

narrabundah college
canberra



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Guide

Information for parents and students completing the
Diploma in November 2028



Quick Facts

- Students complete both an ATAR certificate and an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.
- In the IB, students complete 3 higher level and 3 standard level subjects and the Core comprising of the Extended essay, CAS (Creative, Activity and Service) and Theory of Knowledge.
- Classes are ATAR/IB combined and the ATAR assessment tasks are related to the IB content.
- Students also complete IB internal assessments (often dual tasks for the IB and ATAR) and IB exams.
- Students attend tutorials in and outside class time in Year 12 session 2 and 3 to cover IB content and prepare for their IB exams.

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

Useful web addresses

The IBO public web page can be found at www.ibo.org.

The Association of Australasian IB Schools web page can be found at www.aaibs.org.

THE IB DIPLOMA: content, structure and requirements

The Diploma is a course taught continuously over two years in Years 11 and 12. It provides a liberal educational experience across six academic subjects allowing for focus to occur in three Higher Level subjects and breadth to occur in three Standard Level subjects. It encourages:

- a rigorous academic approach to the taught courses
 - a critical thinking course (*Theory of Knowledge*)
 - the opportunity to develop individual research skills which will take students beyond the confines of the syllabus in their chosen subject area (*Extended Essay*)
- the development of a sense of social responsibility (*Creativity, Activity and Service*)

The Diploma Programme

Illustrating the framework of the IB Diploma



Course Structure

- 6 academic subjects studied over two years, one to be selected from each of Groups 1 to 6
- Every subject and level are of equal importance (i.e. a 7 grade can be achieved in HL Physics and Spanish ab initio)
- Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
- Extended Essay (EE)
- Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS), approximately 150 hours.

Styles of Learning

- Critical and high order thinking and analytical skills
- University level essay writing skills
- International in outlook and focus
- Encourages inter-cultural understanding
- TOK threads run through all academic subjects
- Opportunity in the EE for in depth research beyond the confines of the syllabus
- 3 subjects studied at Higher Level and 3 at Standard Level
- Co-operative learning through the Group 4 project
- Immersion second language study
- Prepares students very well for the demands of university study.

