

# The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Carey



**Carey**  
Baptist Grammar School



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## What is the IB?

Founded in the 1960s, the International Baccalaureate Organisation evolved from an international effort by schools to establish a common curriculum and university entry credential for geographically-mobile students.

The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging, rigorous and balanced programme of education offered in the final two years of secondary education. It has wide acceptance and is held in high esteem throughout the world. It is designed to:

- prepare students for tertiary studies
- provide students with a balanced education
- foster critical thinking skills
- encourage cultural understanding and tolerance
- enable students to move between countries and cultures without affecting their education
- develop international awareness and broadened perspectives.

The IB Diploma has become a symbol of academic integrity and intellectual promise. A student who is awarded the IB Diploma has demonstrated a strong commitment to learning, both in terms

of the mastery of the subject content and in the development of the skills and discipline necessary for success in a competitive world.

In 2019, there are over 5000 schools offering the Diploma Programme in over 150 countries in the world. Carey has been offering it since 1998.

### 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 organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

The 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'.

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In Year 11 and 12, I wanted to be able to study a wide range of subjects. The IB program best enabled me to do so whilst also allowing me to continue my co-curricular activities. I enjoyed the CAS aspect of the diploma the most, as it encouraged me to engage with critical global issues in ways I had not done prior. Although the IB is a challenging course, it pushed me to become a better student, and even a better person.

*Naimisha*

## How is the IB course structured?

To be awarded an IB Diploma, students are required to:

- study six subjects, one from each of the subject groups (there is more information about these on page 6);
- complete at least three subjects at Higher Level (HL) and the remainder at Standard Level (SL) and
- satisfactorily complete Theory of Knowledge (ToK), Extended Essay (EE) and Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) components (there is more information about these on page 7).

The program structure means that students are able to study some subjects

in depth and others more broadly.

The links between different elements of the program can best be illustrated by the IB curriculum model below, a circle that shows the relationships between the different subjects and the Diploma's other unique features.

The six academic subject areas surround a core of considered approaches to learning and teaching; the ToK, CAS and EE components that foster community engagement, creativity and inquiry; and the Learner Profile.



# The IB Learner Profile

The IB Diploma Programme is informed by the values described in the learner profile attributes. These represent a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond intellectual development and academic success. The aim is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognising their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better, more peaceful world. IB learners strive to be:

## Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives — intellectual, physical, and emotional — to achieve wellbeing for ourselves and others. We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

## Caring

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

## Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

## 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.



One of the reasons I chose the IB was because it requires you to complete subjects from all areas of academia. The variety of subjects that the IB structure requires you to undertake really suited my interests, and allowed me to keep my options open when I was unsure what career path I wanted to follow in the future. The IB structure has bolstered my chances of getting a high ATAR, which has always been a goal of mine. If students are determined and committed to getting the most out of IB, I believe anyone can complete the IB program well.

*Emmy*

**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.

**Open-minded**

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

**Principled**

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

**Reflective**

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

**Risk-takers**

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and co-operatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

**Thinkers**

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.



I chose to study the IB because it gave me the opportunity to explore subjects I had an interest in, even if I was relatively unfamiliar with those subjects. Selecting my subjects was daunting initially but the IB program has exposed me to several new areas of knowledge which I am grateful for. My advice to students choosing the IB would be to choose whatever you are passionate about and be passionate about whatever you choose. IB is a great opportunity to explore the unknown, widen your vision, and be well prepared for further education.

*Sunny*

## What subjects does Carey offer?\*

Group 1 Language A (First Language)	
Chinese Lit	English Language and Lit

Group 2 Language B (Second Language)	
Chinese (Mandarin)	English
French	German*
Indonesian	Spanish
Spanish ( <i>ab initio</i> )#	

Group 3 Individuals and Society	
Business Management	Economics
History	Philosophy
Psychology	

Group 4 Experimental Sciences	
Biology	Chemistry
Physics	

Group 5 Mathematics	
Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Standard Level	Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches Higher Level
Mathematics: Applications and Interpretations Standard Level	

Group 6 The Arts and Options	
Music	Theatre
Visual Arts	Another subject from Groups 2, 3, or 4

Core	
Extended Essay	Theory of Knowledge
Creativity, Activity and Service	

# *Ab initio* language subjects are for students who are studying that language for the first time.

\* German will be discontinued with final years of enrolment as follows: Year 11 (2020), Year 12 (2021).



