



**INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
BUDAPEST**

Smart Education.
Smart Life.

2019

ISB High School

Course Offerings and Subject Selection



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Dear Parents and Students,

You have arrived at a transitional point in a student's learning journey: a point at which decisions are called for.

These are decisions that should reflect the growing sense that students have developed of themselves as learners, specifically, and as people, more generally. I invite you please to take the time to look through this booklet together. Our aim in providing the information it contains is to help students to make the best choices to suit their interests, aptitudes and long-term educational objectives. You are not making any terminal decisions here - in other words, the consequences of these decisions are not final or definitive - but it is worth taking the time to think seriously about the direction to which some choices might lead.

The International School of Budapest offers a rich selection of challenging and interesting courses, primarily within two curricular frameworks, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education from Cambridge (IGCSE – In Grades 9 & 10) and the International Baccalaureate Program (IBDP – In Grades 11 & 12). In grades 9 and 10, we encourage students to capitalize on the growth mindset they have developed in the former years. They can do this by tackling, head on, the challenges they face at school, which are likely to be a combination of the academic, the social and the personal, both in terms of self-growth and self-determination. Approached in the right spirit, these are challenges that enable students to demonstrate the value of effort, persistence and resilience in the face of setbacks. As we know, stretching oneself out of everyday comfort zones leads to further growth, development and, ultimately, success and the confidence to repeat the process, in the IB Diploma Program and beyond.

Many of the courses run for two years, and students should select wisely as they are making a two-year commitment, and as such it is rarely possible to change courses after selection.

The selection of courses requires serious and careful consideration. It is important, that students make wise course selections in consultation with teachers, parents, IB/IGCSE coordinator and counselors in order to develop a program that will meet the individual student's personal objectives and the student's future and vocational plans, make maximum use of the educational opportunities available, and complete approved courses of study.

For the 2019 - 2021 IGCSE program, we offer a personalized course of study. Students will follow IGCSE courses, plus non-examined programs that provide opportunities for elective courses, physical education and curriculum consolidation. Please note, that NOT all the courses listed in this booklet will be offered. In a few cases, the offering of a course may depend on such factors as student demand, timetable constraints, and/or the availability of staff.

Once you've been through this information, please feel free to contact me or the appropriate teacher with any additional questions you may have.

Yours faithfully,

[Vera Homolya](#)

Vice Principal of High School

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Cambridge IGCSE

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international curriculum for 14-16 year olds, leading to globally recognized and valued Cambridge IGCSE qualifications. Cambridge IGCSE is taken in over 100 countries worldwide and is widely accepted by higher education institutions and employers around the world as evidence of academic ability.

Schools worldwide have helped develop Cambridge IGCSE, which provides excellent preparation for the IB Diploma Program, A/AS Levels and U.S. AP exams, as well as other progression routes. The IGCSE program incorporates the best in international education for learners at this level. It develops in line with changing needs, and is regularly updated and extended.

Cambridge IGCSE encourages learner-centered and enquiry-based approaches to learning. It develops learners' skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving, giving learners excellent preparation for the next stage in their education. Schools can build a core curriculum, extend it to suit their learners and introduce cross-curricular perspectives. Clearly defined learning outcomes and content mean Cambridge IGCSE is compatible with other curricula and is internationally relevant and sensitive to different needs and cultures.

Cambridge IGCSE develops learner knowledge, understanding and skills in:

- Subject content
- Applying knowledge and understanding to familiar and new situations
- Intellectual enquiry
- Flexibility and responsiveness to change
- Working and communicating in English
- Influencing outcomes
- Cultural awareness

To learn more, visit the Cambridge IGCSE Website.: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/>

Course of Study

In grades 9 and 10 the majority of subjects a student takes, follow the IGCSE curriculum and will be studied for two years. Below is a table that outlines what constitutes a Course of Study in grades 9 and 10. Students are encouraged to look at the courses they desire to take in grades 11 and 12 in order to fulfil the prerequisites that need to be covered in grades 9 and 10.

Students are required to take one course in each subject area listed below during each grade level. Course offerings are listed in brackets.