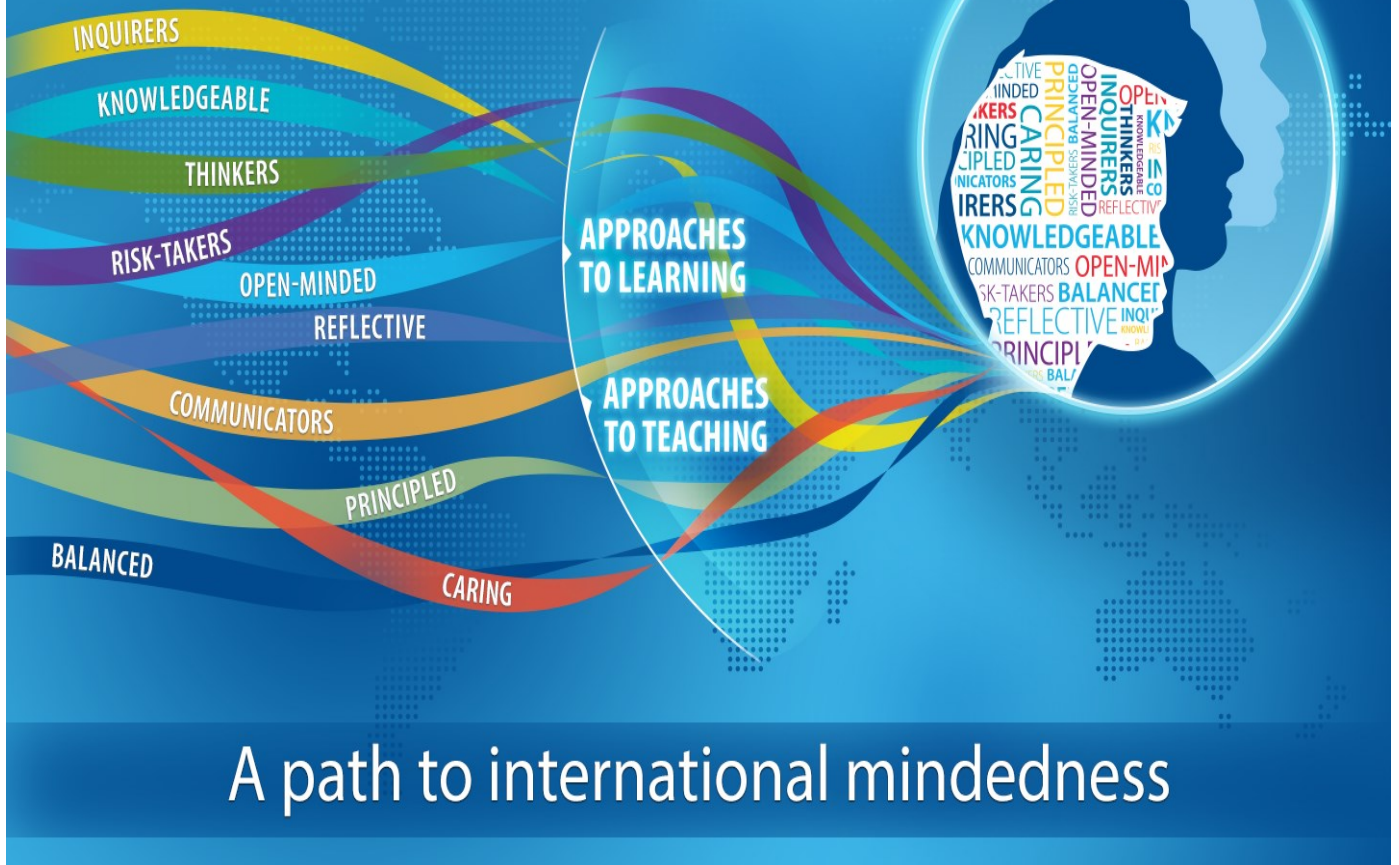
Student Requirements

- Likes to be challenged and to question
- Willing to participate and become an active learner
- Willing to develop independent learning, good time management and organizational skills
- Willing to develop as a well rounded individual and an engaged global citizen.

IB Learner Profiles



What is an IB education?



A path to international mindedness

IB programmes aim to develop internationally minded people who are striving to become:

Inquirers	Their natural curiosity is nurtured. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct constructive inquiry and research and become independent active learners. They actively
Knowledgeable	They explore concepts, ideas and issues which have global relevance and importance. In so doing, they acquire, and are able to make use of, a significant body of
Critical thinkers	They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to approach complex problems and make reasoned decisions.
Communicators	They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication.

Risk-takers	They approach unfamiliar situations <i>with confidence and forethought and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are coura-</i>
Principled	They have a sound grasp of the principles of moral reasoning. They have integrity, honesty, a sense of fairness and justice and respect for the dignity of the individual.
Caring	They show empathy, compassion and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to action and service to make a positive
Open-minded	Through an understanding and appreciation of their own culture, they are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and cultures and are
Well-balanced	They understand the importance of physical and mental balance and personal well-being for themselves and others. They demonstrate perseverance and self-
Reflective	They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and personal development. They are able to analyse their strengths and weaknesses in a constructive manner.

10 Reasons why the Diploma is ideal preparation for university



Narrabundah College IB subjects

Subject Groups – one from each subject group		
H= Higher level/ S= Standard level/Ab (abinitio) = Beginning level (also classified as a Standard level) Students undertake 3 Higher level and 3 Standard level subjects		
Group 1 : Literature A	World Literature	H or S
Group 2 : Language B	French	H or S or ab
	Italian (All levels May exam)	H or S or ab
Advanced (HL)	Japanese	H or S or ab
Continuing (SL)	Spanish	H or S or ab
Beginning (Abinitio)		
Group 3 : Individuals and Societies	Economics	H or S
	Psychology	H or S
	Environmental Systems and societies (ESS)	S
Group 4 : Experimental Science	Biology	H or S
	Chemistry	H or S
	Physics	H or S
	Environmental Systems and societies (ESS)	S
Group 5 : Mathematics*	Mathematics Analysis and Approaches	H or S
	Mathematics Applications and Interpretations	S
Group 6 : Electives	Art	H or S
	Music	H or S
	A third modern language	H or S
	A second subject from Individuals and Societies	H or S
	A second science subject	H or S
	A second group 6 subject (Art/Music) if ESS is selected	H or S

