

International Award Scheme



What is the International Award Scheme ?

This scheme recognises that a balanced education neither begins nor ends in the classroom and that much is to be gained by providing individual student challenge in areas such as: sporting activities, skills and community service. The International Award seeks to counterbalance and complement the rigorous academic disciplines during the last years of secondary school.

It is an internationally recognised programme first developed in the UK as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It contains four areas, known as Sections: **Skills**, **Physical Recreation**, **Service** and **Adventurous Journey**. At Gold level only there is an additional requirement of a Residential Project.

It provides a healthy balance to the rigours of the academic curriculum by encouraging students to:

- participate in sporting activities
- learn new skills
- be involved with work which will benefit others
- develop a sense of responsibility and commitment
- become more self confident

Completing part or all of the International Award will help when applying to universities, other schools and for jobs.

International Award

Name in International Award	What it means
Skill	Non sporting activity – art, languages, music etc
Physical Recreation	Sporting activities – swimming, tennis etc
Adventurous Journey	You will be trained for, then plan and carry out a team journey in an unfamiliar environment in which your group will be self sufficient
Service	Activities that are of genuine benefit to others in the community

How much time will it take?

International Award for Young People: This is divided into 3 levels, each level having different time requirements. For each Section you are expected to show a regular commitment over a period of time.

BRONZE LEVEL:

Physical Recreation	Skills	Service	Adventurous Journey
3 months	3 months	3 months	2 days + 1 night
<i>plus</i> an additional 3 months in one Section of choice			

SILVER LEVEL:

Physical Recreation	Skills	Service	Adventurous Journey
6 months	6 months	6 months	3 days + 2 nights
<i>plus</i> an additional 6 months in one Section of choice if the participant does not already hold the Bronze Award			

GOLD LEVEL:

Physical Recreation	Skills	Service	Adventurous Journey
12 months	12 months	12 months	4 days + 3 nights
<i>plus</i> an additional 6 months in one Section of choice if the participant does not already hold the Bronze Award			
<i>plus</i> an additional requirement of a 5 day / 4 night Residential Project for all participants			

The Award requires regular participation over the time period. As a *rule of thumb* this usually means a minimum of 1 hour per week on each of the Sections, as well as undertaking an Adventurous Journey at the appropriate level. For Bronze it is 1 term, for Silver it is 2 terms and Gold it is 3 terms – see above.

What are you expected to do?

1. Decide on which main activities you intend to follow for each of the Sections.
2. Make arrangements to pursue your activities. If they are 'in school' activities, this is not a problem, but for the out of school ones you may need to make contact with a club, sports centre, a responsible adult or similar.
3. Pursue your activities, trying to balance your time so that you devote at least one hour per week to each.
4. Every week make sure your coach signs and dates the relevant activity form.
5. At the end of the period for each activity complete the self-evaluation section on the activity form indicating how you feel you have progressed.
6. At the end of the activity period the coach you will need to complete Activity Coaches report. This will be in your International Award Record Book.
7. Take part in your well planned self- sufficient team journey in an unfamiliar environment.
8. When all Sections are completed, stand back and receive the well-deserved accolades.

There is an administration cost of **150 rmb** that each student has to pay when they start the scheme. There is also a charge for the main Adventurous Journey expeditions that are organised by the school and outside outward bound travel companies like Insight Adventure. There is 1 of these for each level of the award.

For more information about the scheme you can look at the following web site - <http://www.intaward.org/> or email Nick Bourne at nick.bourne@britishschool.org.cn

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