



# Abitur & International Baccalaureate

Internationales Lernen im Dual Diploma Programme am ESG

## The International Baccalaureate

**In 2014 the ESG officially became an IB world school and has offered its students the renowned IB programme.**

Elite universities worldwide – from the MIT in Massachusetts to the Universities of Singapore and Cambridge – recognize the IB diploma as an excellent preparation for post-secondary study. Large international companies in Germany also value the in-depth knowledge, the open-mindedness and independence of graduates certified by the IB. The high level of soft skills and volunteer experience, which students acquire in the course “Creativity, Activity, Service“(CAS), are assets in interviews.

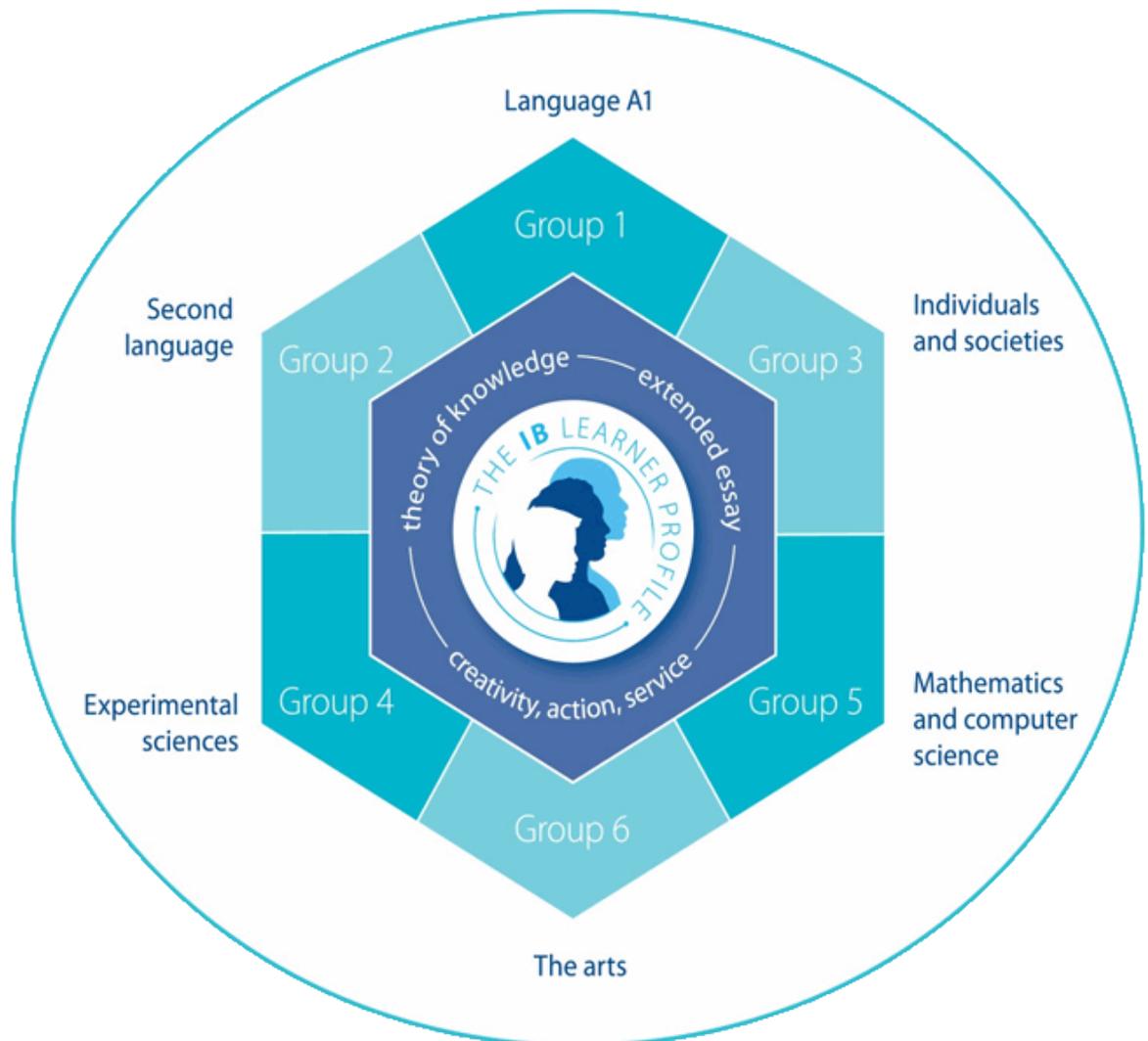
The IB diploma is an academically demanding curriculum that is taught and assessed in accordance with uniform standards and guidelines worldwide, and which guarantees comparability of results on an international level. All classes, with the exception of the languages, are taught in English, which is why the IB diploma is often recognized as an equivalent to English certificates such as TOEFL, IELTS or the Cambridge Certificate.

## Subject choices

For the two-year programme IB diploma candidates must meet assessment requirements in six subjects from different groups, similar to the German Abitur, as well as a core curriculum. All candidates worldwide study their mother tongue as a first subject (generally German at the ESG) and a second language as their second subject (generally English at the ESG). Additionally, students choose a class from the social sciences (history or geography), one from the natural sciences (biology or chemistry), and mathematics. For the final subject, at the ESG, students may either choose music or Spanish or any subject from groups 1-5 not yet chosen.

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There are two academic levels, Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL), and students choose three subjects at each level. Unlike the German curriculum, the IB focuses on the methodology of scientific work, doing lab reports in the natural sciences, researching for a historical investigation, doing fieldwork in geography or a mathematical exploration. Due to these scientific approaches many former IB candidates felt well prepared for their studies of the natural sciences, such as chemistry or medical studies at university.