*Mathematics Analysis and Approaches H is 2 classes and equates to Specialist Maths Methods and Specialist Maths
Mathematics Analysis and Approaches S is 1 class and equates to Specialist Maths Methods

Mathematics Applications and Interpretations S is 1 class and equates to Maths Methods

Constraints on Subject Selection

- Where unavoidable subject clashes occur within the timetable, students will be counselled to consider alternative subject selections.
- Some languages will not be available for examination in November 2028 and the written papers will have to be taken as a split session entry in May 2028. Internal assessment work will be completed early 2028

The school reserves the right to make alterations to the courses offered. Timetable, curriculum and resource issues will be taken into account in the provision of subjects.

The IB Diploma is specifically focused towards providing entry to tertiary education. Consequently the minimum score for which the IB Diploma is awarded (subject to additional constraints) is 24. This translates to an ATAR of between 68 and 70. At the conclusion of the course, if a student has not been awarded the Diploma, then no equivalent ATAR will be given (UAC will calculate an ATAR equivalent for students who receive a DP score but not awarded a diploma from 20 – 23). Clearly, if a student is not confident of being able to achieve a Diploma score of 24 they should consider carefully whether the IB Diploma is best suited to their needs. Students should be achieving a B grade + in their high school subjects to consider studying the IB diploma.

Method of Assessment

- Up to 50% Internal and 80% External assessable components across all academic subjects. Measured against international standards
- Internal assessments either integrated into the teaching programme or completed by end of Term 3 of Year 12
- Wide range of types of internal assessment which are internally marked and externally moderated
- Oral presentations in all languages
- TOK essay and EE completed end Term 1/early Term 2 of Year 12 to allow for maturity and experience to be incorporated into the finished works
- All subjects contribute equally to the final Diploma score allowing for a true measure of academic achievement
- Criterion referenced assessment with performance measured against well defined levels of achievement consistent from one examination session to the next and applied equally to all schools

Graded on a 45 point scale, minimum requirement of 24 points for award of Diploma, subject to additional constraints (12 points awarded from the 3 HL subjects and passing the IB core components)

Academic Honesty

A8.1 The meaning of academic honesty

A candidate's work submitted for assessment, including work for internal assessment, must be the authentic work of that candidate. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in no grade being awarded for the subject concerned.

For further details refer to the IB publication *Academic honesty* and the relevant articles in the *General regulations: Diploma Programme*.

A8.3 Malpractice

Malpractice most commonly involves collusion or plagiarism. However, there are other ways in which a candidate may be in breach of regulations. For example, a candidate may:

- duplicate work to meet the requirements of more than one assessment component
- fabricate data for an assignment
- take unauthorized material into an examination room
- disrupt an examination by an act of misconduct, such as distracting another candidate
- exchange, support, or attempt to support, the passing on of information that is or could be related to the examination
- fail to comply with the instructions of the invigilator or other member of the school's staff responsible for the conduct of the examination
- impersonate another candidate
- steal examination papers
- disclose or discuss the content of an examination paper with a person outside the immediate school community within 24 hours after the examination
- use an unauthorized calculator during an examination.

Note that a candidate will be found guilty of malpractice if unauthorized material (for example, an electronic device other than a permitted calculator, notes, a mobile/cell phone) is taken into an examination, regardless of whether an attempt is made to use that material. For all cases of malpractice in relation to the examinations, the coordinator must send a report to IB Answers.

The duplication of the same work for two different assessment components constitutes malpractice. For example, the same piece of work cannot be submitted to meet the requirements of both internal assessment and the extended essay. If the same topic is chosen for different assessment component, that topic must be treated completely differently - otherwise it may be considered a breach of regulations.

A8.5 Authenticating candidates' work

The candidates are responsible for ensuring that the final version of their work is authentic. Candidates themselves must bear the consequences if they submit any work for assessment that is not their own, regardless of whether the plagiarism was deliberate or a careless act.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (A-E grade)

The aims of the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) programme are to engage students to reflect and question bases of knowledge, so they:

- develop a fascination with the richness of knowledge
- develop an awareness of how knowledge is constructed, critically examined, evaluated and renewed
- reflect on their experiences as learners and make connections between academic disciplines
- encourage an interest in the diversity of ways of thinking
- consider the relationship between knowledge, the community and the individual
- Two assessment items: the TOK Exhibition and TOK Essay.