Subject area (<i>Course offerings</i>)	
English (<i>English as First Language, English as Second Language</i>)	World Languages (<i>Spanish, German, EAL</i>)
Mathematics	Fine Arts (<i>Music, Art</i>)
Science (<i>Combined Science, Coordinated Science – double award, Environmental Sciences</i>)	Physical Education
Individuals and Societies (<i>History, Geography, ICT</i>)	Hungarian Language (<i>Hungarian Language and Literature, Hungarian as a Foreign Language</i>)

IGCSE exams are graded from A* to G, with U stated as “Ungraded”. Students are required to obtain minimum grade C for 5 core subjects in order to proceed to the next advanced level or further education.

To take account of differing abilities, there is a choice between Core and Extended curriculum papers in most subjects. This allows teachers to decide on the most appropriate level of papers for their students.

The Core curriculum in each subject is within the ability range of a large majority of students. It provides a full overview of the subject and is targeted at students expected to achieve grades C to G.

The Extended curriculum, which comprises the Core curriculum and the Supplement, has been designed for the more academically able and leads naturally into higher education or professional training. It is targeted at those expected to achieve grades A* to E. The Supplement describes the extra topics or depth which must be added to the Core to produce the Extended curriculum.

Students need not enter for the same level of curriculum in all subjects.

Target	Grades Available
Core Curriculum	C D E F G
Extended Curriculum	A* A B C D E

The overlap of three grades (C, D and E) is designed to accommodate students who perform either better or worse than their teachers expect. Students who fail to meet the minimum satisfactory standard for either the Core curriculum (Grade G) or the Extended curriculum (Grade E) will be Ungraded (U)

Successful Completion of Course of Study

For successful completion of each course, students must:

- Achieve a passing grade or standard for each semester in the course
- Attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled classes each semester

In exceptional circumstances, and in order to support a student, the Principal or the High School Vice Principal may approve a modified course of study in recognition of individual student needs.

External Examination Programs

IGCSE – International General Certificate of Secondary Education

The International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) is one of the most recognized qualifications around the world. ISB has adopted the IGCSE courses offered by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE: www.cie.org.uk) a subsidiary of Cambridge University. IGCSE courses are renowned for developing vital educational skills including recall of knowledge, oral skills, problem solving, initiative, teamwork and investigative skills. The resulting qualification provides an excellent foundation for higher-level courses, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program.

ICE – International Certificate of Education

The ICE is the Group Award of the IGCSE and requires the study of subjects drawn from the five different IGCSE subject groups. By meeting the criteria for the ICE, a student will have demonstrated achievement in a broad and balanced curriculum. For more information on ICE, visit the website.

International Baccalaureate

The IBDP is a comprehensive and challenging pre-university course of study that demands the best from motivated students and teachers. The program culminates in externally assessed examinations and is widely recognized for its high academic standards.

The two-year curriculum is rigorous and intellectually coherent, encouraging critical thinking through the study of a wide range of subjects in the traditional academic disciplines while encouraging an international perspective.

Beyond completing high-level courses and examinations, DP students are also required to engage in community service, individual research, and an inquiry into the nature of knowledge.

The two-year course of study leads to final examinations in six subject areas and a qualification widely recognized by the world's leading colleges and universities



Course of Study

The curriculum is made up of the DP core and six subject groups.

Made up of the three required components, the DP core aims to broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills.

The three core elements are:

Theory of knowledge, in which students reflect on the nature of knowledge and on how we know what we claim to know.

The extended essay, which is an independent, self-directed piece of research, finishing with a 4,000-word paper.

Creativity, activity, service, in which students complete a project related to those three concepts.

The six subject groups are:

I. Studies in language and literature
II. Language acquisition
III. Individuals and societies
IV. Sciences
V. Mathematics
VI. The arts

There are different courses within each subject group.

Students choose courses from each subject group.

Students may opt to study an additional sciences, individuals and societies, or languages course, instead of a course in the arts.

Students will take some subjects at higher level (HL) and some at standard level (SL). HL and SL courses differ in scope but are measured according to the same grade descriptors, with students expected to demonstrate a greater body of knowledge, understanding and skills at higher level.

