for classes, and develop the skills of organization, time management, independent responsibility, self-direction and self-discipline.

Long-range assignments such as reports and projects take careful planning and organization on the part of the student. Parents are encouraged to assist in monitoring student progress toward the completion of the assignments but should not do the students' work for them. Parents can be most helpful to their student by providing a routine time and a place that is conducive to undisturbed study. Students can seek help in developing more effective study skills from their teachers and counselors.

The amount of homework assigned increases as the student progresses through school and varies throughout the year. The nature of the homework will vary but it can be assumed that students will be required to read texts in preparation for lessons and review all of their subjects as a matter of course.

Extra help with schoolwork is available from teachers. Students seeking tutors or other help may contact the guidance counselors or the IB coordinator.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Throughout their IB experience at Salisbury, our students experience many opportunities and activities that enhance their high school experience including:

Encounters with Canada – Although not exclusively an IB experience, many of our IB students do participate in this program sponsored by the Federal Government that includes 5 days in Ottawa. Students engage in cultural, scientific, historical, and other events and meet students from other parts of Canada.

Linking Generations – Also open to all Salisbury students, this program allows students from Salisbury to visit and form valuable relationships with seniors in the surrounding community (e.g. The Sherwood Care Center). These activities may also be used to fulfill some CAS requirements.

Leadership Opportunities – IB students often take leadership roles in high school. We encourage both diploma and course students to become involved in local charitable and community service work, both as part of CAS and as part of the development of international-mindedness and in becoming responsible global citizens. IB students often participate in our SAIL program (Students Active in Leadership).

Science Olympics – Also open to all science students at Salisbury, Science Olympics allow students to get together in teams and solve problems in a highly competitive environment as teams compete regionally for medals. Our students enjoy these activities and often place very well in these competitions.



Athletics – Being an IB student does not preclude participation in sports teams at Salisbury and the community. Many of our full and partial students are excellent athletes. Students on teams develop good time management skills and benefit from the interaction with Salisbury’s excellent coaches and other staff.

Visit [salcomp.ca](http://salcomp.ca) for other exciting options available at Salisbury Composite.

### **IB at SAL – Sic Sursum ‘Sail On’**

It is our belief that students in the Salisbury IB Programme can be asked to reach for excellence and can develop good work and study skills in a supportive environment with high expectations. We are an established IB school and can help students learn to deal with academic pressure. We endeavor to provide our students with the skills and attitudes they need to be highly successful in their post-secondary experiences and beyond. More importantly, we believe that our IB students graduate as well-rounded citizens of the world. Many of our alumni have gone on to achieve in universities around the world and at home. Research has shown that the IB programme prepares students well for their future challenges, and universities recognize and reward students with IB qualifications. IB students also experience cohorts that may challenge and support their learning as never before, and IB students recognize these common experiences even after they leave our school.



## **The Future for IB students**

From the University of Alberta:

*“The IB program gives students the skills they need to succeed in university, from improved study habits, to exam-writing experience, to workload and time management. Most importantly, you’ll learn how to stick with it – and persistence pays off, in university and beyond!*

*We love IB students! We recognize your achievements in taking an academically rigorous program, and we want to see you continue your studies here. As a top-tiered, research-based institution, we provide the kind of academically focused environment in which IB students can thrive.”*

The U of A also offers scholarships especially for IB students.

## **Quotes from former Sal IB students**

*“The challenge of the IB Programme made the transition from high school to university very easy because I had the necessary tools to handle the high workload, and it meant I already had experience with some of the topics I would be learning more about in university. What I loved most about IB was being able to learn from a wide variety of disciplines.”*

Daniel Groten -- Sal Grad 2023, University of California San Diego 2<sup>nd</sup> year Computer Engineering

*“I am really glad that I was in the IB program. Not only did it give me a leg-up in my engineering, math, and biology courses, but it prepared me for the workload of a university student, especially when it came to writing detailed lab reports. The university course credit that I obtained by writing the IB exams saved me some money and allowed me to take a reduced course load in my first year. However, the most valuable aspect of the IB program was the fact that students in my high school classes cared about learning as much as I did, and small class sizes meant my teachers got to know us and taught to our interests.”*

Aliya Lakhani -- Sal Grad 2010, University of Alberta Biomedical Engineering Class of 2016 and President – Engineers Without Borders (Edmonton)

# 10 Reasons



why the IB Diploma Programme (DP) is ideal preparation for university

1



## It increases academic opportunity

Research\* shows that DP graduates are much more likely to be enrolled at top higher education institutions than entrants holding other qualifications.

2



## IB students care about more than just results

Through creativity, action, service (CAS) you learn outside the classroom and develop emotionally and ethically as well as intellectually.

3



## It encourages you to become a confident and independent learner

For example, the extended essay requires independent research through an in-depth study.

6



## The IB encourages critical thinking

Learn how to analyse and evaluate issues, generate ideas and consider new perspectives.

5



## Graduates are globally minded

Language classes encourage an international mindset, key for increasingly globalized societies.

4



## It's an international qualification

The DP is recognized globally by universities and employers.

7



## DP students have proven time management skills

Take good study habits and strong time management to further education and the working world.

9



## Subjects are not taught in isolation

Theory of knowledge (TOK) classes encourage you to make connections between subjects.

10



## It encourages breadth and depth of learning

You are able to choose courses from six subject groups and study subjects at different levels.

8



## It assesses more than examination techniques

Learn to understand, not just memorize facts or topics and prepare for exams.



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\*Based on IB research - [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research)

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