EXTENDED ESSAY (A-E grade)

The extended essay is an in-depth study of a focused topic within a subject. It is intended to promote high level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity. It allows students to:

- pursue independent research
- develop research and communication skills
- develop skills of critical and creative thinking
- engage in a systematic process of research
- experience the excitement of intellectual discovery.

CREATIVITY, ACTIVITY AND SERVICE (Pass/Fail)

The aims of the CAS requirement are to enable students to develop:

- an appreciation of the potential of the human mind and spirit
- knowledge, skills and understanding
- an awareness of humanitarian issues across the world
- a recognition that education imposes lifelong ethical responsibilities
- a willingness to inquire and an enjoyment of discovery
- confidence in their ability to initiate change, both individually and collaboratively
- autonomy and self-reliance

The Diploma Points Matrix

Total 7 points per subject (total 42) and bonus points TOK and EE (total 3) = 45 points

		Theory of knowledge					
		Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade E	No grade N
	Grade A	E x t 3	3	2	2	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade B	e n d e 3	2	2	1	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade C	d e s s a y 2	2	1	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade D		1	0	0	Failing condition	Failing condition
	Grade E	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition
	No grade N	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition	Failing condition



GROUP 1 - LANGUAGE A ENGLISH LITERATURE

The aims of the Language A programme at both Higher and Standard Levels are to:

- encourage a personal appreciation of literature and develop an understanding of the techniques involved in literary criticism
- develop the students' powers of expression, both in oral and written communication and provide the opportunity of practising and developing the skills involved in writing and speaking in a variety of styles and situations
- introduce students to a range of literary works of different periods, genres, styles and contexts
- broaden the students' perspective through the study of works from other cultures and languages
- introduce students to ways of approaching and studying literature, leading to the development of an understanding and appreciation of the relationships between different works
- develop the ability to engage in close, detailed analysis of written text promote in student's enjoyment and a lifelong interest in Literature.

GROUP 2 - LANGUAGE B: HL, SL, *ab initio*, FRENCH, ITALIAN, JAPANESE, SPANISH

Group 2 consists of a range of Language courses accommodating the different levels of linguistic proficiency. There is a single set of group 2 aims, common to all the courses, but the objectives are differentiated according to what the candidates are expected to be able to demonstrate at the end of each course.

The aims of Group 2 are to:

- enable students to understand and use the language they have studied in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes
- enable students to use the language appropriately
- encourage through the study of texts and through social interaction, an awareness and appreciation of the different perspectives of people from other cultures
- develop students' awareness of the role of language in relation to other areas of knowledge
- provide the opportunity for enjoyment, creativity and intellectual stimulation through knowledge of a language
- provide students with a basis for further study, work and leisure through language
- develop students' awareness of the relationship between the languages and cultures with which they are familiar.

Language abinitio and language B are language acquisition courses designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken.

It is important that students are placed appropriately in the language course that is most suited to their needs and which will provide them with an appropriate level of academic challenge:

PATHWAY	CRITERIA FOR PERMISSION TO ENROL IN A LANGUAGE COURSE at Narrabundah College		
	Education	Residency and/or time spent	Use of the language out-
Ab Initio (Beginning) language courses	Little, or no formal education (from pre-primary) in schools where the language is a language of instruction They may have had some instruction in primary school or early high school elective language classes Language and cultural awareness instruction comprised less than 200 hours in total, P-10, including education in community organisations and less than a total 80 hours language classes across Years 9 and 10	Less than one year in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Nil or very infrequent use of the language outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language is permitted
SL (Continuing) language courses	One (1) to five (5) years in total of formal education (from pre-primary) in schools where the language is a language of instruction, including education in community organisations Or two or more years of study in the language at high school including Year 9 and 10	Between one (1) and five (5) years in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Use of the language outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language is permitted
HL (Advanced) language courses	More than five (5) years in total of formal education in schools where the language is a language of instruction, including 2 years in high school, and or education in community organisations and or intensive language courses	More than five (5) years in total of residency and time spent in a country where the language is a medium of communication	Sophisticated use of the language (spoken and written) outside the classroom with a speaker/s of the language