The IB was the right choice for me because it not only offers a variety of subject areas, but other elements such as CAS hours, ToK and EE writing. These other elements have exposed me to an interesting school life and prepared me well for university life. I have greatly enjoyed the engaging and rewarding practical CAS activities. My advice to students considering undertaking the IB is to be organised – time management is crucial.

*Vivian*

# The IB Diploma core

## What is Creativity, Action and Service?

Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) is a fundamental part of the Diploma, emphasising the importance of life outside the world of study. Participation in theatre and musical productions, sports and community service activities allow you to share your special talents while developing social awareness and the ability to work co-operatively with others.

## What is an Extended Essay?

The Extended Essay (EE) offers the opportunity to investigate a topic of special interest. The topic must arise from one of the six subjects studied, and is undertaken under the supervision of an appropriate mentor (usually a Carey staff member who teaches in that area). The task requires you to conduct original research on the chosen topic. The final essay will be around 4,000 words and be presented as a formal academic paper.

## What is Theory of Knowledge?

In Theory of Knowledge (ToK), students explore the relationships between the subjects studied and examine some of the complications associated with knowledge in each subject. For example, students may explore the nature of 'scientific method' and why we believe it is reliable. Students might examine the degree to which it is possible for historians to give a reliable account of what actually happened in the past and why historians can sometimes disagree.

A variety of broader issues that are relevant to all subject areas and our attainment of knowledge will be considered. This will include exploring the concept of 'truth'; examining how we are influenced by the media and academic or 'expert' discourse; and looking at the many different ways that people develop, justify and maintain their beliefs and values.



Advice I received from teachers, older students and other members of my close community helped me decide to study the IB. The broad range of subjects, holistic model and equal weighting across all subjects the IB offers was well-suited to my strengths and capabilities. I've also loved being able to have thoughtful, in-depth and fascinating conversation with like-minded students as well as appreciating opposing views and considering many issues, frequently of global significance. The IB has pushed me to be clear and accurate in expressing myself.

*Hamish*

## How is the IB Diploma assessed?

The IB Diploma assesses student work as a direct evidence of achievement against the stated criteria and set standards of the courses, not by each student's position in the overall rank order.

Diploma assessment procedures measure the extent to which students have mastered basic skills such as retaining knowledge or understanding key concepts but also advanced academic skills such as analysing and presenting information, evaluating and constructing arguments and solving problems creatively.

In addition to academic skills, Diploma assessment encourages an international outlook and intercultural skills, wherever appropriate.

The IB uses both external and internal assessment. Diploma examinations at the end of the two years form the basis of the external assessment for most courses and count for 70, 75 or 80% of the final mark. They include essays, structured problems, short-response questions, data-response questions, text response

questions, case-study questions and multiple-choice questions.

Internal assessment (20, 25 or 30% of the final mark) is teacher assessment moderated by the IB and is also used for most courses. This includes oral work, fieldwork, laboratory work, investigations and artistic performances.

In Visual Arts and Theatre there is no final examination but a folio of work is externally assessed.

To be awarded the Diploma, you must attain at least 24 points out of a maximum 45 across all of your subjects. Each of the six subjects are scored from 1 (minimum) to 7 (maximum).

Collectively up to three additional points are awarded for the combined Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge. The CAS component must be completed to a satisfactory standard.

Three subjects are studied at Higher Level (HL) and three at Standard Level (SL).



The IB is a two-year journey that pushes you outside your comfort zone and provides you with the possibility to study abroad. I have enjoyed being able to achieve standards I did not think were possible for me and exceed my own expectations. One of the reasons I love the IB program is because it has shown and taught me that no subject stands alone – for example, skills I have developed in Psychology allow me to read pieces of literature more analytically, which I can then apply to my understanding of mathematics

*Nathan*

## Is the IB Diploma right for me?

Students who are curious, enjoy being challenged, love to make connections between subjects and are interested in being open-minded global citizens should consider the IB. The Diploma is also a good choice for students who wish to study at a university, in Australia or overseas, and who are interested in a comprehensive curriculum that is recognised for both depth and breadth in academic studies and its activities that encourage a sense of adventure, self-discovery and social responsibility.

It is also important to consider that even though some assessed tasks are completed throughout the two years of the IB program, a percentage of your mark in many IB subjects is made up from one examination session at the end of Year 12.

The IB Diploma is different because it:

- encourages students to think critically
- 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
- allows students to excel in traditional academic subjects.

The IB Diploma Programme helps students:

- think independently and drive their own learning
- take part in programmes of education that can lead them to some of the highest ranking universities around the world
- become more culturally aware, through the development of a second language
- be able to engage with people in an increasingly globalised, rapidly changing world
- develop research skills proven to help them in higher education
- have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge
- flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.