Each student takes at least three (but not more than four) subjects at higher level, and the remaining at standard level.

Standard level subjects take up 150 teaching hours. Higher level comprises 240 teaching hours.

Successful Completion of Course of Study

For successful completion of each course, students must:

- Achieve a passing grade or standard for each semester in the course
- Attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled classes each semester

In exceptional circumstances, and in order to support a student, the Principal or the High School Vice Principal may approve a modified course of study in recognition of individual student needs.

External Examination Program

Student work is assessed both internally and externally. Internal assessments form about 20% of the final mark. In each IB examination, the student is graded on a scale of 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum). The award of the diploma requires students to meet defined standards and conditions. These include a minimum total of 24 points and the satisfactory completion of three compulsory core components: 1) Theory of Knowledge (TOK); 2) extended essay; and 3) creativity, action, service (CAS). Thus, the program has the strengths of a traditional and broad curriculum, augmented by the three requirements shown at the center of the program model above.

Worldwide, approximately 80% of students are awarded the diploma. A student who does not satisfy the requirements of the full Diploma Program, or who has elected to take fewer than six subjects, is awarded a certificate for the examinations completed.

Prior to enrolling in the IB Program, students are issued an International Baccalaureate Handbook detailing all the necessary information related to obtaining the IB Diploma at ISB. Throughout the entire two-year program, the IB Coordinator provides information, advice, resources and support to students and parents.

Detailed information about all aspects of the IB Diploma Program is available on the website of the International Baccalaureate Organization: www.ibo.org

IB Diploma Pathways at ISB

ISB encourages students to think very carefully about the manner in which they access the IB Diploma Program. There are two possible pathways available. Considerations should be made in consultation with parents, teachers, counselors and the IB Diploma Coordinator. The pathways offered are:

1. Full IB Diploma – Students select a combination of 3 Higher Level and 3 Standard Level IB Diploma courses that meet the combination requirements, and also, complete the entire IB Diploma Core over two years. A bilingual diploma can also be awarded to students who meet the requirements.
2. IB Courses – Students select IB Diploma courses that meet ISB Course of Study requirements. Students may take a maximum of 6 IB Diploma courses, and as part of those 6, a maximum of 3 at the Higher Level, and must complete two years of Creativity, Action & Service and one year of Theory of Knowledge from the IB Diploma Core.

Choosing Subjects in the Diploma Program

Students choose courses from the following subject groups:

- studies in language and literature;
- language acquisition;
- individuals and societies;
- sciences;
- mathematics;
- and the arts.

Students may opt to study an additional sciences, individuals and societies, or languages course, instead of a course in the arts. Students will take some subjects at higher level (HL) and some at standard level (SL). HL and SL courses differ in scope but are measured according to the same grade descriptors, with students expected to demonstrate a greater body of knowledge, understanding and skills at higher level.

Each student takes at least three (but not more than four) subjects at higher level, and the remaining at standard level. Standard level subjects take up 150 teaching hours. Higher level comprises 240 teaching hours.

Core

The Core of the IB Diploma Program consists of three components. Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a course on critical thinking - students inquire into the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construction. The Extended Essay (EE) is a 4,000-word, original research essay completed by the student with a faculty supervisor over Grades 11 and 12. Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) involves students in a range of experiences alongside their academic studies throughout the IB Diploma Program. The three core elements help the student face the challenges of the future with an open mind and a caring, balanced and reflective approach.

Group 1—Studies in Language and Literature

The Group 1 Language program offers students the opportunity to study language and/or literature in the first language of the student or the language in which the student is most competent. This will normally be the language of the environment to which the student has been exposed from an early age, or for an extended period. All ISB students can take English as their Group 1 language. Students who also study Hungarian Language A or a School Supported Self-Taught Language A are eligible for the IB Bilingual Diploma.