GROUP 3 - INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETIES

The aims of subjects in Group 3 are to:

- encourage the systematic and critical study of: human experience and behaviour; physical, political, economic and social environments; the history and development of social and cultural institutions
- develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and society
- enable the student to collect, describe, analyse and interpret complex data and source material and to test hypotheses
- develop an awareness in the student that human attitudes and beliefs are widely diverse and that the study of society requires an appreciation of such diversity

enable the student to recognize that the knowledge and methodologies of the subjects in group 3 are contestable and that their study requires the acceptance of uncertainty.

Economics

- provide students with a core knowledge of Economics
- encourage students to think critically about Economics
- promote an awareness and understanding of internationalism in economics
- encourage students' development as independent learners
- enable students to distinguish between positive and normative economics

enable students to recognize their own tendencies for bias.

Environmental Systems & Societies

ESS aims to empower and equip students to:

- develop understanding of their own environmental impact, in the broader context of the impact of humanity on the Earth and its biosphere
- develop knowledge of diverse perspectives to address issues of sustainability
- engage and evaluate the tensions around environmental issues using critical thinking
- develop a systems approach that provides a holistic lens for the exploration of environmental issues
- be inspired to engage in environmental issues across local and global contexts.

Psychology

- understands and/or uses diverse methods of psychological inquiry
- develops an appreciation of the eclectic nature of Psychology
- develops an awareness of how applications of Psychology in everyday life are derived from psychological theories
- develops an understanding of different theoretical processes to interpret behaviour, and to be aware of how these processes lead to the construction and evaluation of psychological theories
- develops an understanding of the biological, social and cultural influences on human behaviour
- ensures that ethical practices and responsibilities are implemented in psychological inquiry
- interprets and/or conducts psychological research to apply the resulting knowledge for the benefit of human beings.

GROUP 4 - EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES (SL ONLY), PHYSICS,

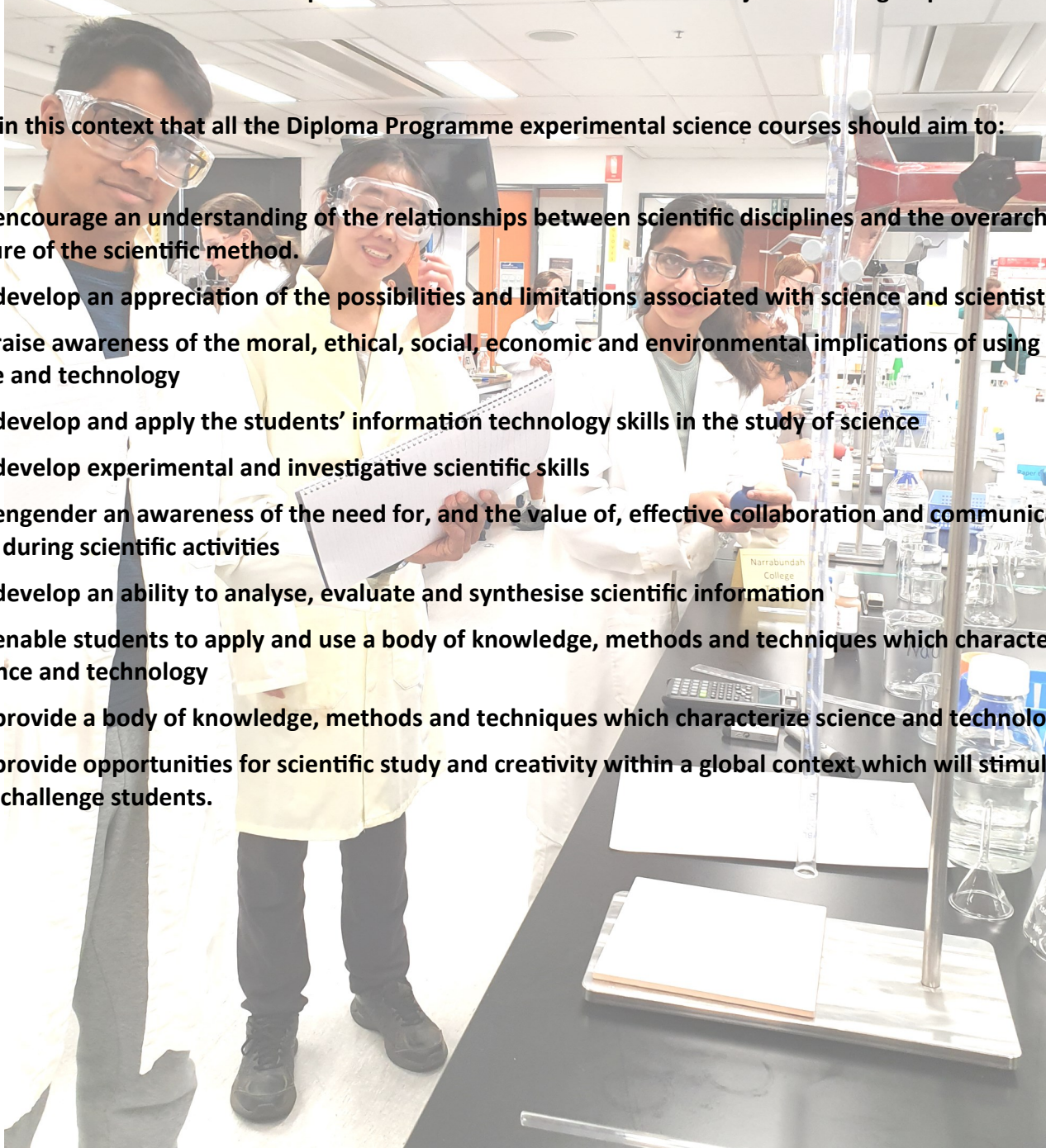
Through studying any of the group 4 subjects, students should become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other.

