



DCIS Sixth Form FAQs

November 2020

Introduction

Please find below the FAQ information for parents and students interested in studying in Years 12 and 13 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. Pearson BTEC webpages
5. DCIS IBDP Course Application Form
6. DCIS BTEC Application Form

What programmes are available for students entering Y12 at DCIS?

At DCIS there are four programmes of study available when students join Year 12 and these are:

- Programme 1: International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
- Programme 2: International Baccalaureate Courses with 3 Higher Level Subjects
- Programme 3: International Baccalaureate Courses
- Programme 4: BTEC International Diploma in Business

What is the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)?

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) is a two-year programme for Sixth Form students. Diploma 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 Universities and Employers are 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.



How long has DCIS been running the IBDP?

DCIS has been running the IB Diploma Programme since 2017, students joining the programme in 2021 will form the fifth cohort and will join the fourth cohort of IB students to form the DCIS Sixth Form. In 2020 the DCIS average score was 37 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 2020 the average NAE score was also 34 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.

How will the DCIS IB Courses Work?

For Programme 2 – students will choose a minimum of 4 subject, 3 of them will be at Higher Level

For programme 3 – students will choose a minimum of 4 subjects, any combination of Standard & 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 I 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. Students wishing to pursue 2 sciences should write to Mr Gould & Mr O'Shea with justification for their choices.

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 are International BTEC Diplomas?

BTECs are career-focused qualifications taken by over 1 million learners every year and are recognised in more than 70 countries worldwide. The Pearson BTEC qualifications are vocational courses that are thoughtfully designed and delivered to prepare students for either the first step in their career or for further study.

What courses are available at DCIS?

At DCIS we currently offer the BTEC International Diploma Level 2 in Business and from August 2021, subject to CPE approval, we will offer the BTEC International Diploma Level 3 in Business.

Are BTECs recognised by Universities?

BTECs are internationally recognised qualifications. The Level 2 qualification is equivalent to four International GCSEs and can lead to either the first step in a career or to the BTEC Level 3 qualification. The Level 3 qualification is equivalent to two A Levels and can either lead to the first step in a career or to University or Polytechnic study.

How is the BTEC assessed?

Both courses are assessed through coursework completed across the two year course duration. Coursework is assessed using a number of formats from traditional report writing, to creative projects such as leaflets, posters and filmed contextual role plays. The course is designed to immerse students in a range of vocational scenarios, equipping them with vital knowledge and experiences for the future.

What units of study does BTEC International level 2 comprise?

Students complete core and optional units of study including Business Organisation, Financial Forecasting, Personal Finance, Marketing Planning, Using Office Equipment, Communication Skills and Working in Teams. In addition, students follow Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Presentation Skills and Physical Education. Students also have both guided and independent study time where they can complete assignments and homework.

What units of study does BTEC International level 3 comprise?

Students complete core and optional units of study with subjects ranging from Planning a Marketing Campaign, Business Decision Making, Event Planning, Human Resources, Financial Statements, Logistics, Career Planning and Health & Safety. In addition, students will access other curriculum areas to develop key employability skills, as well as having independent and guided study periods.

How many students are in the DCIS Sixth Form?

It is expected that from August 2021 the DCIS Sixth form will comprise 70 students in Years 12 and 13.

Will there be special admission process for Year 12?

All students should complete an application form to join year 12 at DCIS. The closing date for applications is Friday, 26th February 2021. All offers will be sent out by 31st March 2021. The application forms are available on the parent portal and are included in the open morning pack. Applications should be sent to zoe.hancock@dovercourt.edu.sg.

What are the school fees for Year 12 and 13?

Fees for the 2021-2022 academic year will be published later in the 2020-2021 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?

Yes, all students will need to have a laptop for Year 12 please refer to the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) guide.

Are there any scholarships available for students?

DCIS is delighted to be offering a limited number of partial, academic Scholarships to support 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 by our dedicated Careers and Higher Education Guidance Counsellor, [Samantha Cathro](#).

Why should I choose DCIS for Year 12?

DCIS provides a wonderful environment in which to study in Years 12 and 13. 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 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>

Where can I find more information about the BTEC?

Information on the BTECs programme offered at DCIS can be found at the DCIS website at <http://dovercourt.edu.sg>. More information about the BTEC can be found on the Pearson webpages <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about the Sixth Form at DCIS?

Queries regarding the Sixth Form can be emailed to: admissions@dovercourt.edu.sg or call us on +65 6775 7664