

IB Diploma Subjects and University Options

Below is a summary guide to the potential IB Subjects that are likely to be needed for specific university courses. Each student must research the subjects needed along with any specific entry requirements before choosing their combination of subjects.

Please also visit the following website regarding IB Country Recognition Statements that outline the specific recognition considerations for each country that you may wish to study in, and when applicable, include any official agreements or policies from the national or state governing bodies:

<http://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/country-recognition-statements/>



Please ensure that you discuss this with your University Guidance Counsellor and ensure your parents/guardians are included in the decision making process.

N.B. The information below may differ from university to university so please ensure you do effective research. It is also up to the student to understand the implications of their subject choices at IB on their future aspirations. However, the University Guidance Counsellor, subject specialists and the IB Diploma Coordinator will also be on hand to support students through this process.

Summary of subjects and supporting information

Business / Economics		Humanities	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Economics is often required for Economics	Higher or Standard		
Mathematics (HL usually required for Economics in SELECTIVE UK UNIVERSITIES)	Higher or Standard	Humanity subject that you wish to study e.g. Geography, History	Higher

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Art		Music	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Visual Arts	Typically Higher or sometimes Standard	Music + audition often needed	Typically Higher or sometimes standard
Personal portfolio of Design / Art work	Essential	Graded Music Exams e.g. ABRSM	Min Grade 8 + Grade 5 Theory for performance

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General Engineering		Law	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Physics* (Most common)	Higher	Humanities - History is very facilitating	Higher
Mathematics	Higher (sometimes SL accepted but depends on the type of Engineering and University)	Work Experience can help an application	
Chemistry*	Higher	LNAT test (Law National Aptitude Test is required for UK Law Courses in many universities. Research is essential.	

* Depends on the type of Engineering.

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Medicine		Bio-Technology	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Standard
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Mathematics	Higher	Mathematics	Higher (Preferable) but SL occasionally
Chemistry	Higher	Two from Sciences at HL (Chemistry Essential)	
Biology* with Chemistry / Maths	Higher	Chemistry*	Higher
Physics* less popular subject choice	Higher	Biology*	Higher
UKCAT or BMAT entrance exam for UK admission / MCAT - US*	Research carefully	Physics*	Higher

* USA and some Australian / Canadian Universities are Postgraduate entry only.

*Indian Universities require 3 Sciences for Bio-Technology and Medicine.

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Finance, Banking and Insurance		Psychology	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Economics (and sometimes business) are useful but not a requirement.	Higher	Mathematics - sometimes	Higher or Standard Higher
Mathematics	Higher (for accounting and finance)	Biology or Chemistry or Physics	Higher or Standard

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Architecture		Computing	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B	
Physics (for engineering related architecture)	Higher	Computer Science Some start with Science subjects (Maths, Physics and Chemistry) and move into Computer Science in 2nd year	Higher or Standard
Mathematics	Higher	Mathematics	Higher or Standard
Visual Arts (for art / design related architecture)	Higher or Standard		
Portfolio of Art / Design work often required			

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Veterinary Science		Hospitality	
Subject(s) needed	Level	Subject(s) needed	Level
English A1 or English B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard	English A1 or B (IGCSE English is useful)	Higher or Standard
Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B		Language proficiency i.e. IELTS / TOEFL may be required if English B)	
Mathematics	Higher	Language B / ab initio is an advantage	Higher or Standard
Chemistry	Higher		
Biology or Physics	Higher	Personality and fit are much more important	
Very competitive – work experience advised			

UCAS Tariff Points

UCAS Tariff Points are allocated to qualifications generally studied between the ages of 16 to 18. The main purpose of the UCAS Tariff is for universities to report data to government bodies. However, some universities and colleges use UCAS points in their entry requirements, so you may need to know how many points your qualifications are worth.

UCAS Tariff points only apply to Level 3/SCQF Level 6 qualifications, not Level 2 qualifications such as GCSEs. The IB Diploma is classified as a Level 3 qualification. For further information on UCAS Tariffs please visit:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/ucas-undergraduate-tariff-points>



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Please visit the following websites for further useful information:

- ▶ Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

<http://ae.abrsm.org/en/about-abrsm/>



- ▶ BioMedical Admissions Test and UK Clinical Aptitude Test

<http://www.medschools.ac.uk/Students/howtoapply/Pages/BMAT-and-UKCAT.aspx>



- ▶ Test of English as a Foreign Language

<https://www.ets.org/toefl>



- ▶ Prospects

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm



- ▶ Law National Aptitude Test

<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/>



- ▶ IELTS (International English Language Testing System)

<https://www.ielts.org/>



- ▶ Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

<https://www.ucas.com/>



- ▶ The Common Application

<http://www.commonapp.org/>

