

IB Diploma Programme

Subject Options Guide

2024-2025



WELCOME TO THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME AT COLLEGIO SAN CARLO

Since 2017, Collegio San Carlo (CSC) has offered the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP), an academically rigorous and challenging programme that is recognised in most countries of the world as a university entrance qualification. Participation in this programme demands hard work, a mature attitude and self-discipline. An application to join this programme should be an informed decision which is made only after students and their families have a thorough understanding of both the IB Diploma Programme and the school context at CSC.

This Subject Options Guide aims to give a general overview of the IB Diploma Programme and a more specific description of the courses that San Carlo may offer - depending on interest - in the 2023-2024 academic year. Lastly, it provides some guidance on how to select appropriate subjects. It is very important students make subject choices that are well researched and that suit their future educational aspirations. Careful consideration of the courses and advance planning will ensure the best programme of study to help IB students at San Carlo reach their academic and personal goals.

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME: AN OVERVIEW

WHAT IS THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

The IB Diploma Programme is an academically challenging and balanced programme of education that prepares students aged 16 to 19 for success at university and in life beyond. It is designed to address the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of students. The programme has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

The curriculum

There are six subject groups and students must study a subject from each one. DP courses can be taken at higher level (HL) or standard level (SL). At least three, and not more than four, are taken at HL, while the remaining courses are taken at SL. SL courses ensure students are exposed to a range of disciplines and HL courses allow students to spend more time with subjects they are more interested in by exploring options in addition to the SL core curriculum. In this sense, all DP courses, regardless of whether they are SL or HL, are integral to the programme.

In addition to disciplinary and interdisciplinary study, the DP features three core elements that broaden students' educational experience and challenge them to apply their knowledge and skills. Together, these are known as the Diploma Programme Core.

The Diploma Programme Core

- **The Extended Essay (EE)** requires students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the DP subjects they are studying.
- **Theory of knowledge (TOK)** develops a coherent approach to learning that unifies the academic disciplines. In this course on critical thinking, students inquire into the nature of knowing and deepen their understanding of knowledge as a human construction.
- **Creativity, activity, service (CAS)** emphasises helping students to develop their own identities in accordance with the ethical principles embodied in the IB Mission Statement and the IB Learner Profile. CAS complements a challenging academic programme in a holistic way, providing opportunities for self-determination, collaboration, accomplishment and enjoyment. It involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies throughout the DP. The three strands of CAS are creativity (exploring and extending ideas leading to an original or interpretive product or performance), activity (physical exertion contributing to a healthy lifestyle) and service (collaborative and reciprocal engagement with the community in response to an authentic need).

WHAT IS THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

Assessment

All DP students take written examinations at the end of the two-year programme, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external moderators or sent directly to external examiners. The grades awarded for each course range from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest). Students can also be awarded up to three additional points for their combined results on TOK and the EE. The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole programme and to satisfactory participation in the CAS requirement. The highest total that a DP student can be awarded is 45 points. Assessment is criterion-related, which means student performance is measured against specified assessment criteria based on the aims and objectives of each subject's curriculum, rather than the performance of other students taking the same examinations.

WHAT IS THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

The IB Diploma Programme Curriculum Model


The following Model indicates the general overview of the programme and demonstrates its student centred focus. International-mindedness is an important attribute which is developed in the delivery of each curricular area.



WHAT IS THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME?

The IB Learner Profile

The IB Learner Profile is central to teaching and learning in the Diploma Programme at Collegio San Carlo. Students are exposed to the Learner Profile in a variety of situations and are encouraged to emulate attributes of the Profile as they conduct their work in the DP.




IB learner profile

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:

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>RISK-TAKERS We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>BALANCED We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.

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IB DP SUBJECTS AT COLLEGIO SAN CARLO

OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT CHOICE 2024-2025

IB Subject Group	Subjects offered at Collegio San Carlo
Group 1	English Language and Literature HL/SL Italian Literature HL/SL
Group 2	French B HL/SL English B HL/SL Italian B HL/SL Spanish B HL/SL Other Language B or <i>ab initio</i> courses may be offered (with the exception of English if there is sufficient demand).
Group 3	Economics HL/SL History HL/SL Psychology (online) HL/SL
Group 4	Biology HL/SL Chemistry HL/SL Physics HL/SL Computer Science HL/SL
Group 5	Mathematics Standard Level Mathematics Higher Level
Group 6	<i>Second subject from groups 2, 3 or 4 or a subject offered online.</i>

Please note: The inclusion of a subject does not guarantee that it will be offered or will necessarily fit into the student's schedule. The scheduling of a course is dependent on a minimum number of students wishing to enroll in a course and the most effective utilisation of teachers in particular subject areas and courses.

You will find information about each of the subjects in the links on the following pages. If you have further questions, please contact the IB Diploma co-ordinator (hallihan@collegiosancarlo.it) who will be happy to assist.

IB DP SUBJECTS AT COLLEGIO SAN CARLO

The following links give information about each subject.