The aim of the IB programme is “to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect” (IBO). At the heart of the IB curriculum are three IB specific challenges which the IB candidates have to meet in addition to the actual subjects: the course



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“theory of knowledge” (TOK), an extended essay and “Creativity, Action and Service” (CAS).

### THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

A core element of the IB programme is the course theory of knowledge (TOK), which aims to make students aware of the interpretative nature of knowledge, including personal ideological bias. IB diploma candidates will come to understand the validity of other cultures and their traditions and, in this manner, learn to question their own convictions and seemingly established truths. Going beyond the traditional German subject of philosophy, TOK discusses the following questions:

- What role does language play in the accumulation of knowledge?
- Why is mathematics so good at describing the world?
- How can it be that scientific knowledge changes over time?
- To what extent are the methods of the human sciences scientific?
- How does a historian assess the reliability of a source?
- Is the aesthetic quality of a work of art purely a subjective matter?
- Do moral truths exist?

### THE EXTENDED ESSAY

During their first year of the programme, IB candidates are required to write an extended essay. Content, methodology and word count (4,000 words) exceed the German *Facharbeit* and conform to the academic standards of a paper at university. In the extended essay, students explore a topic or problem in depth that is of personal interest to them.

In tutorials and workshops, students learn to identify academically relevant problems, to communicate their ideas, develop discussions and do research in major databases and catalogues.

### Developing personality through CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY, SERVICE

In addition to the academic value of the programme, the IB also focuses on students' personal growth. Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) involves IB candidates in a range of activities outside their academic environment. Taking initiative and leaving their comfort zone, both planning and reviewing their projects, students may want to coach a sports team, organize a cultural event inside or outside school, or do volunteer and community service. Students will take on responsibility and accept intellectual, physical, emotional or creative challenges for personal growth while assessing their own place in society.

During the two-year programme, IB candidates are committed to serve 150 hours of creative, athletic or social service. In their portfolio, they document and reflect on their success of reaching the following goals:



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- Discover your strengths and areas for growth
- Undertake new challenges
- Plan and initiate activities
- Work collaboratively with others
- Show perseverance and commitment
- Engage with issues of global importance
- Consider the ethical implications of your actions
- Develop new skills

For more information about the CAS Programme at the ESG, consult the CAS handbook.

## The double qualification as an international opportunity in education

All IB candidates at the ESG are required to take both the IB and the German Abitur. Choosing the subjects efficiently, only five additional hours of work per week will enable this double qualification. We recommend choosing English as an advanced course (Leistungskurs), in combination with Biology or History. Other combinations are possible, as the advanced course choices do not have to correspond to the Higher Level IB courses. The IB-coordinator will explain the options in a personal meeting.

### Example schedules

Course	IB	Abitur	Number of hours per week
English	HL	LK	5
German/World Literature	HL	GK GK	3 3 (Q1.1, Q1.2, Q2.1)
Biology	HL	LK	7
History	SL	GK	4 (Q1), 5 (Q2)
Mathematics	SL	GK	5
Spanish	SL	GK	4
Chemistry	-	GK	3
PE	-	GK	2
TOK (substitutes Religion or Philosophy)		GK	2 (Q1.1, Q1.2, Q2.1)
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>38 (Q1)/ 39 (Q2.1)/ 34(Q2.2)</b>

Course	IB	Abitur	Number of hours per week
English	HL	LK	5
German/World Literature	HL	GK GK	3 3 (Q1-Q2.1)
Chemistry	HL	LK	7(Q1.1, Q1.2,Q2.2), 6 (Q2.1)
Geography	SL	GK	4 (Q1), 5 (Q2)
Mathematics	SL	GK	5
Music	SL	GK	4
Biology	-	GK	3
PE	-	GK	2
TOK (substitutes		GK	2 (Q1- Q2.1)



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Religion or Philosophy)	-		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>38 (Q1-Q2.1)/ 34(Q2.2)</b>



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## IB Courses (Certificates)

To enhance subject-specific education or the understanding of technical terminology or to improve special skills in certain fields of study, students may decide to take only individual IB courses. Taking these IB courses, including their assessment components, together with IB diploma candidates, students can study individual subjects in small groups and thus earn IB certificates in their field(s) of interest.

The ESG offers IB certificates for the following subjects:

- History (HL or SL)
- Biology (HL or SL)
- Chemistry (HL or SL)
- Music (SL)
- World Politics (SL)
- Mathematics (HL)

In taking up one or two IB courses, students are also eligible for the extended essay instead of the *Facharbeit* required in the *Abitur*, and they can participate in the CAS programme of the school, thus earning extra credit internationally recognized and valued.



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## International Student Advisory

**The ESG offers IB diploma candidates an international student counselling programme. We provide information about application procedures at universities in Germany and abroad.**

Many IB diploma candidates intend to study abroad but the academic landscape outside of Germany is varied and application procedures differ substantially. The ESG offers comprehensive digital material. Additionally, starting in 2016, a new service for studying abroad will provide support in the following components:

### 1. Information

- Lectures on foreign university systems
- Guest lectures by professors
- Going to university fairs

### 2. Preparation

- Workshops about:
  - How to find the “right“ university
  - Financing options for studying abroad
  - How to use UCAS or Common App
  - How to write a letter of motivation, an essay or an English CV
- Visiting universities and colleges (including tours on campus)
- Get-togethers with alumni

### 3. Application

- Tests
- Letters of recommendation
- Application training

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