



## DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme FAQs

October 2019

### Background

Please find below a FAQ document for parents and students interested in the IBDP at Dover Court International School (DCIS).

Further information is also available in:

1. DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme Handbook
2. DCIS IB Diploma Programme Scholarship Application Letter
3. DCIS Secondary School and Admissions Webpages
4. DCIS IBDP Course Application Form

### What is the IBDP?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year programme for Sixth Form students. All students study six subjects: three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. In addition, students write an Extended Essay and follow a critical thinking course entitled Theory of Knowledge. Participation in creativity, activity and service is also required.

### How does the points system work?

Each of the six subjects is graded out of seven. The Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge are combined to give up to three core points. The total Diploma score is therefore a maximum 45 points.

### How does the IBDP compare to A-levels?

The IBDP is a complete programme of study. The IBDP has not suffered from grade inflation and therefore is more able to distinguish between good and excellent students. All universities recognise the IBDP as at least an equivalent qualification, and in many cases indicate a preference for it.

### Is the IBDP accepted by universities?

The IBDP is accepted by universities in the UK, North America, Australia and across the world. Universities and tertiary programmes understand the challenge of the IBDP and therefore ask for a wide range of grades.

### What experience does DCIS have with the IBDP?

DCIS has been running the IB Diploma Programme since 2017, students joining the programme in 2020 will form the fourth cohort and will join the third cohort of IB students to form the DCIS Sixth Form. In 2019 the DCIS average score was 33 points, well above the global average of 30 points. DCIS is also part of the Nord Anglia Education (NAE) family of schools. There are over 65 schools in the group, the majority of which offer the IBDP. In 2019 the average NAE score was also 33 points.

### What subjects are available?

For details on the range of subjects currently available, please see our DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme Handbook and the DCIS IBDP Course Application Form.

### Can I study more than three higher levels/more than six subjects?

DCIS Sixth Form students will follow a maximum six-subject Diploma with three higher level subjects. We think that the Diploma is properly weighted in its normal form and is already a challenging enough course. We support the IBDP in its promotion of a broad curriculum and suggest that if a student does have extra time they should contribute further to the extra-curricular programme or some other aspect of the Diploma.



### **Who will be suitable for the DCIS Sixth Form?**

DCIS is offering two pathways for students in the DCIS Sixth Form:

- Pathway 1: DCIS IB Diploma Programme
- Pathway 2: IB Courses

### **How will the DCIS IB Courses Work?**

Students studying the IB Courses must choose a minimum of 4 subjects, which can be studied at Standard or Higher Level. Students will follow their courses for 2 years and will be examined in exactly the same way as IBDP students. For more detail, please refer to the DCIS Sixth Form and IB Diploma Programme Handbook.

### **Does the IBDP include coursework?**

Yes, around 20 per cent for each subject and then three core points awarded for Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay coursework.

### **What is the difference between A, B and ab initio language courses?**

Language A courses are for native speakers and are correspondingly more advanced. Language B courses are for second language speakers, i.e. those who have been learning the language for three to five years. Ab initio courses presume no previous knowledge of the language and are only available at standard level.

### **Do students need to be competent at a foreign language to pursue the IBDP?**

Students usually find the language component of the IBDP both accessible and rewarding. Those who do not relish the oral element of modern languages can choose to study ab initio as their language option which is roughly in line with an iGCSE in terms of level and difficulty. This gives plenty of options to those who do not wish to specialise in a language, but understand the importance of being able to engage with a foreign culture and language. They will still have plenty of time to focus on the other IB subjects that they do want to pursue to a higher level.

### **Can you take three sciences?**

Because of its emphasis upon breadth, the IBDP does not allow a student to take three sciences. UK medical schools do not require three sciences: Chemistry and one other Science (generally Biology) or Maths are standard subject requirements.

### **What are Pamoja Online IBDP Courses?**

To allow a greater range of courses as DCIS establishes the IBDP, DCIS is offering some courses through the IB-approved online course provider, Pamoja. These courses are indicated in our Course Options. A DCIS teacher will be assigned to the students to assist them through the course and provide a link between DCIS and Pamoja. Students will only be able to take one Pamoja course as part of their IBDP studies.

### **What is the intake size of the programme?**

From 2019, the intake to DCIS Year 12 is expected to be around 25 students with the programme expected to grow to 60 students in the following years.

### **Will there be special admission process into the IBDP?**

Interested applicants may check the website for details on the DCIS IBDP Admissions Process where we have detailed the process of application to the IBDP.

### **Do the teachers have experience in teaching the IBDP?**

DCIS already has a core group of highly-qualified and experienced IBDP teachers and others who have been very successful in running A-Level courses, as well as offering professional development for existing qualified teachers to train to teach the IBDP. The teachers are international (largely from the UK) and detailed profiles on our Secondary School teachers can be found on our website.

### **What are the school fees for the DCIS IBDP?**

Fees for the 2020-2021 academic year will be published later in the 2019-2020 academic year. Please contact the Admissions Office for further information on the fee levels. The current school fees/miscellaneous fees for students are detailed on the DCIS Schedule of Fees and Payments. There are additional fees associated with laptop computers, exams, etc.

### **Does my child need a laptop computer?**

Students will need to have a laptop for the IBDP; please refer to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) guide.

### **Are there any scholarships available for students?**

DCIS is offering a limited number of partial Scholarships to support top-performing students to continue their education at DCIS in the IBDP. More information on these Scholarships is available from the DCIS Admissions office and in the DCIS Scholarship Letter.

### **Is there university/college application guidance provided at DCIS?**

Yes, the pathway to university/college is a critical element of our programme and experienced support is given to students and parents from a university/college placement expert.

### **Why should I choose DCIS for the IBDP?**

DCIS provides a wonderful environment in which to study the IBDP. Our small class sizes and dedicated teachers ensure that each student is supported to reach their full potential on this course. At DCIS we offer a wide range of diploma courses thus ensuring students have an extensive choice of subjects to suit their strengths. Outside of the classroom there are many opportunities to be involved in school life including student leadership and trips and expeditions offered as through the Nord Anglia collaborations with Juilliard, Unicef and MIT.

### **Where can I find more information about the IBDP?**

Information on the IB Diploma programme offered at DCIS can be found at the DCIS website at <http://dovercourt.edu.sg>  
More information about the IBDP can also be found at the website of the International Baccalaureate Organization at: <http://www.ibo.org>

### **Who can I contact if I have more questions about the IBDP at DCIS?**

Queries regarding the DCIS IBDP can be emailed to: [admissions@dovercourt.edu.sg](mailto:admissions@dovercourt.edu.sg) or call us on +65 67757664

*For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit <http://www.ibo.org>*