I chose the IB as I wanted to undertake a holistic course accommodating my broad range of interests. I enjoy languages, sciences and humanities and through the IB I was able to engage with these disciplines on a deep level. Additionally, the CAS program facilitated my various co-curricular involvements and allowed me to reflect on my hobbies and interests within the context of my education. The IB has drastically changed me as student as I have been encouraged to engage with my subject content as opposed to just consuming it. I am routinely encouraged to question and critically analyse ideas within my areas of study.

*Andrea*

## How is the IB Diploma regarded by universities?

IB Diploma graduates gain admission to universities throughout the world. These include prominent institutions in the USA and Europe such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Heidelberg and the Sorbonne.

In Australia, the Australian Conference of Tertiary Admissions Centres (ACTAC) assigns Victorian IB students a notional Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) on the basis of their Diploma results. University faculties have well-defined equivalent IB prerequisites for

their courses (see the Careers Counsellors for further details). Notional tables, showing the conversion of IB scores into ATAR are released early in each academic year.

The Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC) has defined a separate application category for Victorian IB applicants, with closing dates for change of preferences which suit the release of IB results in early January (for 2019 students) and in December for students 2020 onwards.



The IB was a clear choice for me as it is a program that teaches students both academic and life skills. I loved the idea of studying a wide variety of subjects that allowed me to branch out into new areas, with the additional challenge of CAS, ToK and my EE. I have loved the support from my peers and teachers within the IB program at Carey. I have learnt so much about myself and had the chance to reflect in so many ways.

*Sophie*

International students studying the IB apply for university in Australia through VTAC with clearly defined prerequisites and guaranteed IB scores for entrance.

IB scores are converted to their notional Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) value. The 2019 conversions can be seen in this table:

IB Score	Notional ATAR
45	99.95
44	99.85
43	99.60
42	99.25
41	98.70
40	98.05
39	97.35
38	96.45
37	95.45
36	93.95
35	92.80
34	91.40
33	89.90
32	88.05
31	86.25
30	83.70
29	81.25
28	79.25
27	76.70
26	73.85
25	71.00
24	68.45

## Where do I find more information?

For more information about the IB Diploma at Carey, see: [pathways.carey.com.au](https://pathways.carey.com.au) or email: [sscurriculum@carey.com.au](mailto:sscurriculum@carey.com.au)

The Carey Pathways site includes more information about the IB Diploma curriculum and an overview of the way the IB Diploma Programme is assessed.

For more detailed information about the IB Diploma and Organisation visit:

[www.ibo.org](https://www.ibo.org)

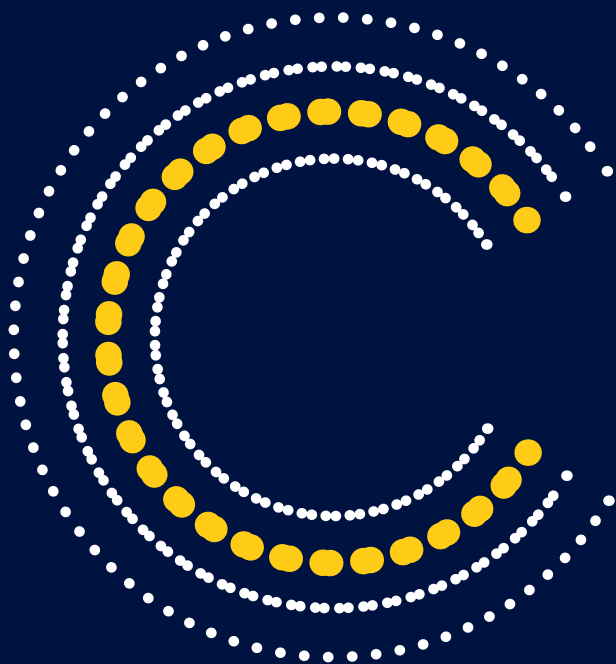
To read about research that explores the benefits of the IB, including how it helps to develop time management and independent study skills that are important for university success, please visit:

[www.ibo.org/research](https://www.ibo.org/research)



I decided to undertake the IB program at Carey because of the broadness of the course. I liked the way the subjects were grouped, making you choose one subject from each area, including humanities, science, maths, languages and the arts. I also liked the idea of incorporating creativity, activity and service (CAS) into education. The IB program is a two-year course, so you have a great opportunity to develop your skills and abilities in the first year, and then further apply them to your studies in Year 12.

*Sophie*





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