

## International Baccalaureate Organization at a Glance

### What is the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO)?

The IBO is a recognized leader in the field of international education, encouraging students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged world citizens.

The IBO was founded in 1968 in Geneva, Switzerland as a non-profit educational foundation. Its original purpose was to facilitate the international mobility of students preparing for university by providing schools with a common pre-university curriculum, a common set of external examinations and a diploma recognized by universities around the world.

The IBO currently works with more than 1,700 schools in 122 countries. IB North America (IBNA) was established in 1977 and works with schools in the US, Caribbean and Canada. The greatest concentration of IB programs is in the US, 90 % of which operate in public schools.

### What does the IBO offer?

The IBO develops and offers three programmes of international education spanning the years from kindergarten to pre-university. The programmes can be offered individually or as a continuum.

- **The Primary Years Programme (PYP)** for pupils aged 3 to 12 focuses on the development of the whole child in the classroom and in the world outside.
- **The Middle Years Programme (MYP)** for pupils aged 11 to 16 provides a framework of academic challenge and life skills, achieved through embracing and transcending traditional school subjects.
- **The Diploma Programme (DP)** for students aged 16 to 19 is a demanding two-year curriculum leading to final examinations and a qualification that is welcomed by leading universities around the world. In some cases, students who participate in the IB Diploma Programme will also fulfill the requirements of their state's standards examinations or their province's curriculum and examination.

## **Who recognizes the IBO?**

The International Baccalaureate is acknowledged around the world for providing challenging programs of international educational and rigorous assessment.

Diploma Programme graduates are strongly courted by universities and colleges; these institutions often offer credit or advanced standing to Diploma Programme graduates. Additionally, local, state, provincial and federal governments are recognizing the quality of the International Baccalaureate programmes and increasingly allowing IB assessments to replace standardized tests.

## **What makes the IBO unique?**

The IBO offers a continuum of high-quality education, consisting of three individual programmes. We span the years from pre-kindergarten to the final year of secondary school. Our curriculum represents best practice from schools worldwide.

The IBO maintains its high standards by providing extensive professional development opportunities for teachers and administrators. These workshops are organized by experience level and are available throughout the region.

The IBO ensures quality through criterion-referenced internal and external assessments of its students and schools.

The IBO encourages international-mindedness in IB students. To do this, we believe that students must first develop an understanding of their own cultural and national identity. All IB students learn a second language and the skills to live and work with others internationally—essential for life in the 21st century.

The IBO fosters a positive attitude to learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to critically reflect, to develop research skills, and to learn how to learn.

## **What are the IBO regions? Where are the regional offices?**

There are four IBO regions:

IB North America and the Caribbean (IBNA). Regional office: New York, New York.

IB Europe, Africa and the Middle East (IBAEM): Regional office: Geneva, Switzerland.

IB Latin America (IBLA): Regional office: Buenos Aires, Argentina

IB Asia Pacific (IBAP): Regional office: Singapore

For more information about IBO's regional offices, please visit the IBO web site at [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org).