ISB offers:

- IB English A: language and literature (SL, HL)
- IB Hungarian A: language and literature (SL)
- IB Chinese A: language and literature (SL, HL)

Group 2-Language Acquisition

The Group 2 Language program offers two levels of language learning. Language B is a foreign language course designed for students with previous experience of the language. It may be studied at either higher level or standard level. The focus of the course is on language acquisition and development in the primary language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Language Ab Initio provides an opportunity for students to further their linguistic skills by taking-up a second foreign language, or for students to learn a foreign language for the first time. Students at ISB will normally begin their Ab Initio language program in Grade 9 and take four years to complete it.

ISB offers:

- IB English B (SL, HL)
- IB Spanish B (SL, HL)
- IB Spanish Ab Initio (SL)

Group 3—Individuals and Societies

The Group 3 courses study the nature of humans as individuals and as members of social groups. In a larger sense, the character of human culture itself is investigated to develop the students understanding of society both from the microcosmic and macrocosmic viewpoints.

ISB offers:

- IB Geography (SL, HL)
- IB Psychology (SL, HL)

Group 4-Sciences

Through studying any of the Group 4 subjects, students should become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. While the "scientific method" may take on a wide variety of forms, it is the emphasis on a practical approach through experimental work that distinguishes Group 4 subjects from other disciplines and characterizes each of the subjects within Group 4.

ISB offers:

- IB Biology (SL, HL)
- IB Computer Science (SL, HL)
- IB Physics (SL, HL)
- IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science (SL)

Group 5 - Mathematics

The Group 5 courses aim to develop both an understanding of mathematics as a discipline and as an attitude that encourages practical use of math in higher education or in a career. Content includes algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus.

ISB offers:

- IB Mathematics: applications and interpretation (SL, HL)

Group 6-The Arts

The courses in Group 6 are taken from the world of fine arts. They require students to perform, compose and create in theatre, music and art. The aim is for students to experience and develop an appreciation and proficiency in these areas.

ISB offers:

- IB Music (SL)
- IB Visual Arts (SL, HL)

SCHOOL SUPPORTED SELF-TAUGHT (SS S-T) LANGUAGE A

AVAILABLE TO FULL IB DIPLOMA STUDENTS ONLY

Where a student's mother tongue is not taught as a Language A class at ISB, the IB provides an opportunity for students to continue to develop oral and writing skills in their mother tongue while studying in English. IB offers this school supported self-taught option in over 40 languages for Language A Literature at Standard Level only.

At ISB, we are offering this option to all full Diploma students whose mother tongue is not provided in a taught class.

Full Diploma students who elect to take a school-supported self-taught language A:

- Must enroll in a Group 1 IB English language course
- May elect to take this option in addition to their Group 2 Language as an alternative to a Group 6 subject
- May elect to take this option instead of a Group 2 Language
- Will be supervised in their studies by the ISB Self-Taught Languages Coordinator
- Must find a tutor in the mother tongue who is approved by the school but must not be a family member

BILINGUAL DIPLOMA

A bilingual IB Diploma will be awarded to students who complete two Group 1 Languages and score a Level 3 or higher in both in the final IB assessments.

ONLINE COURSES

For students who would like to study a course that is not offered at ISB, the IB Organization also offers online courses. For more information about online courses visit

<https://pamojaeducation.com>

EAL

In grades 9 and 10 we offer additional English language support for students whose language skills do not meet the requirement. Students who are conditionally accepted to our school are required to participate on EAL lessons 4 or 8 times a week. It is strongly suggested that EAL students also work with an external tutor so by the end of grade 10 their level of English reaches the requirements of IB.

PreIB YEAR

The pre-IB year at ISB is designed to prepare students for the challenging two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the program by being exposed to the teaching and learning style of the IB.

The pre-IB year is adapted for the needs of English Language Learners who still require support in English as an Additional Language (EAL). It also benefits the following students:

- Students who are not fluent in English
- Students who joined from Hungarian schools
- Students who are still lacking the academic abilities to pass the IB Diploma and require three rather than two years of preparation.

The aim of the pre-IB curriculum is to achieve fluency in English that is required for entry into the IB Diploma Program. It also exposes the students to the curriculum style of the IB.

Completing the Pre-IB year is no guarantee that students will be accepted into the IB Diploma Program. Each situation will be assessed on an individual case-by-case basis and the final decision will be made by the IB team in consultation with the EAL coordinator.