While the “scientific method” may take on a wide variety of forms, it will generally involve the formation, testing and modification of hypotheses through observation and measurement under the controlled conditions of an experiment.

It is this approach, along with the falsifiability of scientific hypotheses that distinguishes the experimental sciences from other disciplines and characterizes each of the subjects within group 4.

It is in this context that all the Diploma Programme experimental science courses should aim to:

- encourage an understanding of the relationships between scientific disciplines and the overarching nature of the scientific method.
- develop an appreciation of the possibilities and limitations associated with science and scientists
- raise awareness of the moral, ethical, social, economic and environmental implications of using science and technology
- develop and apply the students’ information technology skills in the study of science
- develop experimental and investigative scientific skills
- engender an awareness of the need for, and the value of, effective collaboration and communication during scientific activities
- develop an ability to analyse, evaluate and synthesise scientific information
- enable students to apply and use a body of knowledge, methods and techniques which characterize science and technology
- provide a body of knowledge, methods and techniques which characterize science and technology
- provide opportunities for scientific study and creativity within a global context which will stimulate and challenge students.



GROUP 5 - MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Analysis and Approaches HL/SL

Mathematics Applications and Interpretations SL

The aims of all courses in group 5 are to enable students to:

- appreciate the multicultural and historical perspectives of all group 5 courses
- enjoy the courses and develop an appreciation of the elegance, power and usefulness of the subjects
- develop logical, critical and creative thinking
- develop an understanding of the principles and nature of the subject
- employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization
- develop patience and persistence in problem solving
- appreciate the consequences arising from technological developments
- transfer skills to alternative situations and to future developments
- communicate clearly and confidently in a variety of contexts
- Maths Analysis and Approaches is equated to Specialist Core
- HL Maths consists of 2 classes – Specialist core and Specialist options.

Mathematical Applications and Interpretations is equated to Maths Methods

GROUP 6 - THE ARTS

Music, Visual Art

The aims of the DP arts subjects are to enable students to:

- explore the diversity of the arts across time, cultures and contexts
- develop as imaginative and skilled creators and collaborators
- express ideas creatively and with competence in forms appropriate to the artistic discipline
- critically reflect on the process of creating and experiencing the arts
- develop as informed, perceptive and analytical practitioners
- enjoy lifelong engagement with the arts.