Group 1:

Language A: Literature SL/HL (Italian)

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/curriculum.brief-languagea.literature-eng.pdf>

Language A: Language and Literature SL/HL (English)

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/curriculum.brief-languagea.language.and.literature-eng.pdf>

Group 2:

Language B: SL/HL (English, French, Spanish)

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/lang-b-2018-en.pdf>

Language *ab initio* (Italian, Spanish)

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/lang-ab-initio-2018-en.pdf>

Group 3:

Economics SL

<https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/programmes/dp/pdfs/sl-economics-en.pdf>

Economics HL

<https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/programmes/dp/pdfs/hl-economics-en.pdf>

History SL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/history-sl-2016-english-final-web-updated.pdf>

History HL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/history-hl-2016-english-final-web-updated.pdf>

Psychology SL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/psychology-sl-hl-2019-en.pdf>

Psychology HL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/psychology-sl-hl-2019-en.pdf>

Group 4:

Biology SL & HL

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/recognition/pdfs/dp_sciences_biology_subject-

[brief_jan_2022_e.pdf](#)

Chemistry SL & HL

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/recognition/pdfs/dp_sciences_chemistry_subject-brief_jan_2022_e.pdf

Physics SL & HL

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/recognition/pdfs/dp_sciences_physics_subject-brief_jan_2022_e.pdf

Computer Science SL

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/programmes/dp/pdfs/4_computersl.pdf

Computer Science HL

https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/programmes/dp/pdfs/4_computerhl.pdf

Group 5:

Mathematics Applications and Approaches SL/HL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/subject-brief-dp-math-analysis-and-approaches-en.pdf>

Mathematics Applications and Interpretation – SL is offered at CSC, not HL

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/subject-brief-dp-math-applications-and-interpretations-en.pdf>

Group 6:

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/film-sl-hl-2017-en.pdf>

Diploma Core:

Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/cas-2016-english-1st-final-web.pdf>

Extended Essay

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/5895a05412144fe890312bad52b17044/extended-essay-brief-2016-en.pdf>

Theory of Knowledge

<https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/programmes/dp/pdfs/core-tok-2022-en.pdf>

CHOOSING YOUR IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME SUBJECTS

General advice

To make the right choice of IB DP subjects, students must balance three factors:

- Academic strengths and interests
- Personal abilities and aptitudes
- The implications of your choice for higher education and future career paths

You might be tempted to choose a subject because your best friend is going to do it. Try to resist peer pressure: it may not be the best subject for you. Studying different subjects does not mean you will never see your friends.

The IB Diploma Programme is designed to give students with different linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds an excellent pathway to higher education across the globe. If you have no clear career ideas, do not worry. You will need to consider various aspects when choosing your subjects, and IB staff at Collegio San Carlo will help you make these choices. Talk to relevant teachers, IB students and graduates to learn as much as you can. Choose subjects which you find stimulating, interesting and enjoyable. If you choose subjects you are not interested in, you will find it hard to become motivated and achieve good grades.

Entry to university¹

To keep options open for university choices later, you need to be aware of the IB requirements at universities where you might want to apply. Start by investigating the general IB requirements of universities in each country under consideration. The general IB recognition policies are listed by country on the IBO website.

Country Specific Information

UK, Europe, and Canada

Many bachelor courses in the UK, Europe, and Canada require students to have studied certain subjects at an advanced level. For example, the entrance requirements for a chemistry course in one UK university might require a 6 in HL Chemistry and a 5 in HL Maths or another physical science.

Start with a general overview of what courses are required by type of course no matter which of these countries you are considering.

The Russell Group of universities in the UK explains in more detail what advanced subjects are generally needed for different university courses, as well as which subjects can give you the most options. For specific entrance requirements, google the name of the university you are interested in along with “admissions requirements” and “international baccalaureate.” Or, for UK universities, search by course and university on the UCAS website. Most universities around the world have both their general IB requirements and any specific course requirements listed on their website.

¹Adjusted from <http://www.globaluniversitychoices.com/2017/07/05/choosing-ib-subjects/>

Switzerland

Swiss universities accept the IB diploma if the student has chosen from a prescribed set of subjects and achieves certain marks.

United States

In general, US colleges and universities are less concerned about which subjects you take for the IB and pay more attention to how well you do throughout the Diploma Programme. Key exceptions occur when students apply to highly competitive universities or to study engineering or business.

The “top” universities in the US look for students taking the “most rigorous” curriculum and might not, for example, consider taking Sports Exercise and Health Science as rigorous as taking Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Some Engineering departments will expect you to have taken HL Mathematics and HL Physics or Chemistry. The most selective business schools also require very strong mathematical skills so they pay close attention to which math course you took and what grades you achieved.

Students who intend to major in science will be better prepared if they have taken Biology, Chemistry, or Physics at HL and, depending on the science, Mathematics at HL. However, since many US institutions do not require a student to declare their major until the middle or end of the second year, students generally have a fair amount of flexibility to explore different subject areas and compensate for gaps in their earlier academic preparation.

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

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