Assessment Structure

General:

All subjects are assessed both internally and externally. Types of internal and external assessment that a student may have to submit are outlined below.

Internal Assessment

Portfolio
Project
Composition/performance
Performance skills and theatre production
Report/Essay writing
Taped orals
Commentaries
Experimental design
Guided coursework

External Assessment

Two or three written examination papers for most subjects
Literature essay for Language A - English Literature (HL)
Music performance, creating and portfolio of diverse musical works
Art portfolio and comparative study

The respective weightings for each component vary between subjects. These are detailed on the IB website.

Assessment Criteria

All assessments are carried out against clearly set out criteria. These criteria will differ according to the particular subject.

Each criterion has a number of achievement levels and each achievement level is accompanied by a clear descriptor. The student must clearly meet the descriptor in order to be awarded that particular grade level.

Assessment Requirements

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

Internal Assessment

Students are to complete a TOK exhibition based on one of the TOK themes

External Assessment

Written essay on one from a choice of six prescribed titles issued by the IBO. Required length 1200-1600 words.

EXTENDED ESSAY

Students complete a 4000 word (max) academic paper in a subject area of choice within the Diploma (recommended from a HL subject). Each student is allocated a supervisor (teacher) who mentors them throughout the process.

CAS

Completion of CAS experiences/activities that equally reflect the three areas over the two years. Each activity is recorded in Managebac – an online journal that is monitored by the CAS supervisor. Students reflect on their activities, provide relevant documentation, and are expected to make regular journal entries that will address the specific learning outcomes.

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of student is a good candidate for the DP?

The DP is a rigorous challenging course of study. Success throughout the programme depends on a student's dedication to do their best, willingness to be organized in order to complete the work while leading a full, balanced life, and a strong commitment to learning in and beyond the classroom.

Do students enrolled in the IB at Narrabundah College have the obligation to complete the ATAR?

Yes, Narrabundah College is a government school which has been offering the IB Diploma Programme since 1979. Students undertake this internationally recognised programme while studying for an ACT Senior Secondary Certificate with an ATAR.

Is the workload double for students completing the IB Diploma in conjunction with the ATAR diploma?

Not necessarily. ATAR courses cover most of the IB content and ATAR assessments are an excellent preparation for the IB assessments, with most serving as a dual task. Specific IB content will be covered in tutorials in the second year of the programme.

Can IB students study any subjects offered at Narrabundah College?

No, they must study 6 academic subjects from the list of subjects in Group 1 to 6.

What is Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL)?

To earn the IB Diploma, a student will take exams in six different subject areas at the end of senior year. Three of these exams will be in courses that are "Higher Level" and three are courses that are "Standard Level". We do not offer 4 HL subjects.

Are SL subjects given the same weighting as HL subjects?

All subjects regardless of their level, are assessed out of a maximum of 7 points and is criteria based.

Do DP teachers receive special training?

All Narrabundah College teachers receive professional development in the IB's approaches to teaching and approaches to learning. DP teachers specifically will undertake professional learning from certified IB workshop leaders. This is a requirement for IB World Schools implementing the DP.

How is an IB score calculated?

Each subject is marked on a seven-point scale. The three core components can contribute a maximum of three points, bringing the total IB points that a student can score to 45. This equates to an ATAR of 99.95, which is the maximum any student studying either the ATAR or IB Diploma can score. Student results are determined by performance against set criteria, not by each student's position in the overall rank order, as is the case with the ATAR.

Is the IB Diploma Programme recognised by all Australian universities?

Yes, all universities throughout Australia recognise the IB Diploma and a number of universities have implemented early offers for IB students.

How does an IB score compare with an ATAR rank?

The IB Diploma score is converted to an equivalent ATAR for entry to ACT/NSW/VIC universities and provides direct and recognised entry to universities worldwide including other universities in Australia. Please refer to UAC website for conversion table <https://uac.edu.au>

Can students change their subject choices part-way through the Diploma Programme?

Students are able to make changes to their subject choices but would need to do so at the earliest convenience and give due consideration to any additional pressure this decision would make on their study commitments. The Diploma Programme is a two-year course, with most examinations held at the end of Year 12.

How can I learn more about the IB and DP?

Visit the IB website at www.ibo.org

